

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, East Suffolk County Council.

Contributors

East Suffolk (England). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer.

1939

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.



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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

THE DIVISION OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

THE DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

THE DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES

THE DIVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

THE DIVISION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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THE DIVISION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

THE DIVISION OF THE PROFESSIONAL SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER
1939.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.

December, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the County Council.

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1939.

The Ministry of Health have instructed that this should be an interim Report only and, therefore, it is limited in its scope and very little comment made upon the statistics given.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

B. WOOD-WHITE,

County Medical Officer.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 548,607 acres.—1st April, 1934.

Population 1939 : 205,540 (for calculating birth rates).

209,900 (for calculating death, etc., rates).

(As estimated by the Registrar-General).

Population, Census 1931 : 207,475.

Number of inhabited houses, Census 1931 : 52,513.

Number of families or separate occupiers, Census 1931 : 53,933.

Rateable Value : £1,005,192 (year commencing 1st April, 1939).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £4,036 (estimated). Year commencing 1st April, 1939.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Geology, Industry, Commerce. These subjects were considered in the Survey Report for 1930; there has been no alteration requiring comment, and those desiring information are referred to that Report.

1939

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births :	M.	F.	Total.	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population :—
Legitimate	1,426	1,344	2,770	
Illegitimate	73	54	127	14.09.
Stillbirths :				} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :—
Legitimate	56	53	109	
Illegitimate	2	—	2	36.9.
Deaths :	1,375	1,274	2,649	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population :—12.6.
				Corrected death rate :—10.5.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
Puerperal Sepsis	2	.65
Other Puerperal Causes	6	1.96
Total	8	2.61

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	38.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	110.2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4
„ Cancer (all ages)	417
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000	1.98
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 ....	.45

Population.

I have in previous reports, criticised the yearly estimates of the population of East Suffolk made by the Registrar-General. I have maintained that the population has steadily increased, basing my views upon the growth of certain towns and the increase in the number of insured persons on the National Health Insurance Register. The Registrar-General, on the other hand, has forecasted a decreasing population since 1934, and in 1938 estimated the population to be below that of 1931. I have been looking forward to the Census year to find out who was in error.

This year, two figures are given, one for calculating the birth rate =205,540; one for calculating the death rate=209,900. The National Register has anticipated the Census and though the information given is confidential, I am allowed to comment upon matters relating to this area. The population of East Suffolk is found to be 227,771, or just over 22,000 more than the Registrar-General estimated for 1938; every town, with the exception of Lowestoft, and every rural district, has added to its population during the last nine years—Lothlingland R.D. remarkably so. I give below the figures for the Administrative County as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1938 and 1939, and the Census year of 1931:—

Year.	Population.	
1931	...	207,475 Census return.
1938	...	205,700 as estimated by the Registrar-General.
1939	...	a. 205,540) b. 209,900) do.
		a.=for calculating births.
		b.= for calculating deaths.

It is unfortunate that year by year the Registrar-General's figures for the population of the County have deviated more and more from actuality; this continuing error has caused the publication of incorrect rates based upon population since (I suggest) 1934 up to and including 1939; for example, the death rate from Tuberculosis in 1938 was found to be .38 per 1,000 population, but actually it was nearer to .34 per 1,000, a very considerable difference.

TABLE I.

BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1938	2868	14.0	13.8	13.9	15.1
1939	2897	13.8	14.3	14.09	15.0

TABLE II.
ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.
(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1938	142	0.6	0.7	0.69	—
1939	127	0.5	0.7	0.6	—

TABLE III.
DEATHS.

Year.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.				Administrative County Corrected Death Rate
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.	
1938	2527	12.2	12.3	12.3	11.6	10.3
1939	2649	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.1	10.5

TABLE IV.

Quinquennium.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1925-29	12,350	16,925	4,575
1930-34	12,487	15,523	3,036
1935-39	13,000	14,511	1,511

TABLE V.
DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1938	138	51	45	48	53
1939	114	35	42	39	50

TABLE VI.
INFANT MORTALITY OVER FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Quinquennium.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1925-1929	16,925	907	53.6
1930-1934	15,523	720	46.4
1935-1939	14,511	604	41.6

II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Staff (whole-time):*County Medical Officer:* B. Wood-White.*Deputy County Medical Officer:* A. G. Atkinson.*County Bacteriologist:* H. M. Cade.*Assistant County Medical Officers:* H. Pedler, W. M. Burns, C. M. Whiteford, E. Graham and E. A. Whitney.**Nursing Staff (whole-time):***Supervisor of Midwives:* F. MacDonald.*Assistant Supervisor of Midwives:* D. Woolston.

1 Orthopaedic Nurse.

2 Health Visitors.

County Sanitary Staff (whole-time):*County Sanitary Officer:* A. E. Chapman.*Assistant County Sanitary Officers:* G. H. Hine and I. W. Fenn.**Clerical Staff:***Chief Clerk:* A. Knight.**Blind Welfare Officer:** C. E. Muirhead.**District Medical Officers of Health:**

Urban Districts:

Aldeburgh	...	...	C. D. Somers.
Beccles	...	...	L. Gibson.
Bungay	...	...	H. Pedler.
Eye	...	...	H. Pedler.
Felixstowe	...	...	G. J. Conford.
Halesworth	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Leiston	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Lowestoft	...	...	V. R. Walker.
Saxmundham	...	...	D. W. Ryder Richardson.
Southwold	...	...	J. Borham for D. W. Collings.
Stowmarket	...	...	E. Graham.
Woodbridge	...	...	C. M. Whiteford.

Rural Districts:

Blyth	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Deben	...	...	C. M. Whiteford.
Gipping	...	...	E. Graham
Hartismere	...	...	H. Pedler.
Lothingland	...	...	L. Gibson.
Samford	...	...	E. Graham.
Wainford	...	...	H. Pedler.

County Laboratory.

I give below the number of examinations carried out at the County Laboratory during the past three years:—

1937	...	...	...	8,624
1938	...	...	...	7,823
1939	...	...	...	7,416

This year there was an expected fall in the number of water analyses—730 to 389; the high figure for 1938 was caused by the Croydon epidemic. The fall in the number of milks examined by the methylene blue reduction test from 2,037 to 1,338 was because the County Sanitary Officers were unable to take samples during the last half year as they were almost wholly employed in the A.R.P. ambulance service.

III.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This part of the Report deals with the Administrative County, excluding Lowestoft, which is its own Local Supervising Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes.

Summary of Visits Paid by Health Visiting Staff.

	1938.	1939.
First visits to children under 1 year ...	1,912	2,024
Re-visits to infants under 1 year ...	13,606	14,025
Visits to expectant mothers ...	8,997	9,744
Visits to children 1-5 years ...	26,523	26,418
Totals ...	51,038	52,211

Nursing in the Home.

The number of District Nursing Associations is 64; 72 Nurses are employed by the District Nursing Association and 6 Emergency Nurses by the East Suffolk County Nursing Association—a total of 78, 42 of whom used cars for their work.

Nursing Staff.

The Nurses undertaking work for the County Council at the end of the year were:—

				Emergency Nurses.
Queen's Nurses	...	...	19	1
Trained Nurses	...	...	12	2
District Nurses	...	...	40	3
Vacancies	...	...	1	—
			—	—
Totals	...		72	6

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary for years 1938 and 1939:—

	1938.	1939.
Number of openings ...	609	645
Number of attendances:—		
Ante-natal ...	929	1,010
Post-natal ...	47	16
Children ...	19,392	18,122
Average attendance of children a session ...	31.8	28.1
Number of consultations with Medical Officer:—		
Mothers, Ante-natal ...	760	765
Mothers, Post-natal ...	41	16
Children ...	5,662	5,302
Average number of consultations per child per session attended by Medical Officer	12.5	11.4

Eighteen infant welfare centres were in commission during the year; 6 were equipped as ante-natal centres. Special Ante-natal clinics were held at Felixstowe and Stowmarket.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.

Sixty women were confined in institutions under the Council's scheme, compared with 65 in 1938.

Unmarried Mothers:—The County Council contributed towards 7 cases under their agreement with the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association.

Provision of Milk for Children and Mothers.

44,693 gallons of milk were provided free of cost during the year, at the estimated cost of £4,469 6s. 0d., compared with 40,415 gallons in 1938 at the estimated cost of £4,041 10s. 0d.

Obstetric Consultant Service.

The Obstetric Specialists were called upon 15 times only.

Home Helps.

Home helps were provided upon 10 occasions.

Maternal Mortality.

There were two deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and six from other Puerperal causes—eight in all. The County mortality rate for each 1,000 births was 2.61, compared with 2.82 for England and Wales.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Six cases were notified; 4 were treated at home and 2 in hospital; in all cases the vision was unimpaired.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Thirty-five cases were notified; of these, 13 were treated at home, 21 in hospitals provided by the County Council and one otherwise in hospital. Two women died.

Midwives.

126 midwives practised during the year. There were 2,324 births in the administrative County, excluding Lowestoft, and of these the midwives attended 820 in the capacity of midwife and 1,054 as maternity nurse, a total of 1,874 or 81 per cent.—much the same percentage as the last two or three years.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

Sixteen homes were on the register as maternity or nursing homes, or both, during the year. Eight hospitals and 1 nursing home were exempted.

Child Life Protection.

The number of children under supervision at the end of the year was 416, compared with 450 in 1938.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Twenty-two cases required financial assistance as in-patients, out-patients, etc.

IV.

VACCINATION.

The percentage of children successfully vaccinated in 1938 was 38.5, compared with 39.9 in 1937. There has been a steady reduction since the County Council became responsible for this work. In 1932 the percentage was 46.0.

The percentage for the County, without Lowestoft, is 48.4.

V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Hartismere.—The three extensive schemes for piped water supply, planned by this Council, were begun and considerable progress has been made, but none was finished.

Eastern area scheme: The double bores were completed and the whole of the pipes were laid, but as the pumping plant was not installed, water was not available. Western area scheme: The double bores were finished; the work of laying the mains is proceeding. Palgrave scheme: This was almost done but was not operating.

Deben.—The large water scheme prepared by this Council was finished in 1939; many consumers had the benefit of a piped supply.

Lothingland.—The piped water scheme prepared for Kessingland is progressing; all the pipes were laid and the water tower was being constructed.

Eye M.B.—Much of the pipe laying was done but the water tower had not been started.

Sewage Disposal.

Hartismere.—The sewerage scheme proposed for Stradbroke was completed during 1939 and connections to most of the premises are being made.

Laxfield. The scheme proposed for Laxfield is in hand, but not finished.

VI.

HOUSING.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

As was to be expected, little of this work has been carried out. Assistance was given towards 31 houses, the grant paid being £3,100, compared with 64 houses and £6,100 in 1938.

VII.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Because the Sanitary Officers were engaged largely upon A.R.P. work, only 54 samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli. Two of these were found to be positive, or 3.7 per cent., the highest since 1934. Eight investigations of herds were carried out by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Health in an endeavour to discover cows responsible for infecting the mixed milk of the herd with tubercle bacilli. In four herds a cow was isolated; in two a cow had been slaughtered between the time of the taking of the bulk sample and the investigation and was probably the cause of the infection; and in two the cow responsible could not be discovered.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Accredited Milk.—The number of licences in force at the end of 1939 was 279, one less than in 1938. Thirteen licences were suspended and 9 suspensions were revoked.

945 samples of milk were collected and examined; 177 were unsatisfactory, a percentage of 18.7.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

279 samples of food and drugs were taken for analysis by the Public Analyst; of these, 5 only were found to be adulterated and 17 otherwise unsatisfactory. Legal proceedings were taken in four cases:—

1. Non-alcoholic wine, port style: excess benzoic acid. Fined 10/-
2. Malt vinegar: added water. Fined 10/-
3. Vinegar: artificial vinegar. Fined 5/-
4. do. do. Fined 5/-

VIII.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1938.

Orders made suspending the weekly half-holiday will be found in the report for 1938.

Orders made fixing the day for weekly half-holidays will be found in the report for 1938; one addition has been made—Felixstowe Partial Exemption Order, 1928.

The number of shops inspected was 343; re-inspected 37. Found to comply with Acts on first inspection, 245; not to comply, 98. Forty-three special visits were paid. 107 notices were sent about various contraventions. 21 general surveys were carried out in 31 parishes and 14 urban districts. Legal proceedings were taken in 3 cases, two were dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act and one defendant was fined 5/-.

IX.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.*(See Report for 1938).*

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Dysentery.—An outbreak of dysentery occurred in the County in 1939, affecting Yoxford and Darsham; other parishes were affected in 1940. The epidemic was unrecognised and no case was notified in 1939 and no child was reported absent from school with the disease; though the outbreak began in mid-October, it was not until 1940 that it was realised that dysentery was prevalent and then an investigation was made by Dr. Ormiston, who since the war had been stationed at Cambridge, for the purpose of looking into such outbreaks. Dr. Burns, the Medical Officer of Health for Blyth R.D. assisted in tracing the cases. During the whole epidemic of 1939-40, about 90 cases were found to have occurred, 3 died. 33 of the cases suffered from the disease and one baby of 9 months old died in 1939. The organism considered responsible was Bact. Dysent. Flexner Z.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VII.

Infectious Disease:	Number of cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Attack rate per 1,000 Pop.	Mortality rate (per cent.)
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	316	—	1.505	—
Diphtheria	44	2	.209	4.5
Enteric Fever	18	1	.085	5.5
Puerperal Pyrexia	48	2	.228	4.1
Pneumonia	175	65	.833	37.1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	6	—	.028	—

X.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE VIII.

Cases certified as having died of Tuberculosis. Figures furnished by the Registrar-General.

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1937	86	22	108
1938	71	7	78
1939	79	16	95

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

TABLE IX.

(Figures furnished by the Registrar-General).

Five-yearly Period.	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Total.
1925-1929	677	160	837
1930-1934	564	124	688
1935-1939	422	95	517

Death Rates—Tuberculosis.

TABLE X.

Year.	All Forms.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1937	.53	.69	.42	.58	.11	.11
1938	.38	.63	.35	.53	.03	.10
1939	.45	—	.38	—	.07	—

The figures for England and Wales for 1939 are not available.

The following is a correction of rates for the County when the deaths of immigrants and those dying from other causes are excluded:—

	<i>Tuberculosis</i> (<i>All forms</i>).
Official County Rate	.45
Rate with immigrants excluded	.41
Rate with immigrants and deaths from other causes excluded	.40

It will be observed that both the death rate and the number of deaths from Tuberculosis are higher this year than in 1938; this was natural because there was an unusually high fall between 1937 and 1938 and it was unlikely that the rate of .38 could be equalled in 1939; it may be a year or two before this low figure is reached again. There was a similar sudden drop in 1926 and not until 1931 was a better figure recorded. The war in its course, may affect the tuberculosis death rate deleteriously, but it is probable that the effect will not be observed in the death rate for a few years.

Deaths of notified cases of Tuberculosis during 1939.

Notified after death	...	...	...	2
Within 1 week of notification	...	...	...	9
1 week to 1 year after notification	...	...	...	29
1 year to 5 years after notification	...	...	...	29
From 5 years onwards after notification	...	...	...	17

1,105 examinations were made by the Tuberculosis Officers in 1939, compared with 1,325 in 1938. 241 cases were on full time, 96 part-time work; 109 were able to get about and 65 were confined to bed. 464 specimens of sputum were examined, 129 being positive.

250 pulmonary and 82 non-pulmonary were removed from the register during the year.

Primary Notification.—86 pulmonary cases were notified and 66 non-pulmonary, a total of 152 for the year.

Artificial Pneumothorax treatment.—6 new cases had this treatment, 3 completed treatment. 6 had advanced disease and treatment ceased. 27 patients were continuing treatment at the end of the year. 4 patients entered the County requiring refills and 4 others left to continue treatment elsewhere.

Institutional Treatment—Pulmonary.—78 patients were admitted to institutions, 73 were discharged and 22 died. 29 remained in the institutions at the end of 1939.

Non-Pulmonary.—62 cases were admitted to institutions, 58 were discharged and 1 died. 20 patients remained in the institutions at the end of 1939.

No. of Patients receiving Residential Treatment.

		1937.	1938.	1939.
Pulmonary	...	149	143	120
Non-Pulmonary	...	67	69	68
		—	—	—
Totals	...	216	212	188
		—	—	—

Nine cases refused residential treatment during the year.

TABLE XI.

1. No. of cases on Dispensary Register, 1st January, 1939 ...	539
2. No. of cases transferred <i>from</i> other areas and cases returned after discharge under (3) below in previous years	54
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6. No. of X-Ray examinations in connection with Dispensary work	114
7. No. of recovered cases restored to Dispensary Register ...	3
8. No. of "T.B. Plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1939	219

XI.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

TABLE XII.

Lowestoft V.D. Clinic.

Area from which Patients came.	No. of New Cases.		Total number of attendances.		Aggregate number of in-patient days.	
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
East Suffolk	96	84	3541	2626	42	163
Great Yarmouth	79	57	1965	1381	—	22
Norfolk	5	6	57	48	—	—
Total :	180	147	5563	4055	42	185

TABLE XIII.
Venereal Diseases. (East Suffolk Patients Only).

Centres.	No. of East Suffolk Persons seen for the first time and found to be suffering from:—			Conditions other than Venereal.	Total.	Total No. of Attendances at Out-patient Clinics.	Aggregate No. of In-patient days.
	Syphilis.	Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhoea.				
Lowestoft	23	—	37	24	84	2626	163
Ipswich	20	1	15	22	58	1433	384
Other Treatment Centres	—	—	3	1	4	89	—
TOTALS	43	1	55	47	146	4148	547

99

The following figures relate to the number of new cases seen for the first time at the Clinics:—

			1937.	1938.	1939.
Syphilis	...	...	43	64	43
Soft Chancre	...	...	—	—	1
Gonorrhoea	...	...	51	77	55
Total	...	...	94	141	99

XII.

CANCER DEATH RATE.

TABLE XIV.

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1937	174	199	373	1.80	1.82	1.81	—
1938	192	208	400	2.07	1.84	1.94	—
1939	202	215	417	2.03	1.95	1.98	—

XIII.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938.

Mental Defectives in East Suffolk:

Number on books:—		1938.	1939.
Males	...	643	647
Females	...	673	686
Total	...	1,316	1,333

Dealt with by Joint Committee:

In institutions	...	303
On leave of absence from institutions	...	34
Under guardianship	...	21
Under statutory supervision	...	177

Dealt with at instance of parent or Suffolk Mental Welfare Association:

In training homes	...	12
In Royal Eastern Counties Institution	...	26
Under voluntary supervision	...	678

Defectives in Public Assistance Institutions ... 82

Total ... 1,333

XIV.

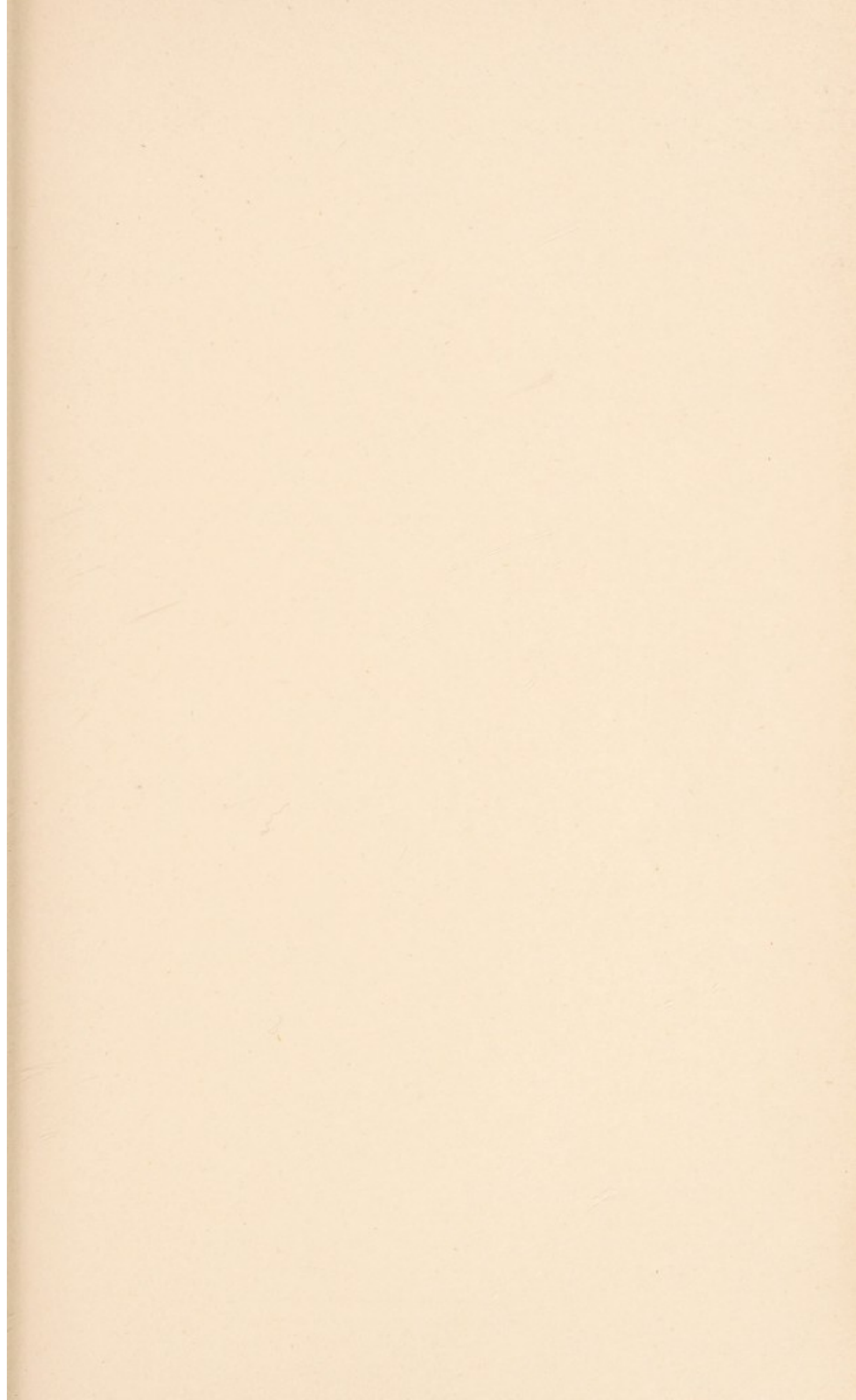
EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

Total blind persons: 428: 184 males and 244 females. Of these, 382 are unemployable; 21 are employed and 9 come into other categories.

Twenty-nine blind persons are mentally defective; 12 physically defective and 33 deaf.

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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.