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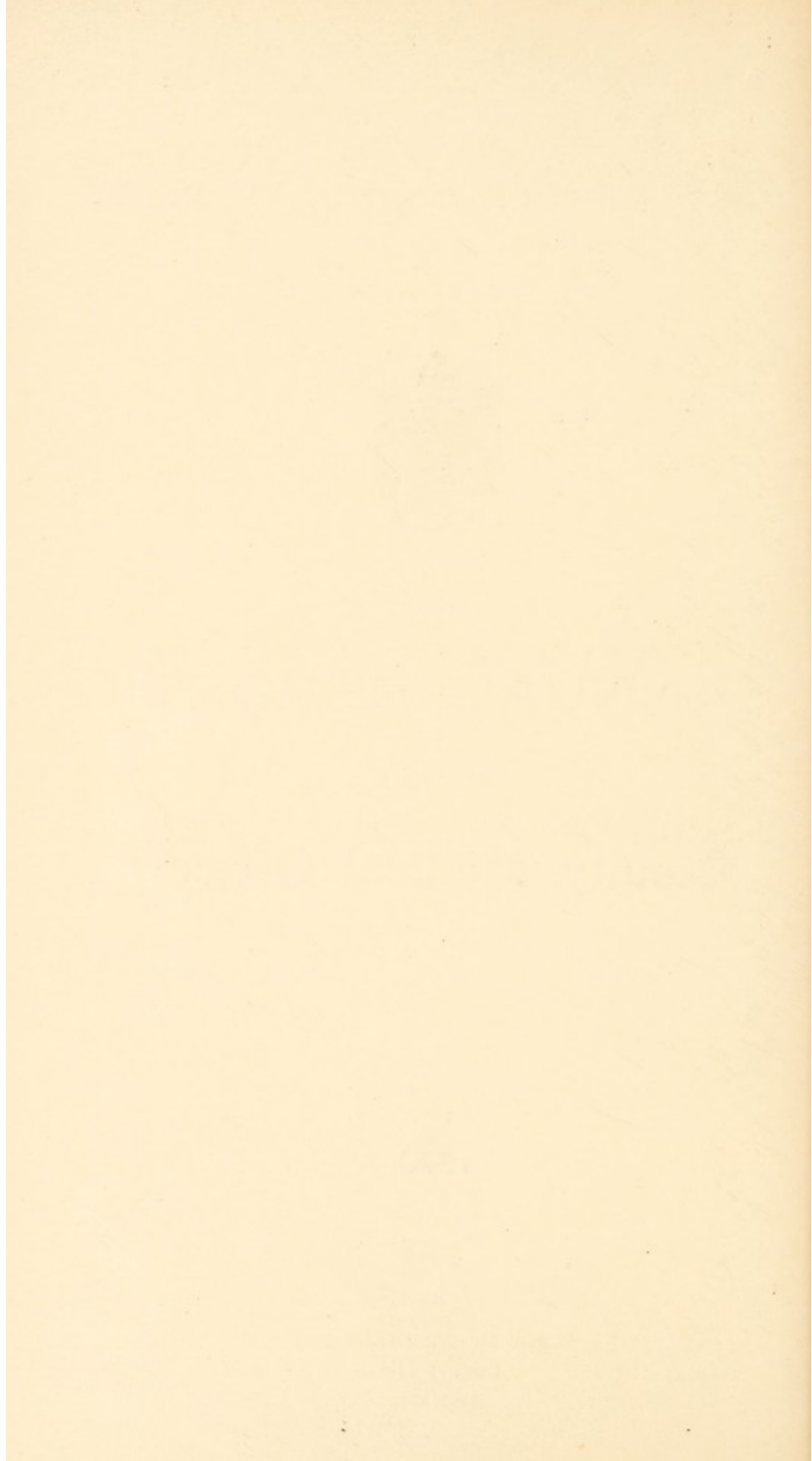
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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer

1940

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.




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CONTENTS.

NUMBER		PAGE
I.	STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA	7
II.	GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES	10
III.	MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	12
IV.	VACCINATION	14
V.	SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	14
VI.	HOUSING	14
VII.	INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	16
VIII.	SHOPS	16
IX.	PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES	17
X.	TUBERCULOSIS	17
XI.	VENEREAL DISEASES	20
XII.	CANCER	22
XIII.	MENTAL DEFICIENCY	22
XIV.	WELFARE OF THE BLIND	23

For Index see page 24

TABLES.

NUMBER		PAGE
I.	BIRTHS	8
II.	ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS	8
III.-IV.	DEATHS	9
V.	DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR	9
VI.	INFANT MORTALITY	9
VII.	HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS ACT)	15
VIII.	INFECTIOUS DISEASES	17
IX.-XII.	TUBERCULOSIS	17—20
XIII. & XIV.	VENEREAL DISEASES	20—21
XV.	CANCER	22
XVI.	MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT	22

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

IPSWICH.

October, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the County Council.

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1940; this is restricted, as it was last year, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

Much of my time, and the time of the County Sanitary Staff and Clerical Staff has been devoted to Civil Defence duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

B. WOOD-WHITE,

County Medical Officer.

THE LATE ALDERMAN WILLIAM WADE.

It is with very great regret that I record the death of Mr. Wade, who has been Chairman of the Public Health Committee since 1927, when he succeeded the late Mr. A. Bernard.

Mr. Wade had a clear understanding and a wide experience of Local Government, for he had devoted a large part of his life to it, and his knowledge of its application to the County of East Suffolk was unsurpassed by anyone. His unswerving purpose was to promote a more extensive and intensive Public Health Service, and to remove from Public Assistance all those functions which could more properly be assumed by other departments.

No Medical Officer of Health had a kinder and more helpful Chairman, and I have sustained a personal loss. During war, death lurks around corners and life becomes cheap, and the passing of a man of full age is accepted and quickly forgotten. Mr. Wade, however, with his good humour, wisdom and jolly appearance, made all men his friends, and the memory of his personality will remain long in the minds of all those of us who knew him.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

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

Population 1940 : 199,500.

(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 : £1,026,579 (year commencing 1st April, 1940).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £4,093 (estimated). Year commencing 1st April, 1940.

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.

1940

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births :	M.	F.	Total.	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population :— 13.98.
Legitimate	1,377	1,270	2,647	
Illegitimate	70	72	142	
<i>Stillbirths :</i>				} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :— 31.93.
Legitimate	48	35	83	
Illegitimate	6	3	9	
<i>Deaths :</i>	1,478	1,346	2,824	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population :—14.16. Corrected death rate :—12.45.

<i>Deaths from Puerperal Causes :</i>	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
Puerperal Sepsis	4	1.38
Other Puerperal Causes	5	1.73
Total	9	3.11

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	46.16
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	45.59
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	56.7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	5
„ Cancer (all ages)	366
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000	1.83
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 ....	.48

Population.

Year.	Population.
1931 ...	207,475 Census return.
1939 ...	a. 205,540, for calculating births. b. 209,900, for calculating deaths.
1940 ...	199,500, for calculating births and deaths.

This year the population is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 199,500. During war the civilian population changes continually and a fall is natural, for men and women enter the Services and are lost to the civil population; as the war industries in the County are few, there is no influx of workers.

Evacuation has made little difference in East Suffolk.

TABLE I.

BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1939	2897	13.8	14.3	14.1	15.0
1940	2789	14.4	13.7	14.0	14.6

The birthrate for the County has been lower than 14.0 on four occasions, the lowest being in 1933.

TABLE II.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1939	127	0.5	0.7	0.6	—
1940	142	0.6	0.8	0.7	—

Illegitimate birthrate.—This is a rate which might reasonably be expected to rise in time of war, when life is cheap, and the possible consequences of indiscretion risked. The rate for 1916 was 1.5; for 1917, 1.6; but in neither 1939 nor 1940 has the rate showed any tendency to rise.

TABLE III.
DEATHS.

Year.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			Administra- tive County Corrected Death Rate.	
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.		England and Wales.
1939	2649	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.1	10.5
1940	2824	15.2	13.4	14.16	14.3	12.45

The death rate has risen suddenly. The rate remained stationary at 10.3 from 1934 to 1938, with an almost imperceptible rise to 10.5 in 1939. I cannot explain the high figure of 12.45; the figures of further years must be awaited before conclusions can be drawn.

TABLE IV.

Quinquennium.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1926-30	12,253	16,820	4,567
1931-35	12,743	14,994	2,251
1936-40	13,243	14,388	1,145

Each five years the number of births in excess of deaths is halved. The deaths increase because the population is ageing and unless the births rise very much we may be faced soon enough with a falling population.

TABLE V.
DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.			England and Wales.
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	
1939	114	35	42	39	50
1940	128	45	47	46	55

Infant Mortality Rate.

This rate has risen and is high for the area, but the rate for England and Wales has risen correspondingly. The rate for Lowestoft, which is its own Maternity and Child Welfare Authority and responsible for the service in the Borough, should really be shown apart from the County rate. Lowestoft rate is 52.4 and the County rate, excluding Lowestoft, is 44.3, so that this year Lowestoft adversely affects the County rate.

TABLE VI.
INFANT MORTALITY OVER FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Quinquennium.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1926-1930	16,820	895	53.2
1931-1935	14,994	676	45.1
1936-1940	14,388	625	43.4

This table shows an improvement since 1935; the periods 1935-9 and 1934-8 were better than the period 1936-40, but this is not shown in the table.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.
STAFF.

Medical Staff (whole-time):

County Medical Officer: B. Wood-White.

Deputy County Medical Officer: A. G. Atkinson.

County Bacteriologist: H. M. Cade, *P. H. Martin.

Assistant County Medical Officers: H. Pedler, W. M. Burns, C. M. Whiteford, E. Graham and E. A. Parkinson.

*Dr. Martin acted for Dr. Cade from the 1st June, 1940.

Nursing Staff (whole-time):

Supervisor of Midwives: F. MacDonald.

Assistant Supervisor of Midwives: D. Woolston.

1 Orthopaedic Nurse and 2 Health Visitors.

County Sanitary Staff (whole-time):

County Sanitary Officer: A. E. Chapman.

Assistant County Sanitary Officers: G. H. Hine
Ivon W. Fenn (on Service).

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.

Dr. Cade, County Bacteriologist, who had passed the age for superannuation, gave up work during 1940, and retired from the staff officially at the end of March, 1941, after 21 years' service as an Officer of the County Council. Dr. Cade was an able Bacteriologist and a pleasant colleague, and I miss him after an association of 18 years; he was closely connected with the staff and was President of the N.A.L.G.O. for two years.

County Laboratory.

I think it would be useful to record the history of the County Laboratory from its inauguration to the present time.

The County Laboratory was established in 1912; the old Police Stables, a single-story building, were converted for the purpose. The first Laboratory Attendant was Mr. J. W. Yerrill, who had been on an investigation upon Bubonic Plague in the British West Indies under the auspices of the Local Government Board.

Soon after the outbreak of War in 1914, the County Laboratory was requisitioned by the Military Authorities and an arrangement was made whereby the Military Staff did the County work as well as their own, the County Council maintaining one Laboratory Attendant. The Military Bacteriologist was Captain Wade, who was soon followed by Captain Sheffield Neeve, a specialist in Cerebro-spinal Meningitis; he was appointed because the disease was rampant in the military camps spread over East Suffolk and he remained at the County Laboratory for about two years; he was followed later by Captain H. M. Cade, some time in 1918, who had returned from Mesopotamia. The Military Authorities retained the use of the County Laboratory as there was much work to be cleared up and it was not until the 11th July, 1919, that Captain Cade was appointed County Bacteriologist and became a member of the County Council's staff.

It was probably early in 1920 that the County Council came to an arrangement with the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital to do the pathological work for that institution; at that time, there were few facilities in the County Borough and most of the work was done by a private firm. From that time all the work of the Borough and the County was done at the County Laboratory. In 1927, the Hospital established their own Laboratory and from the end of that year onwards no hospital work was done at the County Laboratory.

Since 1927 the County Laboratory has become more and more a Public Health Laboratory and less a laboratory for pathological examinations. In the middle of 1940 it became an Emergency Public Health Laboratory and Dr. P. H. Martin, by arrangement with the Medical Research Council, has been acting County Bacteriologist since that time. This change which took place on the 1st June, 1940, has attracted to the County Laboratory a large amount of work which, until that time, had been carried out at the Emergency Laboratory at Colchester, which was closed when the change was made. The County Laboratory now does all the work of the Services in East Suffolk, part of West Suffolk and Essex. Recently, it was decided that Public Health work only should be done at the County Laboratory. Dr. Martin is a very skilled and experienced Bacteriologist and it is a privilege to have him here.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Ward, originally a member of the Public Health staff and now of the Education staff, for the information about the County Laboratory from its beginning to 1922, when I was appointed to the Council's staff.

There has been more work done at the Laboratory during this year. I give the number of examinations done there for the past three years.

1938	...	...	...	7,823
1939	...	...	...	7,416
1940	...	...	...	11,220

The main reason for the increase is that nearly 4,000 more throat swabs were examined this year than last.

III.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

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

Summary of Visits Paid by Health Visiting Staff.

	1939.	1940.
First visits to children under 1 year ...	2,024	2,005
Re-visits to infants under 1 year ...	14,025	14,850
Visits to expectant mothers ...	9,744	8,542
Visits to children 1-5 years ...	26,418	25,573
Totals ...	52,211	50,970

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 use a car for work.

Nursing Staff.

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

		Emergency Nurses.
Queen's Nurses ...	19	3
Trained Nurses ...	11	—
District Nurses ...	37	3
Vacancies ...	5	—
Totals ...	72	6

The County Superintendent is beginning to find it difficult to secure Nurses for vacancies and candidates for training.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary for years 1939 and 1940:—	1939.	1940.
Number of openings ...	645	663
Number of attendances:—		
Ante-natal ...	1,010	964
Post-natal ...	16	17
Children ...	18,122	16,403
Average attendance of children a session ...	28.1	24.7
Number of consultations with Medical Officer:—		
Mothers, Ante-natal ...	765	835*
Mothers, Post-natal ...	16	15
Children ...	5,302	6,545*
Average number of consultations per child per session attended by Medical Officer	11.4	11.7*

*Figures for Wrentham included until August, 1940, only.

Twenty-one Infant Welfare Centres were in commission during the year. Eight were equipped as ante-natal centres. Special ante-natal clinics were held at Felixstowe and Stowmarket. Three new centres were opened during the year at Kesgrave, Newbourne and Southwold.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.

Seventy-one women were confined in institutions under the Council's scheme, compared with 60 in 1939.

Unmarried Mothers.—The County Council contributed towards 6 cases under their agreement with the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association.

Provision of Milk for Children and Mothers.

22,318 gallons of milk were provided to the 31st July, 1940. From the 1st August the Ministry of Food assumed responsibility for providing children and mothers with milk. The principle upon which the Ministry of Food worked was similar to that of the County Council, the necessity being decided by the means of the parent, without reference to the physical condition of the child. The transfer was advantageous because the income scale of the Ministry was more generous than that of the County Council.

Obstetric Consultant Service.

The Obstetric Specialists were called upon 11 times during the year.

Home Helps.

Home Helps were provided upon 14 occasions.

Maternal Mortality.

There were 4 deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and 5 from other Puerperal causes—9 in all. The County mortality rate for each 1,000 births was 3.12, compared with 3.34 for England and Wales; the County rate has risen from 2.61 last year to 3.12 this year, but the rate for the country has also risen from 2.82 in 1939 to 3.34 in 1940.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Seven cases were notified, 6 were treated at home and 1 in hospital. In 6 cases the vision was unimpaired; 1 case was still in hospital at the end of the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Thirty-nine cases were notified; of these, 17 were treated at home, 17 in hospitals provided by the County Council, and 5 otherwise in hospital. Four women died.

Midwives.

124 midwives practised during the year. There were 2,264 births in the administrative County, excluding Lowestoft, and of these, the midwives attended 961 as midwives and 999 as maternity nurses; a total of 1,960. For the first time for many years the midwives have increased the percentage of cases taken for midwifery as against maternity nursing. 86 per cent. of the births were attended by County midwives, either as midwife or maternity nurse; this is an improvement upon 81 per cent. last year.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

Fourteen homes were on the register as maternity or nursing homes during the year. Six hospitals and one nursing home were exempted.

Child Life Protection.

The number of children under supervision at the end of the year was 337, compared with 416 in 1939.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

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

IV.

VACCINATION.

The percentage of children successfully vaccinated in 1939 was 34.6, compared with 38.5 in 1938.

The percentage for the County, excluding Lowestoft, was 43.9.

The number of children vaccinated in the County continues to fall; there has been a big drop from 1932 to 1939 and in eight years the percentage has been reduced from 44.6 to 34.6.

V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

BLYTH.

Parham.—This village now has a public supply; water is taken from a borehole, pumped to a tank with a reservoir of a capacity of 4,800 gallons. The tank is capable of being duplicated. Pumping is by windmill with a stand-by engine. 3,911 yards of 3-in. and 684 yards of 2-in. mains extend from Parham North Green to Parham village, with branches along the Framlingham Road to Silverlace Green and to Whitehouse Farm; supply is mainly by standpipes, although several properties are connected with the mains.

Brandeston.—An 8-in. diameter borehole has been driven to a depth of 230 feet, giving a yield of 2,000 gallons an hour; the borehole at this place is to serve the parishes of Brandeston, Earl Soham and Kettleburgh.

Framlingham.—A chlorinating and de-chlorinating plant has been installed at the Pumping Station and is in operation.

GIPPING.

Great Bricett.—1,800 yards of 3-in. main has been laid for purposes of the Air Ministry and four standpipes have been taken off to supply residents of the parish.

HARTISMERE.

Both the Eastern and the Western schemes are nearing completion; the Eastern scheme is being pressed as the water shortage is more acute in that area. Both schemes are for standpipe supply, except in the parishes of Stradbroke and Laxfield, where sewerage schemes are being constructed.

Palgrave.—The main supply for this parish is finished; the water is available for the public from standpipes.

LOTHINGLAND.

Kessingland.—The water supply for this parish was almost completed at the end of the year; there was delay in delivering the pump and but for this the scheme would have operated in 1940.

Sewage Disposal.

HARTISMERE.

Laxfield.—The sewerage scheme for this village is finished and is working well.

Stradbroke.—The sewerage scheme is working well. When the main water supply is available there will be more collections from private property.

VI.

HOUSING.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

The War has almost stopped work under this Act. There were no conversions of buildings previously used as dwelling houses and the improvement of existing dwellings was almost negligible. Only a little over £200 was made in grants by the County Council.

TABLE VII.

Progress of Scheme approved by the Minister of Health under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1938.
Position at 31st December, 1940.

ASSISTANCE BY WAY OF GRANTS BY THE COUNCIL.

Purpose for which assistance required.	Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grants have been :—			Assistance promised by the Council :—		Assistance given by the Council :—		Number of dwellings :—	
	Made to the Council.	Refused by the Council.	Withdrawn by applicants.	Total Amounts of grants promised.	Number of dwellings concerned.	Total Amounts of grants paid.	Number of dwellings concerned.	On which work has been finished.	On which work has been commenced but not finished.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
(i) Conversion of buildings not previously used as dwellings into dwellings ...	49	6	14	£ 2,808. 4. 0	29	£ 2,808. 4. 0	29	29	—
(ii) Improvement of existing dwellings ...	1,243	118	194	£ 72,803. 2. 11	930	£ 71,248. 19. 8	915	915	8
Total at end of year ...	1,292	124	208	£ 75,611. 6. 11	959	£ 74,057. 3. 8	944	944	8

VII.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Ninety-nine samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli; 3 were found to be positive, roughly, 3 per cent.

Ten investigations of herds were carried out by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Health. In three herds a cow was isolated; in two a cow had been slaughtered between the time of taking the bulk sample and the investigation, and, probably, was the cause of the infection. In four herds the cow responsible could not be discovered. In one case where a sample of milk was reported as positive (having been taken in another area) the Veterinary Officer on investigation, found that the wrong source had been reported.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Accredited Milk.—The number of licences in force at the end of 1940 was 279. Thirty-seven licences were suspended and 19 suspensions were revoked.

1,237 samples of milk were collected and examined, 406 were found to be unsatisfactory, a percentage of 32.8 which compares very unfavourably with the previous years' percentage of 18.7. 1940, however, had a long dry, hot summer, which must have helped to produce so many bad samples.

Again, it was impossible, owing to the amount of A.R.P. work placed upon the Sanitary Inspectors, for a proper number of inspections to be made.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

353 samples of food and drugs were taken for analysis by the Public Analyst; of these, 2 only were found to be adulterated and 9 otherwise unsatisfactory. Legal proceedings were taken in 3 cases:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Added water in milk. | Case dismissed. |
| 2. Milk deficient in fat. | do. |
| 3. Milk deficient in fat. | do. |

VIII.

SHOP 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 150; re-inspected, 36. Found to comply with the Acts on first inspection 106; not to comply, 44; 32 special visits were paid; 44 notices were sent about various contraventions. Four general surveys were carried out in two parishes and two urban districts—these included one Sunday survey.

IX.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1940.

TABLE VIII.

Infectious Disease:	Number of cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Attack rate per 1,000 Pop.	Mortality rate (per cent.)
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	298	—	1.494	—
Diphtheria	42	4	.211	9.5
Enteric Fever	7	1	.035	14.3
Puerperal Pyrexia	47	9	.235	19.1
Pneumonia	209	85	1.047	40.6
Encephalitis Lethargica	3	5	.015	—
Poliomyelitis	10	1	.05	.10

There was nothing remarkable about infectious diseases in 1940. The mortality rate for puerperal pyrexia was high.

X.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE IX.

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

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1938	71	7	78
1939	79	16	95
1940	82	13	95

The number of deaths from tuberculosis has not increased this year, and continues to remain below 100. The fall from 108 to 78 in 1938 was artificial and was not expected to be maintained. Despite the war, the deaths from tuberculosis have not risen, but a rise is to be expected, probably next year, with a tendency to become higher as the war continues.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

TABLE X.

(Figures furnished by the Registrar-General).

Five-yearly Period.	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Total.
1926-1930	633	150	783
1931-1935	524	124	648
1936-1940	410	82	492

Death Rates—Tuberculosis.

TABLE XI.

Year.	All Forms.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1938	.38	.63	.35	.53	.03	.10
1939	.45	—	.38	—	.07	—
1940	.48	—	.41	—	.07	—

Although the number of deaths remains the same, the death rate is higher; this is because the population of the County is lower, owing to young men and women joining the Services and leaving the area; nevertheless, if any of these persons gets tuberculosis whilst in the Service he is discharged to his home and if he subsequently dies from the disease his death is assigned to this County.

I again give a correction of rates for the County when the deaths of immigrants and those dying from other causes are excluded:—

	<i>Tuberculosis (All Forms).</i>
Official County Rate ... ..	.48
Rate with immigrants excluded ...	.45
Rate with immigrants and deaths from other causes excluded ... ..	.43

Deaths of notified cases of Tuberculosis during 1940.

Notified after death	...	...	...	2
Within one week of notification			...	7
1 week to 1 year after notification			...	31
1 year to 5 years after notification			...	22
From 5 years onwards after notification			...	16
			Total	...
				78
				—

1,034 examinations were made by the Tuberculosis Officers during 1940, compared with 1,105 in 1939. 200 cases were on full time, 87 part-time work; 107 were able to get about and 56 were confined to bed.

496 specimens of sputum were examined, 143 being positive, which is 14 more than last year.

312 pulmonary and 110 non-pulmonary cases were removed from the register during the year.

Primary Notifications.—111 pulmonary cases and 52 non-pulmonary, a total of 163 for the year. There was an increase of 25 pulmonary notifications, and a decrease of 14 non-pulmonary, compared with 1939.

Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.—4 new cases had this treatment. 2 completed treatment; 5 had advanced disease and treatment ceased. 25 patients were continuing treatment at the end of the year. 7 patients entered the County requiring refills and 5 others left to continue treatment elsewhere.

Institutional Treatment.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—111 patients were admitted to institutions; 81 were discharged; 27 died; 32 remained in the institutions at the end of 1940.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—51 cases were admitted to institutions; 56 were discharged and none died; 16 patients remained in the institutions at the end of 1940.

Number of patients receiving residential treatment:—

		1938.	1939.	1940.
Pulmonary	...	143	120	100
Non-Pulmonary	...	69	68	52
		—	—	—
Total	...	212	188	152
		—	—	—

Seventeen cases refused residential treatment during the year.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—When the enemy overcame France, the sanatorium at Oulton Broad was closed on the instruction of the Ministry of Health owing to its proximity to the coast, and the Ipswich Sanatorium was not allowed to take the full number of patients; this has made it difficult to obtain beds. The majority of our cases are now being treated at the East Anglian Sanatorium, Nayland.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Owing to the restriction of admissions to the Ipswich General Hospital it has been hard to find beds for long stay cases; some are being treated in their homes under the supervision of the Orthopaedic Surgeon, whom they visit from time to time, who in ordinary times would be receiving hospital treatment. Others are scattered throughout the country.

TABLE XII.

1. No. of cases on Dispensary Register, 1st January, 1940 ...	538
2. No. of cases transferred <i>from</i> other areas and cases returned after discharge under (3) below in previous years	36
3. No. of cases transferred <i>to</i> other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the tuberculosis scheme and cases "lost sight of"	115
4. Cases written off as "dead" all causes in 1940	74
5. No. of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes	—
6. No. of X-Ray examinations in connection with Dispensary work	136
7. No. of recovered cases restored to Dispensary Register ...	3
8. No. of "T.B. Plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1940	199

The figure under heading 3 is swollen this year; this is caused by evacuation and the number of minor cases, such as patients who have had tubercular glands whose condition is arrested, entering the Services.

It is cheering to find that the figure under heading 8 is less this year by 20, because the figure under this heading gives an indication of the number of deaths that will follow.

XI.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

TABLE XIII.

Lowestoft V.D. Clinic.

Area from which Patients came.	No. of New Cases.		Total number of attendances.		Aggregate number of in-patient days.	
	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940
East Suffolk	84	147	2626	2014	163	—
Great Yarmouth	57	20	1381	818	22	—
Norfolk	6	1	48	5	—	—
Total :	147	168	4055	2837	185	—

There is a difference between the figures for the two years, which was probably caused by the influx of Service men and those in the North of the County attended the Lowestoft clinic. The Medical Officer of this clinic has not differentiated between the civilian and service cases on his return.

TABLE XIV.
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	55 (21)	— (—)	33 (27)	59 (40)	147 (88)	2014	—
Ipswich	12 (3)	—	22 (14)	19 (14)	53 (31)	1451 (243)	65
Other Treatment Centres	1	—	1	1	3	33	—
TOTALS	68 (24)	— (—)	56 (41)	79 (54)	203 (119)	3498 (243)	65

N.B.—Figures in brackets relate to attendances of members of H.M. Forces and are included in all totals.

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

			1938.	1939.	1940.	
Syphilis ...	...	...	64	43	68	(24)
Soft Chancre ...	...	...	—	1	—	(—)
Gonorrhoea ...	...	...	77	55	56	(31)
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	141	99	124	(55)
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

XII.

CANCER DEATH RATE.

TABLE XV.

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1938	192	208	400	2.07	1.84	1.94	—
1939	202	215	417	2.03	1.95	1.98	—
1940	198	168	366	2.08	1.66	1.83	—

There is a welcome fall in the number of deaths from Cancer; this is caused by a remarkable decrease in female deaths. The number of male deaths has always been below the female, with the exception of 1931, and then the difference was slight; the number of male deaths has been gradually creeping up to the female deaths and this year is 30 in excess. The tendency is for male deaths to rise quickly and for female deaths to rise slowly, but it is necessary to go back to 1928 to find fewer female deaths from Cancer.

XIII.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938.

TABLE XVI.

Mental Defectives in East Suffolk:

Number on books:—			1939.	1940.
Males	...	...	647	660
Females	...	...	686	680
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	1,333	1,340
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Dealt with by Joint Committee:

In institutions	...	...	...	310
On leave of absence from institutions	...		...	28
Under guardianship	...	...	...	25
Under statutory supervision	...	...	...	148

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

In training homes	...	...	...	12
In Royal Eastern Counties Institution	...		...	26
Under voluntary supervision	...	...	...	692

Defectives in Public Assistance Institutions:

...	32 males
...	67 females

Total	<u>1,340</u>
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XIV.

EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

Total blind persons: 441. 190 males and 251 females. Of these, 397 are unemployable; 18 are employed and 26 come into other categories. 30 blind persons are mentally defective; 15 physically defective; 36 are deaf.

INDEX.

	PAGE
Births and Birth Rates	7, 8
Blind, Welfare of the	23
Cancer	22
Child Life Protection	13
Deaths and Death Rates	9
District Medical Officers of Health	10
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	16
Food, Inspection and Supervision of	16
Home Helps	13
Housing	14
Infant Mortality	9
Infant Welfare Centres	12
Infectious Diseases	17
Isolation Hospital Accommodation	17
Laboratory	11
Maternal Mortality	13
Maternity and Child Welfare	12
Maternity Homes	13
Mental Deficiency	22
Midwives	13
Milk, Provision of	13
Milk (Special Designations) Order	16
Natural and Social Conditions	7
Nursing in the Home	12
Nursing Homes	13
Nursing Staff	10
Obstetric Consultant Service	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13
Orthopaedic Treatment	13
Population	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	13
Sanitary Circumstances	14
Sewage Disposal	14
Shops Acts	16
Staff	10
Tuberculosis	17
Vaccination	14
Venereal Diseases	20
Vital Statistics	7
Water Supplies	14

EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer

1940

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.