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EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION OF THE COUNTY

For the Year ended 31st December, 1938

BY

R. ASHLEIGH GLEGG, M.D., D.P.H.

County Medical Officer of Health

Chief Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Officer



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1939

CONTENTS.		PAGE
Introductory Letter		3-5
Members of Committees		6
Staff		6, 7
Medical Officers of Health of Sanitary Districts		8
Vital Statistics :—		
Area, Population, etc.		8
Chief Vital Statistics (Tables I, II, and III)		9
Causes of and Ages at Death (Tables IV (a) and (b))		10, 11
Birth-Rate, General Death-Rate, and Infant Mortality (Table V)		12
Maternal Mortality (Table VI)		13
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Table VII)		13
Deaths from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, Heart Disease, and Cancer		14
Infectious Diseases :—		
Prevalence		14-16
Immunisation against Diphtheria		15
Isolation Hospital Accommodation		16
Notifications (Table VIII)		17
Maternity and Child Welfare :—		
Midwifery Service (Table IX) (Report by Supervisor of Midwives)		18, 19
Contraception		20
Ante-Natal Supervision: Consultants		20
Hospital Midwifery Treatment (Table X)		20, 21
Puerperal Pyrexia		21
Convalescent Treatment		21
Provision for Unmarried Mothers and their Infants		21
Notification of Births and Infant Health Visiting		21, 22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum (Table XI)		22
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (Table XII)		22, 23
Vaccination (Table XIII)		24
Hospital Treatment for Marasmic Infants		24
Care of Pre-school Children		24
Home Helps; Milk Supply to Mothers and Infants		24
Infant Life Protection		25
Nursing Homes Registration		25
Dental Treatment		25, 26
Venereal Diseases :—		
County Clinic and Reports of Medical Officers		26, 27
Attendances (Table XIV): Laboratory Facilities		28
Tuberculosis :—		
Notifications (Tables XV and XVI)		28, 29
Dispensary Treatment (Table XVII): Outdoor Shelters		29, 30
Report by Dr. A. Beeley, Clinical Tuberculosis Officer		30, 31
Artificial Sunlight		31
Sanatorium Treatment (Table XVIII)		32
Report by Dr. J. R. Dingley, Medical Superintendent of Sanatorium		32, 33
Report by Health Committee, Sussex Rural Community Council		33, 34
Orthopaedics (Tables XIX and XX)		34-36
Care of Blind Persons :—		
East Sussex Association for the Blind		36
Prevention and Treatment		36
Register (Table XXI), Home Workers, Home Teaching, etc.		36, 37
Unemployable Blind and Dependents, National Library, etc.		37
Blind Persons Act, 1938		38
Mental Welfare :—		
Ascertainment		38
Register (Tables XXII and XXIII)		38, 39
Institutional Provision (Table XXIV)		39, 40
Defectives under Guardianship and on Licence, etc.		40, 41
East Sussex Association for Mental Welfare; Visitors and M.D. Act, 1938, etc.		41
Hospital Accommodation in the County		42
Public Assistance :—		
Bed Accommodation (Table XXV)		43
Report by Dr. E. Bruce Low, Medical Superintendent of Southlands Hospital		43, 44
Improvements at Southlands Hospital and Institutions		44
Domiciliary Medical Relief, etc.		45
Statistics (Tables XXVI, XXVII, and XXVIII)		45, 46
Blood Transfusions		47
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933		47
Ambulance Facilities		47
Air Raid Precautions		47-49
Milk and Dairies :—		
Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders (Table XXIX)		49, 50
Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and Milk in Schools Scheme		50, 51
Housing Acts, 1925-36		51, 52
Water Supply		52
Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts, 1876-1893 :—		
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, etc. (Table XXX)		52, 53
Local Government Act, 1929, Section 57 (1), Public Health Act, 1936, Section 307		53
Food and Drugs :—		
Samples analysed (Table XXXI)		54
Preservatives		54
Reports by Coroners (Table XXXII)		54-58
Meteorological Data (Table XXXIII)		59

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

MR CHAIRMAN, MY LORD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Eleventh Annual Report on the Health of the Administrative County in the calendar year 1938. It is the forty-fourth of the series.

Before reviewing the principal features of the year's work, it is good to be able to record that the Infantile Mortality rate, which has been described as the most sensitive index of the state of the public health, has fallen considerably in recent years in the area of the administrative county and that, in 1938, it was the lowest ever recorded in the area, being 31 per 1,000 live births, compared with an average rate for England and Wales of 53 per 1,000. Good housing, a high level of general sanitation, better wages, with consequent better nourishment of parents, and systematic education in the principles of child nurture, have all played their part in achieving this satisfactory reduction in the mortality of infants under one year of age. Further improvement in this figure may be expected from the continuing action of these factors on an increasing number of people. The chief factor is undoubtedly the improvement in nutrition that has been noticeable in recent years. This has been assisted under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee's arrangement for the supply of milk to nursing and expectant mothers and children under five years of age. The importance of milk as a food for mothers and young children is now well recognised and the Government have taken steps with a view to extending its consumption. Even more satisfactory is the reduction in the rate of Maternal Mortality to the low figure of 1.55 per 1,000 births in the same area.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Infant Welfare and other health work was made more efficient in Burgess Hill during the year by the provision of premises to be used only for health service activities. Plans were prepared for providing similar premises in East Grinstead and Uckfield. At Haywards Heath and Newhaven, clinic premises were enlarged to provide a play-room in each for children between two and five years of age.

An effort to increase the Maternity Home accommodation in the County was made by negotiation with the Board of Governors of the Bexhill Hospital. It was agreed that a twelve-bedded pavilion should be built by the Hospital with a capital grant from the County Council in respect of the use of four beds for cases sent by the Authority. Although full agreement of the proposal has been reached, the erection of the building has been postponed.

During the year, an important Order, viz., The County of East Sussex (Midwifery Prohibition of Unqualified Persons) Order, 1938, was made by the Minister of Health. It came into operation on 1st May, 1938, and provides, under penalty, that no unqualified person shall, after that date, attend, with remuneration, as a nurse on a woman in childbirth.

The Minister also issued a Circular (No. 1621) detailing measures which should be taken for the prevention of blindness. The County Medical Officer of Health was able to report that all the suggested measures were in operation in the Maternity and Child Welfare area of the county.

Air Raid Precautions (Medical Services).

The regrettable need for speeding up arrangements connected with air raid precautions was emphasised by an instruction from the County Council in the autumn of 1938 that this work should take precedence over all other Council work. The organisation for medical services comprises arrangements for providing personnel and equipment for first-aid parties and for emergency ambulances, for first-aid posts including mobile posts, and for an emergency hospital service.

The County Council have prepared a scheme which indicates the lines on which the District Councils should proceed in setting up the local A.R.P. Service in all its branches, including the medical service which, with the exception of the provision of hospital accommodation for casualties, is to be administered in each district by the Medical Officer of Health.

The County Medical Officer of Health is to be expected, in time of war, to act as agent of the Hospital Officer of the Ministry of Health.

The Hospitals in the County have been classified according to their suitability for dealing with different types of case and equipment and stores necessary for emergency work have been supplied.

The recruitment and training of nursing auxiliaries and the local registration arrangements for the Civil Nursing Reserve have been entrusted to the County Medical Officer, who has also been appointed County Ambulance Officer. In regard to the Civil Nursing Reserve, much help has been given by Lady Rachel Egerton, County Organiser of the Women's Voluntary Service, and her staff of voluntary workers, and also by the local Honorary Officers of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society and by the Matrons of the voluntary and municipal hospitals. Dr. Bentall has been appointed as a part-time medical officer on the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health to render general assistance in A.R.P. duties.

Tuberculosis.

The Council have approved proposals for the erection of a new Men's Hospital Block at Darvell Hall Sanatorium, with accommodation for 54 patients. The Women's Pavilion is also to be enlarged, providing 15 additional beds. The present Men's Hospital is to be taken down and re-erected in another part of the grounds. The enlarged Sanatorium will provide a total of 131 beds, 30 of which are allocated to the County Borough of Hastings. The alterations include a new hostel for nurses and a chapel building. It will be unnecessary, with this additional accommodation, to make use of poor law institutions for the treatment of tuberculous patients, except in cases of emergency.

Orthopædic.

It was not found to be possible, in 1938, to give effect to my recommendation that clinics should be opened at Heathfield and Rye and additional sessions held at existing clinics. The diseases that cause crippling cannot be dealt with adequately until this recommendation is carried out.

A Sussex branch of the National Society for the Care of Cripples was formed in 1938. This Society's work will meet a long-felt need in the county. It will help in the work of ascertainment and more particularly in placing cripples in employment and looking after their interests.

Care of Blind Persons.

The Blind Persons Act came into operation on 1st April, 1938. The Act made very extensive alterations in procedure in respect of payments to blind persons and their dependants and lowered the age for the receipt by blind persons of the Old Age Pension from 50 to 40.

The South Regional Association for the Blind was incorporated on 20th January, 1938. The County Council of East Sussex is represented on the General Council of this Association, which deals with the general welfare of the blind in twenty-six geographical counties.

Infectious Diseases.

The Scheme of the County Council for Isolation Hospital accommodation in the County was amended in 1938 to provide for an arrangement being made with the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells for the reception, in their Hospital, of patients from the areas of the East Grinstead Urban District and the Uckfield Rural District.

The District Councils were recommended during the year to give facilities for rendering children immune to diphtheria free of cost to their parents.

A limited outbreak of infantile paralysis (acute poliomyelitis) occurred in the latter half of the year. Efforts were made to obtain the Drinker apparatus for those whose respiratory muscles were affected. In this connection, I have to record a generous gift by Lord Nuffield of mechanical respirators to all the principal hospitals in the County, including Southlands Hospital.

The Ministry of Health, in Circular 1724 issued on 5th September, 1938, drew attention to the measures which should be taken on the occurrence of Small Pox, pointing out that the spread of this disease can be limited by prompt and vigorous action. No case of this disease occurred in the County during the year.

Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937.

In May, 1938, the County Council decided that whole-time servants of the Council, with a few exceptions, should be classed as contributory employees under the Act and that they and whole-time highway foremen drivers or tradesmen, after five years' service, should be required to pass a medical examination to the satisfaction of the County Medical Officer of Health. In addition to these, the Staff Committee, since June, 1938, have required all permanent employees to pass a similar examination unless they had previously passed a satisfactory medical examination or received promotion in their Department.

Acknowledgments.

I gratefully acknowledge the consideration and support given to me throughout the year by the Chairman and Members of Committees concerned with all the public health services. Thanks are due to the honorary officers and members of voluntary societies which render most valuable assistance supplementary to the official health services. These are referred to individually in the body of this Report. Finally, I am glad of this opportunity to thank the District Medical Officers of Health for their helpful co-operation and the technical and clerical members of my staff for their loyal and devoted service throughout a year of ever-increasing duties.

Your obedient Servant,

R. ASHLEIGH GLEGG,

County Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
LEWES.

September, 1939.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, 1938-1939.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

MR. H. C. ANDREWS.
THE HON. RUTH BUCKLEY.
MR. J. COOPER.
CAPT. C. H. COTESWORTH (Chairman).
COL. P. DEE.
MR. J. W. GALLOWAY.
CAPT. C. F. GARDNER.
MR. C. HALES.
MISS A. E. HALL.

MR. J. L. P. W. HEWISON.
MR. W. KEITH MARTIN.
MR. A. TURNER LAING.
MR. H. W. LOOKER.
MRS. C. I. MEADS, M.B.E.
MR. F. H. NIAS.
MR. H. F. PARKER.
MR. B. SPRING RICE.
MR. P. LENNOX WRIGHT.

Ex-officio: The Chairman of the County Council—Lt.-Col. R. V. Gwynne, D.S.O., and
the Vice-Chairman of the County Council—Col. J. R. Warren, O.B.E., M.C.

THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—MRS. C. I. MEADS, M.B.E.

The Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee with the addition of the following:—

MRS. D. E. BARDEN.
MISS M. S. HOLGATE.
MRS. M. A. SHIRLEY.

MR. A. W. GARDNER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
MRS. R. L. THORNTON.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

MR. H. C. ANDREWS.
MISS M. BEALE.
MR. J. T. BRIDGER.
COL. P. DEE.
MR. J. M. FRASER.
MISS A. E. HALL.
MISS M. M. HAMPTON.
MR. C. A. HAWES.
MR. V. R. HUDSON.

MR. A. N. INNES (Chairman)
MISS D. KNIGHT-BRUCE.
MR. H. W. LOOKER.
MRS. C. I. MEADS, M.B.E.
MRS. M. H. OWEN.
MR. W. E. PHILLIPS.
MRS. C. M. M. SCOTT.
MR. O. H. SWANN.

STAFF OF COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

County Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Chief Tuberculosis Officer.	R. Ashleigh Glegg, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, Deputy School Medical Officer and Chief Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.	Arthur Beeley, M.Sc., M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Assistant School Medical Officer (part time)	Walter R. Dunstan, M.Sc., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
" " " " "	William Gillitt, C.I.E., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
" " " " "	William B. Stott, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.
" " " " "	R. Sydney Davidson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (resigned 31st January, 1938).
" " " " "	John Petrie, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (appointed 21st March, 1938).
" " " " "	W. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
" " " " "	Rodie Parkhurst, M.B., C.M.
Assistant Clinical Tuberculosis Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer (part time)	N. E. Chadwick, M.A., M.D., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
" " " " "	Sir Alan Hilary Moore, Bart., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Consultant for Physical Treatment (part time)	Surgeon-Commander G. Murray-Levick, R.N., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Orthopaedic Surgeon (part time)	E. E. Harris, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Medical Superintendent of County Sanatorium for Tuberculosis, Robertsbridge.	John R. Dingley, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Assistant Medical Superintendent of County Sanatorium for Tuberculosis, Robertsbridge	Mrs. Ruth Dingley, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Consulting Throat Surgeon at Sanatorium	Gilbert Howells, F.R.C.S.
Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon at Sanatorium	N. St. John J. G. D. Buxton, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Consulting Surgeon at Sanatorium	Derrick J. Martin, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Superintendent of Southlands Hospital and Assistant County Medical Officer (Institutions).	E. Bruce Low, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Southlands Hospital	E. K. McLean, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.
Assistant Medical Officer, Southlands Hospital	W. T. Dingle, M.D. (commenced 16th January, 1938, resigned 30th June, 1938).
" " " " " "	D. P. Kennedy, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.S. (appointed 1st April, 1938.)
" " " " " "	R. E. Gibson, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (appointed 28th April, 1938).
" " " " " "	J. S. Hogg, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S. (resigned 4th January, 1938).
" " " " " "	H. L. Connor, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (resigned 5th May, 1938).
Consulting and Operating Surgeon, " "	J. R. Griffith, B.Ch., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Radiologist (part time) " "	H. T. Cubbon, M.B., B.Ch., D.M.R.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Medical Officers of Venereal Diseases Centres (part-time)—	
Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	F. H. Lawson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings	P. Lazarus Barlow, M.D., M.B., B.Ch.
Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	G. L. M. McElligott, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
County Dental Surgeon	Arnold Court, L.D.S., R.C.S.
" " " " " "	Wilfred Eddings, L.D.S., R.C.S.
" " " " " "	G. J. S. Rose, L.D.S., R.C.S.
" " " " " "	Miss A. W. M. Miller, L.R.C.P., & S., L.D.S., R.C.S.
" " " " " "	Lewis B. Corner, L.D.S., R.C.S. (appointed 1st July, 1938).
Dental Surgeon at Sanatorium (part time)	K. F. Pedley, L.D.S., R.C.S.
County Health Inspector	H. Jessop, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Assistant County Health Inspector	Francis Hugh Leggat, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
" " " " " "	Frederick Harding, A.R.San.I., A.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.
Chief Clerk	George F. Akehurst.
Inspector of Midwives and Superintendent of the East Sussex County Nursing Federation	Miss A. G. Mitchell, S.R.N., S.C.M.
District Nursing Superintendent	Miss D. M. Edginton, S.R.N., S.C.M. (the late)
" " " " " "	Miss C. M. McGregor, S.R.N., S.C.M.
" " " " " "	Miss E. M. Pinyon, S.R.N., S.C.M.
" " " " " "	Miss F. M. Smith, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Orthopaedic Nurse	Miss G. M. K. N. Lindop, C.S.M.M.G.
Home Visitor under Mental Deficiency Acts	A. S. Phillips.
Home Visitor under Mental Deficiency Acts	Mrs. G. F. Ayshford Ayre.
" " " " to Feeble-minded Children	
Public Analyst under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	Samuel Allinson Woodhead, D.Sc., F.I.C.
Additional Public Analyst	R. F. Wright, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.I.C.
Inspectors of Weights and Measures—	
Lewes District, No. 215	William Chamberlain.
Rye District, No. 216	John J. Murphy.
Chief County Veterinary Inspector	W. P. Blount, F.R.C.V.S.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The Administrative County of East Sussex is 499,647 acres in extent (35,496 acres in Urban and 464,151 in Rural Districts). There are 142 civil parishes, of which seven are situated within the Boroughs. The rateable value for the whole of the Administrative County, as on the 1st April, 1938, was £3,057,575, and the product of a 1d. rate was estimated at £12,111. The County is bounded on the north by the Counties of Surrey and Kent, to the west lies the county of West Sussex, and the English Channel forms the southern boundary. The chalk range of the South Downs stretches roughly parallel with the coast for approximately 25 miles in the south-western portion, while the Forest Ridge of East Sussex occupies the northern part of the County. The Sussex Weald, where the soil is mainly clay, comprises all the central section of the County and a great part of the eastern districts. A small section in the extreme south-east consists of levels that have been reclaimed from the sea. The rivers are principally small streams, the only ones of note being the Rother which enters the sea at Rye, the Cuckmere which passes through the Downs and falls into the sea at Cuckmere Haven, and the Ouse which rises near Balcombe and flows to Newhaven.

There are three County Boroughs situated in the County, viz., Brighton, Eastbourne, and Hastings, and four municipal boroughs.

Within the Administrative County there are also the two Port Sanitary Authorities of Newhaven and New Shoreham. Apart from agriculture the County has few industries and is mainly residential in character.

SANITARY DISTRICTS, 1938.

DISTRICT.	Census Population		Population Estimated by Registrar General 1938.	MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
	1921.	1931.		
BOROUGHS—				
BEXHILL	20,363	21,229	23,430	Wm. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
HOVE	47,507	54,993	58,790	Norman E. Chadwick, M.A., M.D., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
LEWES	10,946	10,993	11,960	Walter R. Dunstan, M.Sc., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
RYE	4,033	4,058	4,114	Thomas Tomkinson Harratt, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
URBAN DISTRICTS—				
BURGESS HILL ...	5,851	6,281	6,850	Wm. B. Stott, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.
CUCKFIELD ...	10,334	11,298	13,600	Wm. B. Stott, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.
EAST GRINSTEAD	8,106	8,728	9,655	John Petrie, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
NEWHAVEN ...	6,829	7,381	7,062	Rodie Parkhurst, M.B., C.M.
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA	8,219	9,527	12,070	Norman E. Chadwick, M.A., M.D. M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
SEAFORD	7,301	6,925	9,069	Walter R. Dunstan, M.Sc., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
RURAL DISTRICTS—				
BATTLE	25,508	27,839	28,010	Sir Alan Moore, Bart., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
CHAILEY	13,005	16,167	17,400	Walter R. Dunstan, M.Sc., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
CUCKFIELD ...	21,710	22,822	24,440	Wm. B. Stott, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.
HAILSHAM	27,446	30,213	33,840	Wm. Gillitt, C.I.E., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
UCKFIELD	39,133	38,341	38,500	John Petrie, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES—				
NEWHAVEN	—	—	—	Rodie Parkhurst, M.B., C.M.
NEW SHOREHAM	—	—	—	W. J. Butcher, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (resigned September 1938) A. G. K. Ledger, M.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Acting Medical Officer of Health)

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

TABLE I.

Group.	Population estimated by Registrar General 1938.	Live Births.		Deaths.		Infant Deaths (under 1 year).		Deaths from Heart Disease.		Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases.		Deaths from Respiratory Diseases, not including Influenza.		Deaths from Cancer.	
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
3 Large Towns ..	94,180	962	10.21	1451	15.41	30	31.19	436	4.63	41	.44	7	.07	112	1.19	246	2.61
7 other Urban Districts ..	62,420	829	13.28	729	11.68	21	25.33	213	3.41	26	.42	3	.05	62	.99	108	1.73
5 Rural Districts ..	142,190	1888	13.22	1658	11.61	66	34.96	529	3.70	47	.33	10	.07	108	.76	260	1.82
Whole County ..	298,790	3679	12.29	3838	12.82	117	31.80	1178	3.93	114	.38	20	.07	282	.94	614	2.05

† Rates calculated per 1,000 of the registered live births. * Rates calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population.

TABLE II.

DISTRICT.	Area in statute acres (land and inland water).	Population estimated by Registrar General, 1938.	Live Births.		Stillbirths.			Deaths under 1 year of age.		Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.
			Number.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 live Births Registered.		
<i>Three Large Towns.</i>											
Bexhill	7993	23430	264	11.27	5	.21	18.59	7	26.52	305	13.02
Hove	3953	58790	553	9.41	18	.31	31.52	15	27.12	969	16.48
Lewes	1988	11960	145	12.12	7	.59	46.05	8	55.17	177	14.80
TOTALS	13934	94180	962	10.21	30	.32	30.24	30	31.19	1451	15.41
<i>Seven other Urban Districts.</i>											
Burgess Hill	2024	6850	104	15.18	3	.44	28.04	4	38.46	86	12.55
Cuckfield	3912	13600	165	12.13	1	.07	6.02	5	30.30	148	10.88
East Grinstead	6600	9655	111	11.50	6	.62	51.28	5	45.05	128	13.26
Newhaven	1772	7062	106	15.01	4	.57	36.36	0	0.00	84	11.89
Portslade-by-Sea	1953	12070	184	15.24	5	.41	26.46	5	27.17	130	10.77
Rye	1027	4114	72	17.50	2	.49	27.03	1	13.89	53	12.88
Seaford	4274	9069	87	9.59	2	.22	22.47	1	11.49	100	11.03
TOTALS	21562	62420	829	13.28	23	.37	27.00	21	25.33	729	11.68
<i>Five Rural Districts.</i>											
Battle	117053	28010	401	14.16	12	.42	29.06	16	39.90	365	12.89
Chailey	66038	17400	216	12.41	6	.34	27.03	2	9.26	213	12.24
Cuckfield	74335	24440	337	13.79	17	.70	48.02	13	38.58	257	10.52
Hailsham	94629	33840	462	13.52	19	.56	39.50	18	38.96	386	11.30
Uckfield	112096	38500	472	12.26	14	.36	28.81	17	36.02	437	11.35
TOTALS	464151	142190	1888	13.22	68	.48	34.76	66	34.96	1658	11.61
Totals for County	499647	298790	3679	12.29	121	.40	31.84	117	31.80	3838	12.82

TABLE III.

Number of deaths at different periods of life in the Administrative County during the year 1938.

Sex.	Urban Districts.													Rural Districts.												
	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	Over 75	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	Over 75		
Males	1016	36	2	5	14	23	16	44	81	173	288	334	806	46	9	4	11	18	25	21	50	125	209	288		
Females	1164	15	3	2	10	21	25	43	91	154	299	501	852	20	4	2	13	12	17	30	59	105	236	354		
Totals	2180	51	5	7	24	44	41	87	172	327	587	835	1658	66	13	6	24	30	42	51	109	230	445	642		

TABLE IV (b).
Causes of and Ages at Death during the year 1938 in the Rural Districts.

Deaths in or belonging to each District, at all ages.																	
Deaths in or belonging to Districts, at subjoined ages.																	
CAUSES OF DEATH.																	
All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 55.	55 and under 65.	65 and under 75.	75 and upwards.	Battle.	Chalfley.	Cuckfield.	Haslem.	Uckfield.	
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
2. Measles ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
3. Scarlet Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
4. Whooping Cough ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
5. Diphtheria ..	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
6. Influenza ..	17	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	6	8	3	4	1	3	6	
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
9. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..	47	1	—	—	7	14	5	7	12	2	—	12	8	5	12	10	
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	10	1	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	2	2	3	
11. Syphilis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	260	—	—	—	2	11	26	57	91	73	—	48	41	34	66	71	
14. Diabetes ..	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	7	10	6	2	6	5	4	
15. Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc. ..	99	—	—	—	1	2	6	11	30	49	—	26	11	9	25	28	
16. Heart Disease ..	529	—	—	—	2	1	4	26	61	100	275	124	58	90	121	136	
17. Aneurysm ..	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ..	95	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	15	26	50	12	15	19	16	33	
19. Bronchitis ..	35	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	22	—	12	5	5	6	7	
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ..	59	7	5	2	1	4	3	4	9	11	13	13	5	9	14	18	
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	14	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	3	1	5	3	3	3	5	3	
22. Peptic Ulcer ..	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	7	4	5	2	1	5	5	
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ..	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	1	
24. Appendicitis ..	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	6	1	5	1	1	4	2	
25. Carcinoma of Liver ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ..	9	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	7	11	9	2	2	1	2	—	
27. Other Digestive Diseases ..	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	5	11	
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	44	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	19	17	—	12	8	1	13	10	
29. Puerperal Sepsis ..	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30. Other Puerperal Causes ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ..	49	47	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	
32. Senility ..	47	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	13	12	11	
33. Suicide ..	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	42	11	6	9	7	14	
34. Other Violence ..	79	1	1	6	9	9	7	3	7	2	3	5	3	1	3	7	
35. Other Defined Diseases ..	130	3	3	8	3	2	9	10	17	35	40	10	8	19	20	22	
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	17	23	26	31	
All Causes ..	1651	66	13	6	24	30	42	51	109	230	445	642	365	213	257	386	437
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total Illegitimate 66																
	{ 3																

Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total 66
Illegitimate 3

BIRTH-RATE.

The total number of live births registered in the Administrative County during the year was 3,679, or 98 more than in 1937. Of the live births, 179 were illegitimate, giving a percentage of 4.59. In addition to the live births, 121 stillbirths, of which 9 were illegitimate, were registered. The birth-rate for the County was **12.29** live births per 1,000 of the population, a rate which was .3 per 1,000 above that for the year 1937. The number of live births registered was lower by 159 than the registered deaths. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 15.1 per 1,000.

DEATH-RATES.

General Death-Rate.

The general death-rate for the Administrative County was **12.82** per 1,000 of the population as compared with a rate of 13.26 in 1937. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6 per 1,000.

The Registrar-General has supplied comparability factors for each Urban and Rural District and for the Administrative County as a whole for the purpose of adjusting the local death-rates to compare these with the crude death-rate for England and Wales, or with the mortality of any other local area the crude death-rate of which has been similarly modified with its own factor for the purpose. If the populations of all areas were similarly constituted as regards the proportions of their sex and age group components, their crude death-rates (per 1,000 population) could be accepted as valid comparative measures of the mortalities experienced by the several populations. In practice, however, the populations are not thus constituted. Therefore, it is necessary to use the factor which has been supplied for purposes of comparison. The factor for the Administrative County is .78 and when the crude death-rate of 12.82 is multiplied by this figure the adjusted death-rate for the County is shown as **10.0** compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

The number of registered deaths from all causes in the County for the year was 3,838 as against 3,960 for the previous year, a decrease of 122.

Special reference is made below, under the appropriate headings, to infant mortality, maternal mortality and to deaths from tuberculosis, diseases of the respiratory organs, heart disease and cancer.

Infant Mortality.

There were 117 deaths of infants under one year of age in the year 1938, giving a rate of **31.8** per 1,000 live births, as compared with 134 deaths and a rate of 37.42 in 1937. The rate for 1938 is the lowest ever recorded for the Administrative County as a whole and shews a reduction of 5.62 per 1,000 on that of the previous year. In 1915, the year in which the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in this County was commenced the infantile mortality rate was 86.07 per 1,000 births. In that year only 914 infants out of every 1,000 survived the first year of life, whereas in 1938, 969 infants out of every 1,000 survived the first year. This improvement is, no doubt, due largely to better child nurture resulting from health education generally and in particular to the instruction given by health visitors, combined with the increased facilities provided by the County Council for the care of mothers and infants. Of the 117 deaths, 6 were of illegitimate infants. The infant mortality rate of illegitimate infants was only 33.52 per 1,000 illegitimate live births, as compared with 65.09 in 1937. It is satisfactory to note that the illegitimate death-rate shews a practically continuous decline in recent years. In 1932 it was 96.7 per 1,000 births.

Of 99 deaths of infants, including inward transfers, notified by the Registrars of Births and Deaths and Health Visitors in the Administrative County (excluding Hove) during the year 1938, 60 (66.67 per cent.) died during the first month of life (35 of these were due to prematurity), 21 between one and three months, 7 between three and six months, and 11 between six and twelve months. The causes of death during the first year of life were mainly from congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and other injurious conditions before and at the time of birth.

The following statement shews the average death-rates of infants under one year per 1,000 births for five-year periods from 1906 to 1935 and for the years 1936, 1937, and 1938.

TABLE V.

Deaths at ages under one year per 1,000 births. Average rates.

Period.	East Sussex.	England and Wales.
1906 to 1910	79.8	116.8
1911 to 1915	73.4	109.6
1916 to 1920	63.1	90.6
1921 to 1925	48.0	75.8
1926 to 1930	44.7	67.8
1931 to 1935	42.87	62.2
1936 to 1938	35.43	56.7

Maternal Mortality.

It is recorded in connection with the 3,800 live and stillbirths that 6 women lost their lives from causes directly due to child-bearing, representing a Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County (including the Borough of Hove) of only **1.58** per 1,000 live and stillbirths, as compared with a rate of 1.62 in 1937. One of the six women died from puerperal sepsis, representing a rate of .26 per 1,000; the remaining 5 died from other causes, representing a rate of 1.32 per 1,000. One of the 6 deaths occurred within the area of the Borough of Hove which is a Local Authority for maternity and child welfare. There were, therefore, only 5 deaths in the maternity and child welfare area of the Administrative County of East Sussex, giving a death-rate of **1.55** per 1,000. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 2.97 per 1,000 (.86 from sepsis and 2.11 from other causes). Of the 5 deaths referred to above, 4 occurred amongst residents of the County area who were at the time of death in hospitals outside the County. The registered causes of these five deaths were as follows:—

1. Pulmonary embolism; parturition.
2. Puerperal septicæmia.
3. Shock resulting from retention of placenta with anæmia due to loss of blood.
4. Uræmia, eclamptic fits, albuminuria of pregnancy.
5. Shock, uterine hæmorrhage, abortion.

Each maternal death occurring in the Administrative County was the subject of a special enquiry, and full information was supplied to the Special Committee of the Ministry of Health on Maternal Mortality.

The following table sets out the Maternal Mortality rate for each year during the last eight years:—

TABLE VI.

Year.	England and Wales.	Administrative County of East Sussex (including the Borough of Hove).	East Sussex Maternity and Child Welfare Area (i.e., excluding the Borough of Hove).
1931	3.94	2.59	2.38
1932	4.06	5.28	4.64
1933	4.23	2.64	2.42
1934	4.41	4.45	3.99
1935	4.1	3.14	3.05
1936	3.65	3.01	2.92
1937	3.23	1.62	1.61
1938	2.97	1.58	1.55

Death-Rate from Tuberculosis.

In East Sussex, in 1938, pulmonary tuberculosis was responsible for 114 deaths, 10 less than in the previous year, and for 20 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis, as compared with 31 in 1937. The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was **.38** per 1,000 of the population, and from other tuberculous diseases **.07** per 1,000 in 1938 as compared with .42 and .1 respectively in 1937. The rates for England and Wales for 1938 were:—pulmonary tuberculosis .53 per 1,000 and non-pulmonary .1 per 1,000.

The trend of the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis continues to be downward. Although the reduction in the rate from year to year is small, yet it has been reduced to half the rate for 1913. Pulmonary tuberculosis has its highest incidence at an age when the lives of those attacked are of most value to the community. Reference to Tables IV (a) and (b) will show that the majority of the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occur between the ages of 25 and 65. The figures given below shew the average death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis for England and Wales and for East Sussex for five-year periods 1909 to 1938:—

TABLE VII.

Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. Average rates per 1,000 of the population.

Period.	East Sussex.	England and Wales.
1909 to 1913	.79	1.02
1914 to 1918	.85	1.17
1919 to 1923	.68	.89
1924 to 1928	.59	.8
1929 to 1933	.49	.69
1934 to 1938	.44	.57

Death-Rate from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

The number of deaths in 1938 from non-tuberculous diseases of the respiratory organs, including pneumonia, but excluding influenza, was 282, or about one-fourteenth of all the deaths. These diseases are amongst the chief causes of death at the beginning and end of life and should, at any rate, in infancy, be in a large measure preventable. The death-rate in 1938 from these diseases was .94 per 1,000 of the population as against .95 in 1937.

Death-Rate from Heart Disease.

There were 1,178 deaths registered from this cause, mainly in the later years of life. The rate of 3.93 per 1,000 of the population in 1938 is to be compared with 3.84 per 1,000 in 1937. Heart disease was responsible for nearly one-third of all the deaths in the Administrative County. Preventive measures should be directed to the prevention and treatment of rheumatism and other diseases resulting from streptococcal infection. Periodical medical examination after the age of 40 years would bring these diseases under earlier treatment and would reduce the incidence of heart disease.

Death-Rate from Cancer.

Six hundred and fourteen deaths from this disease were registered, as against 617 in 1937. The rate per 1,000 of the population in 1938 was 2.05 as compared with 2.07 in 1937. The rate for England and Wales for 1938 was 1.66 per 1,000. It will be seen from Tables IV (a) and IV (b) that most of the deaths occur after the age of 45. If the disease is diagnosed in an early stage there is evidence that life can be prolonged by suitable treatment.

There is no definite County Scheme providing for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, but facilities for the treatment of this disease are available at the Council's Hospital (Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea) where cases receive operative treatment and treatment by radium which is hired from the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, or from The London Hospital. Occasional cases are sent by the County Council under the Poor Law to The Marie Curie Hospital, Hampstead, London, to the Royal (Free) Cancer Hospital, London, or to The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, which Hospitals have special facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Lectures under the auspices of the British Empire Cancer Campaign were given to the Haywards Heath Toc H Group and West Hoathly Nursing Association during the year.

In October, 1938, the County Medical Officer of Health submitted to the Public Health and Housing Committee a report on the provision of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. This report contained proposals with regard to the preparation of a scheme in which the West Sussex County Council and the Brighton Corporation would be asked to co-operate with the East Sussex County Council with a view to providing facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in conjunction with the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. This Hospital has already established a cancer treatment unit which would have to be extended if the suggested scheme were brought into operation. The cancer treatment unit of the Hospital has been provided, by the British Empire Cancer Campaign, with a Chaul low-contact therapy plant and the Campaign has supplied radium for use at this Hospital. The Sussex Branch of the British Empire Cancer Campaign has also inaugurated and financed a scheme for free transport of necessitous patients to Centres either in the County or in London for diagnosis and treatment.

Under the Cancer Act of 1939, a County Council has the duty of making arrangements for the provision of facilities for the treatment of persons suffering from cancer and a scheme embodying such arrangements must be submitted to the Minister of Health.

The following are the numbers of patients suffering from cancer under care during the year 1938 at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, and at the Public Assistance Infirmaries in the County:—

	No. of Patients.		No. of Patients.
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	112	Newhaven Infirmary	8
Battle Infirmary	4	Rye Infirmary	4
Chailley Infirmary	5	Ticehurst Infirmary	3
Cuckfield Infirmary	9	Uckfield Infirmary	8
East Grinstead Infirmary	4		

Inquests.

A table is given, in an appendix to this Report, of a return of Inquests held in 1938, together with a Report by Dr. E. F. Hoare on Inquests held for the Lewes Coroner's District during the year.

PREVALENCE OF EPIDEMIC AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Smallpox.

Smallpox did not occur in the Administrative County during the year.

Diphtheria.

There was again a decrease in the incidence of diphtheria, 76 cases being notified in 1938 compared with 89 for the previous year. Three deaths occurred among the 76 cases, giving a case mortality of 3.94 per cent., as compared with that of 6.7 per cent. for the previous year.

In the Cuckfield Rural District, free immunisation against diphtheria was again available for children from 1 year to 14 years of age, and the response was satisfactory, the percentage of school children immunised being similar to that for the previous year, 90 per cent., and for those under school age about 25 per cent. It is hoped that further provision will be made during 1939 for every parent with an unprotected child to be visited by the District Nurse or by a special voluntary helper in order that the facilities available may be made known. By this means, and also through the co-operation of the Infant Welfare Centres, the percentage of acceptances in the "under fives" should be increased. The two cases of diphtheria that occurred in the Rural District during the year were children of 3 and 4 years of age respectively who had not been immunised.

In the Hailsham Rural District, steps were taken during the year to make the diphtheria immunisation scheme more effective. The District Council sanctioned in December the payment of the doctor's fee and the scheme was modified by the substitution of two injections of A.P.T. for all children not over 12 years of age. In older children three injections of T.A.F. were authorised and the fees were fixed at 2s. 6d. per injection. A post-Schick Test was also offered in all cases, for which an appropriate fee is paid. All parents in the district were circularised through the schools, Welfare Clinics, Women's Institutes, and Health Visitors, but as the scheme was not approved until late in the year its full effect was not felt during the year under review.

From other reports received, it would appear that the stress of work imposed upon Local Authorities by civil defence preparations has limited the extension of schemes for diphtheria immunisation in the County. The Medical Officer for Hove reports that, for this reason, no attempt was made to push immunisation among school children although effort was made at the "Toddlers' Clinics to persuade mothers to have their young children protected and during the year 71 were treated, while 12 failed to complete treatment.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified in the County during 1938 was 393, a slight increase over the figure of 348 for the previous year. Two deaths from this disease were reported, giving a case mortality of .51 per cent.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.

Nine cases of typhoid fever or paratyphoid were notified during the year under review. One death was certified as being attributable to typhoid fever.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

During the year 1938, 36 notifications were received of puerperal pyrexia. One death occurred from puerperal sepsis.

Medical practitioners are in all cases informed of the facilities available for treatment under the County Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. Details concerning these facilities, and the results of treatment, are given under the section of the Report relating to Maternity and Child Welfare.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Three cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified in the County during the period, but 5 deaths from this disease amongst residents of the County are shown in the Return of the Registrar-General for 1938.

Pneumonia.

One hundred and eighty-five cases of pneumonia were notified, a decrease of 56 in the figure for the previous year. Acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia are the only varieties notifiable.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Sixteen cases of this disease were reported, three more than in 1937 (see Section dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare).

Acute Poliomyelitis.

During 1938, thirty-two cases of acute poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) were notified in the County, as compared with eight during the previous year. Five deaths were recorded.

The cases occurred in the following Districts:—Cuckfield Rural, 18; Cuckfield Urban, 5; East Grinstead Urban, 2; Portslade-by-Sea Urban, 2; Hailsham Rural, 2; Uckfield Rural, 2; Newhaven Urban, 1.

Most of the 32 patients were treated, in the first instance, at Isolation Hospitals. Eight children were later admitted for treatment to the Heritage Hospital, Chailey, and arrangements were made for several children to be admitted to general hospitals, such as the Great Ormond Street Hospital, London.

A Drinker apparatus was obtained from St. Thomas's Hospital, London, for the treatment of a man whose respiratory muscles were affected by the disease, but unfortunately he died shortly after the apparatus was received.

Medical practitioners reporting this disease are immediately supplied with full details concerning facilities provided by the County Council for treatment. Dr. Murray-Levick, Consultant for Physical Treatment, is available to visit the home of any patient suffering from the disease and to consult with the medical practitioner in charge of the case.

The Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The most important of these are influenza, whooping cough, measles, and infantile diarrhoea. The following statement shows the number of deaths registered from these diseases during the year:—

Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	44	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	4
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	2	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	7

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Smallpox.

In my report for the year 1937 reference was made to the fact that the East Sussex Western Smallpox Hospital District Committee was, in pursuance of Section 6 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to be abolished, and reconstituted as a Joint Hospital Board. Orders giving effect to this intention were made by the Minister of Health in September, 1938.

Such Hospital Board maintains the Sedgebrook Hospital at Plumpton which has ten beds with a floor space of 144 square feet per bed and serves five urban and three rural districts. Patients from the remaining districts of the County are received into the Brighton and Hastings Smallpox Hospitals in which 5 and 8 beds respectively are reserved.

Other Infectious Diseases.

The Hospitals at present maintained in the Administrative County are as follows, the beds shewn representing the accommodation provided on a basis of 144 square feet per bed.

<i>Isolation Hospital.</i>	<i>Maintained by</i>	<i>Beds.</i>
Bexhill, Clinch Green	Bexhill Municipal Borough Council	10
Chailey	Chailey Rural District Council	18
Hurstpierpoint, Deans Farm ..	Mid-Sussex Joint Hospital Board	32
East Grinstead, High Grove ..	{ East Grinstead Urban District Council	18
	{ Uckfield Rural District Council	
Hove	Hove Municipal Borough Council	50
Lewes	Lewes Municipal Borough Council	12
Newhaven	Newhaven Urban District Council	12

The arrangements for the reservation of accommodation for patients from the Battle Rural District and the Borough of Rye in the Hastings and Tunbridge Wells Isolation Hospitals have been continued, 17 beds being allocated to Battle and 3 to Rye.

Ambulances.

Particulars of the ambulances available for the transport of cases of infectious disease, are given on page 46.

Scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929.

The Scheme approved by the Minister of Health on 31st August, 1936, has been referred to in previous reports and particulars of the accommodation to be provided for each area were given in my last report. The position as regards the arrangements to be made by the various Borough Councils and the Urban and Rural District Councils for the provision of the accommodation as required by the Scheme is mainly as stated last year. The East Grinstead Urban District Council and the Uckfield Rural District Council have opened negotiations with the Borough Council of Royal Tunbridge Wells for the provision at the Tunbridge Wells Isolation Hospital of the accommodation required for those districts.

The Chailey Rural District Council have decided to continue the maintenance of their own hospital for the time being and four beds have been reserved by them at the Hove Sanatorium for cases other than those of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

TABLE VIII.

Cases of Notifiable Diseases occurring during the year 1938.

TOTAL NUMBERS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN EACH DISTRICT.																					
		Boroughs.				Urban Districts.						Rural Districts.					Totals.				
		Hove.	Bexhill.	Lewes.	Rye.	Totals.	Burgess Hill.	Cuckfield.	East Grinstead.	Newhaven.	Portsmouth-by-Sea.	Seaford.	Totals.	Battle.	Chailley.	Cuckfield.				Hailsham.	Uckfield.
*Small-Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
*Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	76	10	26	4	1	41	0	1	4	1	6	0	12	3	3	2	5	10	23		
*Erysipelas	77	17	11	9	0	37	5	8	1	2	7	3	26	3	2	1	2	6	14		
*Scarlet Fever	393	102	14	4	2	122	2	43	3	2	20	3	73	42	9	21	49	77	198		
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
*Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	9	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	2	6		
Relapsing Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Continued Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
*Puerperal Pyrexia	36	10	1	6	0	17	1	1	0	1	2	2	7	4	1	1	1	5	12		
Plague...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	6	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3		
Acute Poliomyelitis	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	2	0	10	0	0	18	2	2	22		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	16	1	2	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	0	5	1	10		
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Encephalitis Lethargica	3	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dysentery	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	10	0	1	0	9	20		
*Pneumonia	185	35	19	11	0	65	11	3	15	10	9	3	51	21	2	9	20	17	69		
Trench Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	855	176	75	36	5	292	21	63	26	18	46	11	185	80	17	56	86	130	378		

*These figures are taken from the Annual Return made to the County Medical Officer by the Registrar General. In the case of other diseases the figures are extracted from the Weekly Returns made by the District Medical Officers of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Details of the public health work of the County Council are given below under appropriate headings.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Provision of Midwives.

The County Council are the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts for the Administrative County with the exception of the Borough of Hove.

An adequate midwifery service has been provided in the County by agreement with the East Sussex County Nursing Federation and with the District Nursing Associations, which cover the whole of the County area. The service is satisfactory generally, particularly so in those districts in which the District Nursing Associations have appointed fully-trained Nurses with the Health Visitor's Certificate. Supervision under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health is exercised by the County Nursing Superintendent, who is also Supervisor of Midwives, assisted by four District Nursing Superintendents appointed by the County Council, who give approximately one-fourth of their time to the work of the Federation in connection with the supervision of general nursing work, thus avoiding the dual inspection of Nurses.

The proposals of the County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936, for the improvement of the midwifery service in this County which were put into operation on the 1st April, 1937, provided for increased grants to the District Nursing Associations.

The maximum annual grants allowed to District Nursing Associations in aid of midwifery and maternity nursing services and infant health visiting in respect of the financial year 1938-39 amounted to approximately £13,280, as compared with £13,260 in 1937-38. From this amount midwifery and maternity nursing fees received by the Associations were deducted, leaving a total net grant of approximately £10,791, as against £10,682 in 1937-38.

In addition to these grants a sum of £618 was paid to the East Sussex County Nursing Federation towards the expenses of the Federation attributable to midwifery, a sum of £360 in respect of the training of midwives, and a grant of £100, being one-half of the net cost of the employment of the emergency nurse-midwives. A fourth emergency nurse was appointed in 1938.

Amalgamation of adjacent District Nursing Associations in areas which could be nursed efficiently by a reduced nursing staff with motor transport was continued during the year. Two Associations were amalgamated in the year 1938, making a total of 50 Associations since the policy of amalgamation was commenced in the year 1928. In the latter year, there were 92 Associations which number has now been reduced by amalgamations, to 65.

Supervision of Midwives.

The number of certified midwives who, during the year 1938, notified their intention to practise either temporarily or permanently in the area for which the County Council are responsible, was 207. In January, 1938, there were 156 certified midwives on the Register, of whom 155 were trained and 1 untrained. At the end of the year there were 157 on the Register, of whom 156 were trained and 1 untrained.

The following table shows the number of midwifery and maternity patients attended by midwives practising during the year in the County area, excluding Hove. It will be seen that the midwives attended 2,469 confinements, in 1,435 of which they were engaged as midwives and in 1,034 as maternity nurses. The total number of births, including still births, in the area was 3,229. The number of confinements at which certified midwives were engaged as such, together with those in which they, although engaged as maternity nurses, actually delivered the women, was 1,573, representing 48.71 per cent. of the total births. The number of confinements at which they acted either as midwives or maternity nurses represented 76.46 per cent. of the total births.

It is to be noted that the 157 midwives referred to in the table were those practising only at the end of the year, and that the 2,469 confinements were attended by all midwives practising during the year.

TABLE IX.

	Number of Midwives practising on 31st Dec., 1938.	Number of Confinements in East Sussex attended by Midwives practising during year.	Engaged as Midwife.	Engaged as Maternity Nurse.		
				Medical Practitioner absent.	Medical Practitioner present.	Total.
<i>Trained Midwives:</i>						
Working for Associations affiliated to East Sussex County Nursing Federation	96	* 2023	1255	134	634	768
Working independently or in Institutions ..	60	446	180	4	262	266
<i>Bona-fide Midwives:</i>						
Working independently	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	157	2469	1435	138	896	1034

Notifications under the Midwives Acts received from certified midwives during the year were as follow :—

(a) Medical assistance required—			(c) Stillbirths—		
(i) for mother	.. ..	620	(i) male	.. ..	12
(ii) for infant	.. ..	81	(ii) female	.. ..	8
(b) Deaths—			(d) Engaged in laying out the dead	..	23
(i) of mother	.. ..	1	(e) Liability to be a source of infection..		132
(ii) of infant	.. ..	5	(f) Substitution of artificial feeding for breast feeding	.. ..	43

Administration of Anæsthetics by Midwives.

The County Council have provided apparatus for the use of District Nurse-Midwives for the administration of gas and air to women during labour. The Rules of the Central Midwives' Board require that a state-certified midwife, or a state-registered nurse, or a senior medical student, or a pupil midwife must be present at the time of administration, in addition to the midwife in charge of the case. The patient must also have been examined by a registered medical practitioner one month before her confinement, and found to be in a fit condition for gas and air administration. The midwives are receiving instruction in gas-air analgesics and it is proposed to make these available to mothers in 1939.

Post-Certificate Instruction of Midwives.

The County Council pay the fees for the midwives employed by District Nursing Associations to attend approved courses of post-certificate instruction and provide substitute nurses to take the place of regular midwives when attending such courses. During the year 1938, 17 midwives received post-certificate instruction as compared with 7 in 1937.

Supervision of Midwives—Report by Miss A. G. Mitchell, Supervisor of Midwives.

"On the 31st December, 1938, there were 157 certified midwives in practice in the Administrative County of East Sussex of whom 92 were working in districts affiliated to the East Sussex County Nursing Federation, and four were doing full-time relief work.

"During the year the County Superintendent and the four District Nursing Superintendents carried out 401 routine inspections. Of these, 67 were inspections of midwives in independent practice, in institutions or nursing homes, and 8 were of independent midwives who were acting as relief district nurses.

The number of notifications in respect of which special reports were necessary was 112, 56 of which were due to puerperal pyrexia, 44 to discharging eyes, 11 to contact with infection, and 1 in connection with the admission of a maternity patient to hospital. Eighty-six special visits were paid in respect of these. Of the 44 cases of eye discharge 16 were notified as ophthalmia neonatorum.

"Three deaths occurred amongst women attended in their confinements by midwives. The registered causes of two of these are set out in the table on page 13 (Numbers 4 and 5). The cause of death in the third case was given as myocardial degeneration and parturition, and it has not been classified by the Registrar-General as a maternal death.

"The midwives continue to shew a great keenness in their work. Seventeen have accepted the opportunities offered them by the County Council to attend post-certificate courses and have found them interesting and helpful.

"The membership of the East Sussex Midwives' Association is now 139. The year has been one of steady progress. Ten meetings were held in different parts of the County and we are greatly indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health and to all those who have given us their help and interesting lectures during the year. The attendances at these meetings ranged between 50 and 70, which shews how much the midwives appreciate them.

"Nine members were sent to the Midwives' Conference in London and one representative attended the Conference in Liverpool, their expenses being paid by the Branch."

Compensation of Midwives.

During the year 4 midwives surrendered their certificates of the Central Midwives' Board (3 voluntarily and 1 compulsorily). The total amount of compensation paid to these 4 midwives was £575 15s. 2d.

Since the commencement of the operation of the Midwives' Act, 1936, and until the 31st December, 1938, 15 midwives have surrendered their certificates (12 voluntarily and 3 compulsorily), the total compensation paid to these being £2,681 12s. 3d.

Contraception.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, the County Council have made arrangements whereby contraceptive advice is given to married women suffering from forms of sickness, physical or mental, which are detrimental to them as mothers. Forty-eight women received instruction during the year as compared with 41 in 1937.

Permission has been given to the local Branch of the National Birth Control Council to hold contraceptive clinics for married women in the County Clinic premises at Haywards Heath.

Contraceptive advice is given in the western part of the County by Dr. Lilius Jeffries, at the Clinic established by the Brighton Corporation, and at the County Clinic, Haywards Heath, and, in the eastern part of the County, by Dr. Ruth Dingley at the County Clinic, Bexhill, and elsewhere.

Dr. Ruth Dingley has submitted the following report on her work :—

" During the year January to December, 1938, 29 new patients have received advice in contraception. A clinic is held on the second Monday in every month at Bexhill, at which the District Nursing Superintendent assists, but a few women have been seen in their own homes or at Robertsbridge, on account of difficulties of transport. It is desirable, however, both for the efficiency of their supervision and for convenience, that whenever possible women should attend at Bexhill. The help given by district nurses in bringing people in their cars is much appreciated."

Dr. Lilius Jeffries reports as follows :—

" Fourteen East Sussex patients have attended the Brighton Contraceptive Clinic. They are among the most obviously needy of our patients, and are therefore specially welcome. They are generally very grateful for relief from endless pregnancies. The value of advice on minor gynaecological ailments is as clear as ever. Patients report that the absence of chronic discomfort increases the happiness of the home; but there remains the difficulty of getting away from home duties for hospital treatment. We still await permission to teach the right use of contraceptives for planning a family, though public opinion seems to be clearing on this point. The prevention of too rapidly succeeding pregnancies seems so much better than trying to patch up damage done."

Ante-Natal Supervision.

The County Council have established, or have assisted to establish ante-natal clinics at Bexhill, East Grinstead, Hailsham, Haywards Heath, Newhaven, Portslade, Robertsbridge, and Seaford separately from the Infant Welfare Centres. In addition, ante-natal consultations are held at 33 Infant Welfare Centres at the same session as the infant welfare work. In areas not provided with a Centre or in cases in which uninsured women find it impossible to visit a Centre, arrangements have been made whereby medical practitioners undertake ante-natal examinations and under this arrangement 26 necessitous mothers were examined by medical practitioners at a cost to the County Council of five shillings per examination. The district nurse-midwives made 12,124 domiciliary ante-natal visits during the year to 1,900 expectant mothers. In the event of abnormality or disease being found at the examinations, institutional or other treatment is provided.

Provision of Consultants.

The Local Authority have arranged for a Consultant to be available for any medical practitioner who needs such assistance in difficulties or in complications arising during pregnancy, or at or after confinement. Consultants were provided during the year in 14 cases, 3 of which were in respect of women suffering from puerperal pyrexia.

Hospital Treatment, apart from Treatment for Puerperal Pyrexia.

The following table gives details of the numbers of women provided with maternity hospital treatment under the County Scheme during the year 1938.

TABLE X.

Hospitals and Maternity Homes.	Emergencies arising directly in connection with labour.	Induction of premature labour.	Pregnancy complicated by albuminuria.	Other conditions.	Unfavourable home conditions.	Totals
Brighton :						
Sussex Maternity and Women's Hospital ..	16	16	4	24	2	62
Hastings :						
Fernbank Maternity Home	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tunbridge Wells :						
Maternity Home ..	0	0	2	0	1	3
Kent and Sussex Hospital	1	0	0	1	0	2
Battle Institution ..	3	0	0	3	5	11
Shoreham :						
Southlands Hospital ..	45	1	14	44	29	133
Cuckfield :						
West Hylands Institution	11	1	5	21	35	73
Eastbourne St. Mary's Hospital ..	28	1	1	12	11	53
Hastings Municipal Hospital	19	0	2	13	32	66
Crowborough :						
War Memorial Hospital	3	0	1	1	2	7
Newhaven Institution ..	3	0	1	3	10	17
Hastings :						
Royal East Sussex Hospital ..	2	0	0	0	0	2
Worthing Hospital ..	1	0	0	0	0	1
St. Thomas' Hostel, London	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	132	19	30	123	128	432

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Facilities are available for obtaining the services of Obstetric Consultants, for the employment of emergency nurses and for bacteriological examinations when necessary in cases of puerperal pyrexia.

During 1938, three women suffering from puerperal pyrexia were, as stated above, seen by Obstetric Consultants at the request of medical practitioners. Of 33 women who were notified as suffering from puerperal pyrexia in the County Administrative Area other than the Borough of Hove, 21 received hospital treatment under the County Council's scheme, all of whom recovered. Six women who were treated in their own homes also recovered.

Treatment in Convalescent Homes.

During the year four women received convalescent treatment after confinement under the County Scheme.

The Convalescent Home for Mothers and Babies at Mayfield which was established by the Association of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres was closed during the year.

Provision for Unmarried Mothers and their Infants.

Fifteen unmarried mothers were admitted to Hostels during the year; 13 to the Bell Hostel, Eastbourne, and 2 to other Hostels. The young women are usually admitted within three months of the expected date of confinement and remain for a period of twelve months. This provision is of special value in view of the high mortality in infants born out of wedlock.

In exceptional cases infants have been cared for at the Bell Hostel for a longer period than twelve months when special circumstances have necessitated this.

Notification of Births and Infant Visiting.

The following table shows the total number of births notified as occurring in the Administrative County (excluding the Borough of Hove) during the year 1938 :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Living	1268	1216	2484
Stillbirths	33	29	62
Totals	1301	1245	2546

Amongst the births notified are included 33 cases of twins (25 male and 41 female).

Details as to births not notified to the County Medical Officer of Health were supplied by the District Registrars of Births and Deaths. Particulars of the births notified and of those whose names are supplied by the Registrars are sent to the district nurses who, in this County, act as infant health visitors, supervised by four specially qualified District Nursing Superintendents. The County Council's Scheme for Infant Visiting provides for the whole of the Administrative County, except the Borough of Hove. During the year 1938, 47,109 visits were paid by the Infant Health Visitors, of which 21,852 were paid to infants under one year of age, as compared with 46,844 and 20,831 respectively in 1937. Visits are continued until the infants reach the age of five years, after which the children are supervised by the same nurses acting as school nurses under the Education Committee's Scheme for the medical inspection of school children.

Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937.

Notifications of 16 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were received during the year (excluding one in the Borough of Hove), four of which were treated in hospital. The following table gives details as to these 16 cases.

TABLE XI.

Cases Notified.	Cases Treated.		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.
	At Home.	In Hospital.			
16	12	4	15	1*	0

*In this case, the left eyeball was shrunken.

All cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum receive immediate attention; either the medical practitioner in attendance is communicated with by telephone, or a special visit is paid by one of the District Nursing Superintendents. Hospital treatment is arranged for, either with or without the mother, at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, at the Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, or at one or other of the County Infirmarys. Infants treated in their own homes are attended by the district nurses when these nurses are not in attendance on midwifery cases. When it is not possible for the infant to be attended by the district nurse, or when the parents cannot be persuaded to accept hospital treatment for the infant, arrangements are made for the attendance of special nurses. Special nurses were not required in 1938.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

On the 31st December, 1938, there were 56 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the County, of which 5 are provided for wholly by the County Council. The remainder have been established by local voluntary committees. The County Council have made provision in recent years for the erection of special premises for maternity and child welfare work at Bexhill, Newhaven, Three Bridges, Haywards Heath, and Burgess Hill. The Bexhill Centre was opened in 1935, those at Newhaven, Three Bridges, and Haywards Heath in 1937, and the Burgess Hill Centre in 1938. Early in 1939 buildings for this work were opened at East Grinstead and Uckfield. It is also proposed in 1939 to provide special premises at Seaford, and it is hoped that others will be provided at Battle, Lewes, Hailsham, and Rye during the next few years.

Grants totalling £599 8s. 7d. were given in aid of the expenditure of the local voluntary associations towards the cost of maintenance of these Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Rules are in force for the administration of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres which receive grants. These Rules provide for the keeping of proper records and for adopting a uniform procedure at all the Centres throughout the County including arrangements for instruction in mothercraft being given systematically.

The following table gives certain particulars concerning each Centre :—

TABLE XII.

Name of Centre.	INFANT WELFARE WORK.				ANTE-NATAL WORK.			
	Total Attendances made by Children		Total number of Children who attended during the year and who at the end of the year were		Clinic on Separate Day or Hour.	Consultations during usual Session of Infant Welfare Centre.	Number of Expectant Mothers who attended during the year.	Total Number of Attendances
	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	Under 1 year	Between 1 and 5 years				
Albourne ..	120	172	19	36	—	Yes	17	35
Alfriston ..	88	161	10	32	—	—	2	4
Balcombe ..	128	235	13	28	—	Yes	7	11
Barcombe ..	69	121	5	24	—	Yes	6	6
Battle ..	135	175	20	31	—	Yes	14	14
*Bexhill and Sidley	2636	3646	146	301	Yes	—	109	167
Bolney ..	48	130	5	39	—	Yes	5	5
Brede and Udimore	47	125	5	20	—	Yes	15	15
Burgess Hill ..	442	343	47	68	—	Yes	7	10
Chailey ..	66	106	10	23	—	—	—	—
Chiddingfold ..	123	208	12	55	—	—	—	—
Copthorne ..	55	280	6	32	—	Yes	4	6
Crawley Down ..	106	438	15	43	—	Yes	12	23
Danehill, Horsted								
Keynes and Chelwood Gate ..	361	467	22	41	—	Yes	7	7
East Grinstead ..	709	470	42	96	Yes	—	62	119
Etchingham ..	8	85	2	15	—	Yes	4	4
Fairwarp ..	64	123	7	27	—	Yes	9	17
Forest Row ..	265	323	25	65	—	Yes	18	35
Groombridge ..	47	167	7	30	—	Yes	6	15
†Guestling ..	17	71	2	14	—	—	—	—
Hailsham ..	609	701	46	84	Yes	—	40	59
Hamsey ..	141	401	8	27	—	Yes	5	5
Haywards Heath ..	867	684	55	53	Yes	—	48	76
Heathfield ..	112	176	16	55	—	—	—	—
Herstmonceux ..	94	301	18	41	—	Yes	11	17
Hurst Green ..	27	88	3	19	—	Yes	8	8
Icklesham ..	18	100	7	28	—	—	—	—
Iden and Playden ..	115	222	18	31	—	Yes	15	31
Keymer (3 months)	32	50	12	23	—	—	—	—
Lewes ..	447	663	44	97	—	Yes	62	80
Lindfield ..	83	388	7	25	—	—	—	—
Mayfield ..	60	205	12	34	—	—	—	—
*Newhaven ..	868	680	54	116	Yes	—	36	46
Newick ..	86	217	13	42	—	Yes	7	10
Northiam and Beckley ..	109	289	15	74	—	—	—	—
*Peacehaven ..	287	604	39	81	—	Yes	12	18
Pevensay ..	152	136	7	30	—	—	—	—
Plumpton ..	95	114	9	28	—	Yes	2	2
Polegate ..	190	127	33	55	—	Yes	26	41
*Portslade ..	2896	2823	116	456	Yes	—	131	595
Robertsbridge ..	109	316	19	51	Yes	—	30	55
*Rye ..	382	542	39	170	—	Yes	26	34
Scaynes Hill ..	171	250	11	27	—	Yes	—	—
Seaford ..	275	284	20	23	Yes	—	30	65
Sedlescombe ..	71	111	9	27	—	Yes	5	5
†Staplefield ..	23	135	5	28	—	—	—	—
Three Bridges and Worth ..	328	454	29	86	—	Yes	12	53
Turner's Hill ..	37	65	6	17	—	Yes	1	1
Uckfield ..	196	555	21	57	—	Yes	14	27
Wadhurst ..	237	321	25	90	—	Yes	18	26
†Waldron and Cross-in-Hand ..	115	349	10	45	—	—	—	—
Westfield ..	44	131	5	20	—	Yes	8	8
Westham ..	185	399	14	46	—	—	—	—
West Hoathly ..	72	129	14	22	—	Yes	3	4
Winchelsea ..	27	91	4	12	—	—	—	—
Withyham ..	99	175	10	58	—	Yes	10	10
TOTALS ..	15202	21221	1103	3198	8	33	864	1769

* County Council Centres.

† Voluntary Centres which did not receive grants in aid from County Council.

At East Grinstead, Newhaven, and Portslade the work of the Centres, Infant Health Visiting and School Nursing are carried out by whole-time Health Visitors appointed by the District Nursing Associations. A grant was paid equivalent to the whole salary and allowances of each of these Health Visitors.

Vaccination.

During the twelve months ended 30th September, 1938, 1,032 successful primary vaccinations were carried out, of which 4 were performed in institutions. Of these, 906 were of infants under the age of one year and 126 of persons over that age. In addition, 100 successful revaccinations were carried out.

The following is a summary of Returns made to the Registrar-General by the Vaccination Officers in respect of children whose births were registered during the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1937, and accounted for in the Vaccination Registers up to 31st January, 1939:—

TABLE XIII.

Vaccination Officers' Districts.	Births.	Number of Certificates of "Successful Vaccinations."	Number living unvaccinated		Number died unvaccinated.	Percentage of living children vaccinated.
			Conscientious Objection.	Others.		
Battle	111	51	47	9	4	45.9
Bexhill	240	90	114	29	7	37.5
Burgess Hill	147	68	60	16	3	46.3
Crowborough	172	45	109	16	2	26.2
Cuckfield	255	97	117	32	9	38.0
East Grinstead	104	59	79	24	2	36.0
Hailsham, North	295	74	202	11	8	25.1
Hailsham, South	145	41	90	10	4	28.3
Hove	605	194	338	56	17	32.0
Lewes	272	76	177	13	6	27.0
Newhaven	148	20	114	10	4	13.5
Rye	110	46	54	3	7	41.8
Ticehurst	105	47	44	10	4	44.7
Uckfield	134	29	94	8	3	21.6
Worth	85	32	37	12	4	37.6
	2988	969	1676	259	84	32.4

From the above table it will be seen that only 32.4 per cent. of living children were vaccinated in 1938 which was 1 per cent. lower than in 1937.

Marasmic Infants.

Eleven marasmic, or wasting infants were admitted to the Chailey Heritage Hospital during the year. The discharge reports shewed that there was marked improvement in every case. A grant of £351 was made by the County Council towards the expenses of the Yarbrough Home for Infants, East Grinstead, under the Scheme made under the Local Government Act, 1929. This Home receives delicate children from London for treatment.

Care of Pre-School Children.

Treatment of minor ailments amongst children under school age is provided at school clinics, when the parents are unable otherwise to obtain the necessary treatment. The children are referred to the Clinics from Infant Welfare Centres and by infant health visitors. Hospital treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths, ear diseases, etc., is also provided for children under school age under the County Scheme.

Provision of Home Helps.

The County Council have provided in their Scheme for home-helps during the period of confinement, when it is impossible to make other arrangements for the ordinary domestic duties usually undertaken by the mother. Thirty-nine applications were sanctioned during the year 1938 at a total cost to the County Council of £56 5s. 11d.

Arrangements have been made through the District Nursing Superintendents for the Committees of Infant Welfare Centres to keep a list of suitable women who would be willing to act as home-helps when required.

Supply of Milk.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee supply fresh milk to necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and to infants up to the age of five years when medically certified to require additional nourishment. Under the Local Government Act, 1929, the County Council have declared that this service shall be administered exclusively under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme and not under the Poor Law. During the year, milk was supplied to 415 applicants, as compared with 370 in 1937. Dried milk is also provided at cost price at most of the Infant Welfare Centres.

Infant Life Protection.

The Committee have appointed the four District Nursing Superintendents and two Health Visitors employed by Nursing Associations as part-time Infant Protection Visitors. They make the first inspection of each child placed on the Register. Subsequent visits up to the age of five years are carried out by the District Nurses under the supervision of the Infant Protection Visitors. From the age of five to nine years, however, the Nursing Superintendents carry out the routine visits. The two whole-time Health Visitors carry out the routine visits throughout.

On 31st December, 1938, there were 327 children and 193 foster parents on the Register. Eight hundred and twelve visits were made during the year by the Infant Protection Visitors and District Nurses.

During the year 11 Preparatory Schools were visited with a view to exemption from the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Child Life Protection. This was granted in 10 cases.

Public Health Act, 1936, Part VI (Registration of Nursing Homes).

During the year 1938, seven applications for the registration of premises under the above Act were received and these were granted. Ten Homes were closed voluntarily during the year. There were 60 Registered Nursing Homes on the County Register at the end of 1938. Five Certificates of Exemption under Section 192 of the Act were renewed. Ninety-nine routine visits of inspection were made during the year by the District Nursing Superintendents.

The powers and duties in respect of the Registration of Nursing Homes in the Borough of Hove have been delegated to the Hove Borough Council.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Infants.

The County Council's Scheme for the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and infants under the age of five years is co-ordinated with the scheme for the dental treatment of children in the Public Elementary Schools. Treatment is carried out at the County Clinics, on hired premises, and occasionally at local Infant Welfare Centres. The District Nurses assist the Dental Surgeons at the Clinics. Five County Dental Surgeons give one-fifth of their time to work on behalf of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and four-fifths to the dental treatment of school children.

Mr. A. Court, L.D.S., R.C.S., reports on the above scheme as follows:—

"During the year under review, a fifth County Dental Surgeon was appointed and each Dentist is now asked to give at least one day per week for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age. The County has been re-arranged into five areas with a resident County Dental Surgeon in each area. This method reduces the time spent travelling to and from the clinics and allows more time to be spent on treatment. The attendances made by nursing mothers far exceed those made by expectant mothers, who are still very reluctant to have dental treatment carried out during pregnancy. The work carried out chiefly consists of extractions, scalings and the supply of artificial teeth, the latter being made by a very competent dental mechanic at a contract price.

"I am convinced that the mothers appreciate the low charge made for artificial teeth more than anything else. The work on the whole continues to be very satisfactory."

Mr. W. Eddings, L.D.S., R.C.S., reports as follows:—

"The reduction of my area on the appointment of an additional dental officer has reduced the amount of time spent in travelling. The method of treatment remains the same, namely, to eliminate dental pain and sepsis, to conserve teeth and scale when necessary, and to provide artificial dentures, whole or partial. This is the ideal aim, but not always achieved, for the scheme being optional missed appointments do occur mainly on account of indifference through absence of pain. No applicant is refused treatment due to poverty, and in practice a fair number are excused treatment fees in whole or part, and the Committee considers and makes grants towards the provision of dentures in suitable cases.

"With regard to the pre-school infants, I am sorry to note that only a small fraction attend for treatment, and these are usually cases of pain and sepsis. There seems to be the need for parents to be impressed with the importance of saving the temporary teeth immediately decay is observed and I would welcome some reference to this by the nurses during health visits. If parents are encouraged to bring their infants to the dental clinics for advice, then subsequent treatment is not difficult and will ensure a higher standard of dental fitness on reaching school age.

"On the whole, the working of the scheme continues satisfactory, and my thanks are given to the nurses for their co-operation."

Mr. G. Rose, L.D.S., R.C.S., reports as follows:—

"In submitting my report on the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and infants under the age of five years I should point out that the figures relate to work carried out in the north-western part of the County in, approximately, the first half of the period under review, and to the south central area (my new area including Seaford, Newhaven, Hailsham, and Polegate) in the latter half of the year.

"The figures vary very little from those of last year, attendances of both Mothers and Infants being well maintained and satisfactory. The last three months of the period showed a large increase of requests for treatment at the Polegate centre and it is evident that very frequent clinics will be needed there to cope with the work.

"In the younger mothers it is noticeable that more care of the teeth is being taken. In these cases attendance for stoppings is readily obtained. I hope next year to show an increase in conservation work for mothers; this work hitherto has been very unsatisfactory.

"Properly fitted clinics are urgently needed at Seaford and Polegate. In both places the lighting conditions in the rooms used in the winter months are very poor.

"It is very difficult for mothers with families to find the time for journeys to distant clinics and I find the holding of clinics at Polegate has eliminated much of the failure to keep appointments which was so frequent when the mothers were asked to attend at the Hailsham centre.

"The nurses in all areas have been most patient and helpful in persuading the mothers to present themselves and their infants for treatment and I should like to thank them for their keen efforts."

Miss A. Winifred M. Miller, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.D.S., R.C.S., reports as follows:—

"There are now, in my area, four centres at which clinics are held once a fortnight. Thus patients who have been recommended can have their treatment commenced at once.

"There has been a marked improvement in the attendances of mothers—very few not having had their treatment completed. The number of fillings inserted is very disappointing but it is not difficult to see the mothers' arguments. Taking a long view they consider that in a few years time there is the possibility of these teeth having to be extracted and artificial ones added to their denture which is an expensive matter when they are no longer eligible under the County scheme. It is interesting to note that the younger mothers are keener to have conservative treatment and wherever possible this is carried out.

"The increase in number of attendances of infants under five years of age is mainly due to the fact that once a child has been treated it is recalled every six months. In the majority of cases the parents are only too willing to co-operate in this scheme. The children are being brought earlier for treatment thus making fillings possible, although the number of extractions is still very high.

"Much of the success of this scheme is due to the continued support and help of the nurses."

Mr. Lewis B. Corner, L.D.S., R.C.S., reports as follows:—

"The numbers of infants and expectant mothers who have attended the clinics for treatment are, in general, satisfactory. There is still, however, a considerable loss of time due to broken appointments. It is fortunately the case that the larger proportion of the patients not only attend but genuinely appreciate the efforts made on their behalf by the Council.

"On the ante-natal side of the work the various Committees and their helpers are to be congratulated on their efforts to bring the cases to the clinics at an early date. With local anaesthesia a number of visits is necessary and the longer the time allowed before confinement the less the strain on the patient.

"An attempt has been made to induce patients from outlying districts to attend the central clinics. This has met with varying success. Attendances are undoubtedly affected but from an economic point of view this system has been considered advisable. In areas where the school treatment is finished it may mean revisiting that area for the treatment of a number of cases below an average session with all the consequent expense, whereas if the patients are educated to attend central clinics, even at the cost of some personal inconvenience, this possibility is reduced.

"Fillings in adults and infants are unfortunately in most cases completely out of the question, quite apart from any sentiments of the patient upon the point. The majority require extraction for the relief of the symptom which brings them to the clinic. It is well to remember, however, that this service has a long way to travel before definite statements can be made on its value. The present school children are those who will ultimately benefit most as the way will have been well prepared for them both in treatment and in knowledge."

	Mr. Court.	Mr. Eddings.	Mr. Rose.	Dr. Miller.	Mr. Corner. (from 1st July)	Totals.
No. of attendances at the Clinics:						
Mothers	672	611	433	609	219	2,544
Infants	138	102	178	263	64	745
No. of teeth extracted:						
Mothers	518	583	474	760	240	2,575
Infants	59	117	181	183	42	582
No. of teeth filled						
Mothers	91	137	31	40	22	321
Infants	94	33	12	215	13	367
No. of scalings	68	31	8	30	7	144
No. of other operations, including Impressions, Bites, Tries in, etc.	584	324	437	375	183	1,903
No. of Artificial Dentures supplied	48	63	36	67	19	233

Grant for General Nursing Services under Section 178 of Public Health Act, 1936.

A grant of £200 was made to the East Sussex County Nursing Federation for the financial year 1938-39 under Section 178 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for distribution to affiliated Nursing Associations in respect of general nursing services. A grant of £25 was also made to the Brighton, Hove and Preston District Nursing Association for a similar purpose.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

The treatment of venereal diseases is one of the most important of the preventive health services provided by the County Council. The diseases have an important bearing on the morbidity statistics of mothers and infants and on infant mortality. Treatment Clinics were established in the County as a result of the Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases issued on the 2nd March, 1916, and of the Regulations issued by the then Local Government Board to give effect to its most important recommendations.

Clinics are held at hours convenient to patients of both sexes and under conditions of secrecy as far as is possible. The traveling expenses of necessitous patients are paid by the Council when certified by the Medical Officers. In 1938, 66 persons were assisted in this respect at a cost of £50 3s. 1d.

Dr. F. H. Lawson, Medical Officer of the Brighton Clinic, reports as follows :—

The total number of new patients attending from East Sussex was 236; 34 more than in 1937. These patients were diagnosed as follows :—

	Primary.		Secondary.		Congenital.		Tertiary, Neuro and Latent Syphilis.		Transfer Cases.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Syphilis ..	1	—	1	—	4	—	8	7	6	7	34
Soft Chancre ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	—	1
Gonorrhœa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	17	—	79
Not V.D. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	39	—	122
											236

An analysis of all cases who attended during the year shows :—

	Still attending on 31st December, 1938.		Cured.	Completed Treatment. No Final Test.		Transfers.	Defaulters.
	M.	F.		M.	F.		
Syphilis	121	8	3	10	6
Gonorrhœa	44	47	7	12	11
Soft Sore	—	1	—	—	—
Not V.D.	5	123	—	—	—
Totals	170	179	10	22	17

The total attendances for 1938 were :—

Seen by Medical Officer	3647
Intermediate treatment by Orderly or Nurse	1640
	5287

Since using sulphonilamide I have done away with routine vaccine treatment, a considerable saving.

Dr. P. Lazarus Barlow, Medical Officer of the Hastings Clinic, reports as follows :—

The total number of new cases attending the clinic during the year under review was 32, a definite increase on the previous year. The cases of syphilis were 5 as compared with 4 in 1937, those of gonorrhœa 11 as compared with 8. The number of cases which, after examination, proved to be non-venereal was 16 as compared with 12 in 1937. During 1938 the cases attending from Bexhill numbered 19 as compared with 6 in the previous year; this shows a more satisfactory attitude with regard to the clinic than has been shown for the last two years. The total attendances rose from 1,096 to 1,331 but the "in-patient" days shewed a substantial drop from 119 to 18.

During the year sulphonilamide was tried in some cases of gonorrhœa with very good results on the whole and its use will be continued.

On the whole, patients attend the clinic well, but certain cases have been written off the books during the year for non-attendance after efforts have been made to induce them to re-attend or because they could not be traced.

Dr. G. L. McElligott, Medical Officer of the Tunbridge Wells Clinic, reports as follows :—

Although, owing to rise in the number of new cases from the Kent County area, there was a considerable increase in the work of the clinic during 1938, the East Sussex figures are virtually unchanged from those in the previous year.

The success of the sulphonilamide compounds in the treatment of gonorrhœa continues to be increasingly apparent, and an improved technique of administration of these drugs has been evolved. It is fortunate that with this treatment frequent intermediate local treatment is less necessary than it was before, and consequently good results are now more frequently obtained with those patients who find it impossible to attend hospital for intermediate local treatment.

The dramatic cessation of symptoms consequent on this new treatment has the great disadvantage that the ignorant are too often tempted to default from the clinic before there has been time to carry out adequate tests of cure, and it is found that great stress has to be laid on this point at the patient's first visit.

The numbers of patients from East Sussex attending the three County Treatment Centres during the year are given below :—

TABLE XIV.

	Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.	Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.	Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.	Total.
OUT-PATIENTS.				
<i>Number of New Cases treated :—</i>				
(a) Syphilis	34	5	4	43
(b) Soft chancre ..	1	—	—	1
(c) Gonorrhoea ..	79	11	7	97
(d) Non-Venereal ..	122	16	12	150
Totals	236	32	23	291
Total attendances of all East Sussex patients..	5287	1331	329	6947
IN-PATIENTS.				
Aggregate number of In- patient days	87	18	10	115

The total number of new patients presenting themselves for the treatment of venereal diseases or for diagnosis was 48 more than in 1937, and the number of attendances decreased by 404.

In-patient days shewed a decrease of 257 as compared with the previous year.

In addition to the patients attending the County Treatment Centres, I have received information that one patient from East Sussex attended at the Redhill centre on 9 occasions during the year.

No legal action was taken during the year under the Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, in respect of unqualified persons giving treatment for venereal diseases.

Valuable educational work is undertaken on a national scale by the British Social Hygiene Council. The Rural Community Council act as the Sussex Branch of that Council and have arranged lectures and addresses in the County to parents and to leaders of youth movements. They received a grant from the County Council in aid of their expenditure.

Facilities for obtaining laboratory assistance in the diagnosis of venereal diseases are provided by the County Council for the Medical Officers in charge of the Treatment Centres, and for medical practitioners generally in the treatment of their private patients. The laboratories at which specimens are examined are the Stephen Ralli Memorial Laboratory, Brighton, the Hastings Borough Laboratory, and the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. Altogether, 1,878 specimens were examined, 1,650 of which were sent by Medical Officers of Treatment Centres, and 228 by private medical practitioners. This shows a decrease of 52 in the number of specimens examined as compared with the previous year.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.

The total number of primary notifications received in 1938 was 363, namely, 258 of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 105 of other tuberculous diseases, as compared with 229 and 95 respectively in 1937.

Details of the notifications received, together with other new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the County Medical Officer of Health, and deaths occurring in 1938, are shown in the following Table :—

TABLE XV.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
1—	2	—	11	9	1	1	3	1
5—	2	8	23	18	—	1	2	2
15—	21	34	10	4	2	12	2	—
25—	46	46	4	8	13	8	—	2
35—	23	28	4	7	7	8	1	1
45—	28	17	4	3	16	6	—	—
55—	24	16	3	1	13	11	1	1
65 and upwards	14	4	3	3	9	6	1	2
Totals ..	160	153	64	53	61	53	11	9

On comparing the statutory notifications of tuberculosis with the number of deaths from the disease reported by the District Registrars during 1938, it is found that 2.75 per cent. of the deaths occurred without the disease having been notified in this County under the Regulations.

The following statement gives the numbers and percentages of deaths occurring during the year within three and twelve months of notification :—

Total Number of Primary Notifications.	Deaths within 3 months of notification.	%	Deaths between 3 and 12 months following notification.	%
363	39	10.7	30	8.26

The following is a summary of the Returns, received from District Medical Officers of Health of the number of notified cases of tuberculosis on their Registers at the end of the year.

TABLE XVI.

Districts.	Number of notified cases on Register on 31st December, 1938.							Grand Total.
	Population. 1938.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
<i>Three Large Towns.</i>								
Hove	58790	163	174	337	64	73	137	474
Bexhill	23430	27	39	66	9	12	21	87
Lewes	11960	15	20	35	6	8	14	49
<i>Seven Smaller Urban Districts</i>	62420	122	103	225	46	53	99	324
<i>Five Rural Districts</i> ..	142190	219	222	441	104	116	220	661
Administrative County	298790	546	558	1104	229	262	491	1595

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

Dispensaries for the examination and observation of cases of tuberculosis are provided by the County Authority at Lewes, Hove, Bexhill, East Grinstead, and Haywards Heath. The three first-named are open once in each week and the others once a month and twice a month respectively.

The following table, prescribed by the Ministry of Health under Memorandum 37 T (Revised), shews the work carried out during the year at, or in connection with, these Dispensaries :—

TABLE XVII.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				TOTAL.				All Persons.	
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts)														
(a) Definitely tuberculous	80	66	3	6	15	12	21	13	95	78	24	19	216	
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4	
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	98	33	25	236	
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year :—														
(a) Definitely tuberculous	2	1	—	4	1	—	2	2	3	1	2	6	12	
(b) Doubtfully tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	31	55	56	147	
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as														
(a) Cured	16	17	—	—	1	—	6	6	17	17	6	6	46	
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	92	135	89	83	399	
D.—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on 31st, December 1938														
(a) Diagnosis completed	351	310	13	22	48	67	93	75	399	377	106	97	979	
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	5	
1. Number of persons on Dispensary Register on 1st January, 1938 956														
2. Number of patients transferred from other areas and of "lost sight of" cases returned 49														
3. Number of patients transferred to other areas and cases "lost sight of" 107														
4. Died during the year 85														
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts) 885														
6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December, 1938 322														
7. Number of consultations with medical practitioners :—														
(a) Personal 119														
(b) Other 409														
8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes (including personal consultations) 319														
9. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes 2167														
10. Number of														
(a) Specimens of sputum, &c., examined 610														
(b) X-ray examinations made 414														
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register and included in A (a) and A (b) above 1														
12. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1938 388														

The County Council have 56 shelters for the use of patients who are recommended by the Tuberculosis Officer as suitable cases. At the end of the year 41 of these shelters were on loan to patients who were suffering from tuberculosis. Regular inspection of shelters is carried out by the District Nursing Superintendents. Twelve shelters were repaired during the year.

Report by the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer on the work carried out at, or in connection with, the Dispensaries during the year.

The work of the County Council's Tuberculosis Scheme continued as in previous years.

With regard to the Dispensaries, the attendances at the East Grinstead Clinic having been somewhat small in number for some time, it was decided to curtail the sessions there from once a week to once a fortnight. At a later date it was felt that, East Grinstead being situated as it is on the north-western edge of the County, the Clinic there was not sufficiently central to suit the convenience of many patients, and it was decided to curtail still further the sessions. From January, 1938, the Clinic was held on the first Monday of each month, and a new Chest Clinic was opened at the County Council's premises in Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, the sessions there being held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Medical practitioners in the neighbourhood were informed of the facilities available at the new centre, in order that they might send patients there for examination instead of to the Hove Dispensary, as had been necessary in many cases hitherto.

Whilst the number of new cases referred to Dispensaries by their own doctors remained fairly constant, it is noteworthy that patients who have been on the Tuberculosis Register for some years, particularly those who have received Sanatorium treatment, seem to be reluctant, or to find it too much of an effort, to present themselves for routine examination by the Tuberculosis Officers, despite every effort being made by the District Nursing Superintendents to encourage them to do so.

The number of contacts examined during the year shewed a marked increase over the figure for 1937, this increase being chiefly brought about by the larger number of children examined at the Clinics.

Although there was an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, this does not mean that the incidence of tuberculosis in the County was higher than in the previous year. It is no doubt largely accounted for by the fact that medical practitioners have paid more attention to the requirements of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, and have notified more cases which have come to their knowledge. Where a definite case has been referred to the Tuberculosis Officer by a medical practitioner and the latter has not formally notified the case, the doctor in question is reminded of his oversight and requested to send the usual notification to the local Medical Officer of Health.

As in previous years, Dr. Dingley, Medical Superintendent of the County Sanatorium, Robertsbridge, was in charge of the Artificial-Pneumothorax Clinic at Lewes, where he attended at fortnightly intervals to treat those patients who find Lewes a more convenient centre than the alternative of travelling to the Sanatorium.

More use was made of the X-ray apparatus at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, for diagnostic purposes, and 42 suspicious cases were referred there for an X-ray examination of the chest by Dr. Chadwick, Tuberculosis Officer of the Hove Dispensary, through the County Public Health Department. Other patients who are recommended for an X-ray examination and who cannot manage the journey to Robertsbridge, are sent to the Borough Sanatorium, Brighton, with whom the County Council have an arrangement for the attendance of such out-patients.

Report on the work of the Artificial Light Clinic at Castlegate House, Lewes, during the year 1938.

The following table shows the conditions treated at the County Artificial Light Clinic at Lewes, with details as to attendances, etc. In addition, two women suffering from lupus continued to attend the London Hospital for treatment by Finsen Light, and two women and one child received treatment at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. Two women received treatment at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Number of New Cases treated during year	—	22	22
Number of Attendances	66	674	740
Number of Patients on Clinic Register :—			
On 1st January, 1938—11. On 31st December, 1938—12. Average duration of treatment—14 weeks			
SUMMARY OF NEW CASES :—			
Debility 9	Cervical Glands 5	Rickets	3
Bronchitis 3	TB. Spine 1		

During the year 1938, 22 new patients attended the Lewes Clinic for treatment. Eleven patients who had commenced treatment at an earlier date were already attending on the 1st January, 1938, so that altogether 33 children received treatment during 1938.

Patients are referred to the Clinic by the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, the Assistant School Medical Officers, the Medical Officers of the Infant Welfare Centres, and general practitioners. The cases may be classed as follows :—

(a) General debility and impaired nutrition	14
(b) Glands of neck	5
(c) Rickets	5
(d) Rheumatism	1
(e) Tubercular peritonitis	1
(f) Spinal disease	1
(g) Bronchitis	6

(a) *General debility and impaired nutrition.* Of the 14 cases, 3 were cured, and improvement was recorded in 9. Of the 2 cases which did not improve, admission to the Chailey Heritage Hospital for further treatment was offered but was declined in one case. The other case is still receiving treatment.

(b) *Glands of neck.* Two cases showed definite improvement; 1 was transferred to the Chailey Heritage Marine Hospital, Bishopstone; 1 was admitted to Hospital, and 1 ceased attendance.

(c) *Rickets.* All the cases improved except 1 which failed to complete treatment.

(d) *Rheumatism.* One case which had definite rheumatic nodules continued to improve.

(e) *Tubercular peritonitis.* This case was transferred to the Heritage Hospital, Chailey.

(f) *Spinal Disease.* This case was discharged as cured.

(g) *Bronchitis.* All 6 cases showed improvement.

ARTHUR BEELEY,
Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

Sanatorium Treatment.

On the 1st January, 1938, there were 66 East Sussex patients in the County Sanatorium, of whom 57 (26 males and 31 females) were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 9 were suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. During the year 166 patients (83 males and 83 females) with pulmonary tuberculosis and 7 patients (2 males and 5 females) with non-pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted. On the night of the 31st December, 1938, there were 62 East Sussex patients in the Sanatorium, 60 patients (33 males and 27 females) with pulmonary, and 2 patients (1 male and 1 female) with non-pulmonary tuberculosis. There were 10 deaths (1 male and 9 females) amongst patients in the Sanatorium in 1938.

The following table shows the number of East Sussex patients provided with residential treatment during the year either at the Darvell Hall Sanatorium or at other Institutions.

TABLE XVIII.

			In Institutions on Jan. 1, 1938.	Admitted during the year.	Discharged during the year.	Died in Institutions.	In Institu- tions on Dec. 31, 1938.	
Number of doubtfully tuberculous cases admitted for observation	{	Adult.	M.	1	21	16	—	6
		F.	—	30	25	—	5	
		Children.	—	—	—	—	—	
		Total	1	51	41	—	11	
Number of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.	{	Adult.	M.	28	63	61	1	29
		F.	30	54	53	9	22	
		Children.	10	11	9	—	12	
		Total	68	128	123	10	63	
Number of patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	{	Adult.	M.	5	8	7	—	6
		F.	4	5	8	—	1	
		Children.	44	24	24	—	44	
		Total	53	37	39	—	51	
Grand Total				122	216	203	10	125

Cases admitted for "observation" and subsequently found to be suffering from tuberculosis are included in both "observation" and "treatment" groups above.

Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge.

Medical Superintendent's Annual Report, Year ending 31st December, 1938.

The demand for hospital beds has again been heavy throughout 1938 but, the Council having decided to increase our accommodation, the end of this unsatisfactory state of affairs is in sight.

General bed rest, graduated exercise, together with local rest of the affected lung by artificial pneumothorax and phrenic evulsion under open-air conditions, with a full and balanced diet, continue to be the most effective therapeutic methods. The value of artificial pneumothorax treatment, where the lung is collapsed, has been greatly extended by the facilities now available for the division of adhesions. In some cases, the lung sticks to the chest wall after attacks of pleurisy; this prevents it from collapsing, and so resting. Mr. Wollaston, of the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, visits periodically and operates on these cases with great success. He made five visits and dealt with eighteen patients during the past year.

The number of cases sent for diagnostic X-ray examination was 60, 2 more than last year. This, however, is not a true indication, as increasing numbers are now X-rayed at Southlands and at Bexhill. The number of contacts so examined has risen from 3 in 1937 to 28 this year. The X-ray department has screened 1,189 and filmed 849 cases. This includes in-patients, all out-patients such as contacts, diagnostic cases, and the following up of suspects and of ex-patients whose future requires careful supervision. I am anxious to pursue this policy, as it is so much more reliable in many cases than the usual examination with the stethoscope. The department is both willing and able to deal with more cases, so that I hope there will be no hesitation in recommending suitable patients for X-ray examination.

Mr. Derrick Martin has performed 11 phrenic evulsion operations. Mr. St. John Buxton, Orthopaedic Surgeon, has visited 3 times and seen 38 cases. He also performed a bone graft operation on a case of tuberculosis of the spine at King's College Hospital. This patient is now up and about. Four cases have been sent to London chest hospitals, 3 for operation, and 1 for special investigation. Mr. Howells, the Laryngologist, has made 7 visits and saw 357 patients, while Mr. Pedley, the Dentist, has made 26 visits and carried out 189 treatments.

Thanks to our most efficient and understanding Matron, Miss Edgar, the numbers and quality of the staff have been maintained, in spite of the now well-recognised difficulties in nursing and domestic recruitment. She has the art of obtaining the respect, affection, and the long service of her staff. The 96-hour fortnight has been introduced, though it has entailed some members living out, an unpopular arrangement. Two male nurses have been employed with success in the men's hospital. The consequent increase in the staff has slightly modified the otherwise indefensible rigour of the early waking and washing of hospital patients. This gruesome ceremony is now carried out at 6 a.m. instead of at 5.15. Some 20 members of the nursing, domestic, and outdoor staff attended a First Aid Course given at the sanatorium. All passed the St. John Ambulance Examination. "Keep Fit" classes for staff have been held again this winter.

I am glad to report that we are now connected to the main sewer. The north verandah of the women's hospital has been enclosed, thus giving protection from the colder winds. In the kitchen, the Aga cookers continue to give satisfactory service in convenience, low running costs, and cleanliness.

The September crisis revealed the great difficulties in giving protection to an open-air institution from either gas or high explosive attack. Fortunately, our remoteness is itself some protection.

The patients' entertainments have been improved by the good service rendered by the (British Thomson Houston) sound film apparatus. Handicrafts continue to play a very important part in treatment. The men do basket work; Miss Ridgeway who, it is hoped will become our handicraft instructor, has infused a new and excellent spirit on the women's side, where weaving of scarves, embroidering of belts, and knitting of all kinds, have produced articles well made, useful, and attractive.

Once again, may I thank all the good friends who have done so much for the patients and staff, amongst whom Mr. Spring Rice has, by giving motor drives, given great joy to many very sick patients. Mrs. Lovelace, though now removed from Robertsbridge, continues her devoted visiting. Next year she will have completed 18 years of this valuable personal service. Lastly, may I thank the members of the staff who have, by their cheerful and good service, made Darvell Hall what it is.

J. R. DINGLEY,
Medical Superintendent.

Tuberculosis (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

There were not any persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis reported to be employed in milking cows during the year 1938.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

It was not found to be necessary in 1938 to take any action under this Section for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

REPORT BY THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, SUSSEX RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

(1) Tuberculosis Prevention and Care.

The Sussex Rural Community Council has continued to maintain and develop the voluntary care service, through the medium of Area Committees covering the whole Administrative County. For those who seek primarily a "financial" reason and justification for such a service, this is found in the fact that public monies spent upon Sanatorium and Clinic treatment will be partly or wholly wasted if patients delay too long in seeking that treatment or, after treatment, return to home conditions which render impossible the observance of the rules and advice inculcated. The success of the service depends upon the ability or otherwise of those who visit patients to ascertain the particular difficulties of the individual, and to be active in helping the patient and his or her family, to overcome those difficulties.

The voluntary care service has three opportunities of being useful in every case referred to it—before the patient leaves home for treatment, while the patient is away from home receiving treatment, and after the patient returns. In the first opportunity any or all of the following may be among the factors present:—family income may be insufficient during the patient's absence, there may be no one to look after the children, the house may have to be given up, pending a vacancy there may be no spare cash for strengthening foods, dressings, clothes, fuel. Lack of help in such needs will have disastrous results. The patient will, naturally, be unwilling to leave home at all. His or her own health will deteriorate. The risk of infection of others will continue and may be increased.

While the patient is away any similar conditions will militate against satisfactory progress of the treatment. A sudden emergency at home—unexpected business difficulties, delay in receipt of expected funds, illness in the family—any such happenings will set the patient worrying and will often result in a decision to return home before treatment is completed. Finally, the return home, if conditions at home are difficult or later become so, may undo all the good of the treatment.

During the past year all the above circumstances—and each in a dozen different forms—have arisen among some 200 patients and their families to whom the Rural Community Council has offered its services or the services of the "voluntary community." In particular needs the necessary help has sometimes required the services of one person, sometimes that of half-a-dozen people or of one of more Voluntary Societies. Some problems have been the simple ones of transport and journey arrangements for relations to visit the patient or for the patient to attend a Clinic periodically. Others have been those of friendship to be regularly maintained or of nourishment regularly provided. In some cases the basic need has proved to be one of obtaining better employment for a member of the family other than the patient, but on whom the family's prosperity depends—or of arranging that a job is kept open for the patient, after his or her return, until, after holiday, help with debts or housework, or in other ways, strength to resume work has been built up.

A grant of £200 by the County Council enabled the administration of this service throughout the year and resulted in the raising of £410 for East Sussex Case needs through the medium of the National Seal Sale Campaign at Christmas, 1938. A further sum of £81 in cash was raised by R.C.C. Area Committees and was itself additional to many items of necessary help provided at the expense of donors.

In such a voluntary service the successful helping of a patient must depend almost entirely upon the sympathetic and informed personality of the individual helpers concerned and their determination not to be defeated by their problems. The Health Committee of the Rural Community Council is deeply impressed by the continued availability of helpers of this calibre in a time of national difficulty and uncertainties.

(2) "Child Care."

A full statement of this R.C.C. service has been offered for inclusion in the School Medical Officer's Report. The service is one of "linking up the help which is already given to children by their parents, by statutory authorities, by teachers, by a number of established Societies, and providing those things which cannot be provided by any of those other means." A part of this service lies in the organisation of free-of-cost nourishment at school for under-nourished children of necessitous parents. The average number of such children during the year was some 285—certified by School Medical Officers to be under-nourished and their parents' weekly income being within the County Council standard. An impressive feature of the year has been the increasing extent to which parents have themselves continued to provide additional nourishment at school, when family means have improved beyond the point at which nourishment ceases to be provided free of cost.

The Health Committee of the R.C.C. cannot fail to be impressed by the achievement of this Child Care service and the continued necessity for it as a link between doctors, teachers, parents; but the Committee is at times depressed by the makeshift and best-we-can-do-in-the-circumstances nature of some of the work, restricted as it is by economic difficulties and the lack of national information and agreement upon what is necessary in nourishment if a sufficient standard of health is to be maintained.

Poverty, ignorance, and callousness are—in that order of importance—the causes of the present necessity for Child Care from outside the family itself. Callousness or cruelty is a quite minor factor in East Sussex—although it is one for which, when it is met with, the existing powers are frequently inadequate. Ignorance is a less prevalent factor than is sometimes suggested. Poverty in the family remains the principal and utterly distressing reason for the vast majority of children's needs.

(3) Health Publicity.

Assisted by grant (County Council £200 maximum, East Sussex Insurance Committee £50 maximum) the Health Committee of the R.C.C. has continued to operate a service of (a) "Better Health" distribution of some 3,000 copies monthly to selected individuals, representatives of suitable bodies, and (by hand) in special areas; (b) Assistance towards Health Weeks; (c) Health Talks; and (d) Social Hygiene. In respect of the latter a course of cinema-illustrated talks on Health Biology was given at Boys' Secondary Schools. During the year the handbook "Health Services in East Sussex" was revised for distribution and a part of the cost of this was borne from this fund. There is every evidence that the public responds to health publicity and profits by it.

TREATMENT OF ORTHOPÆDIC DEFECTS.

The Council's Scheme for the treatment of orthopædic defects has been described in my previous reports.

Orthopædic Clinics.

Five hundred and fifty-five patients, including 227 new cases, were seen at the seven Clinics. Sixty-two of these new cases suffered from spinal curvature, 42 from flat feet, 3 from old fractures 6 from tuberculosis, and the remainder were cases of congenital and other deformities. Two hundred and forty patients were given treatment by massage and electricity and remedial exercises, 56 were received for varying periods into the Chailey Heritage Hospital, and 9 at other hospitals.

The results of treatment of the 240 patients at the close of the year are thus summarised :—

18 completely cured.
174 improved.
27 *in statu quo*.

9 have just commenced treatment.
12 have left County.

TABLE XIX.
OUT-PATIENTS.

Clinics at Lewes, Hailsham, East Grinstead, Crow- borough, Bur- gess Hill, Ports- lade and Hastings.	Cases examined by Surgeon in 1938.			Cases Treated at Clinics.		Total No. of attenden- ces of all cases.	Nature of Deformities of New Cases.														
	New Cases.	Old Cases.	Total.	New Cases.	Old Cases.		Spinal Curvature.	Hallux Valgus.	Torticollis.	Rickets.	Bowed Legs.	Flatfoot.	Talipes.	Other Congeni- tal Defects.	Valgus Ankles.	Knockknee.	Tuberculosis.	Old Fracture.	Infantile Paralysis.	Other.	Total.
Children under 5 years of age	77	109	186	25	22	1390	1	1	—	19	4	15	5	5	1	16	1	—	1	8	77
School Children between 5 & 16	144	205	349	101	90	3680	61	4	4	—	—	26	10	1	3	4	4	3	3	21	144
Persons over 16	6	14	20	—	2	39	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	6
TOTALS ..	227	328	555	126	114	5109	62	6	4	19	4	42	16	6	4	20	6	3	4	31	227

The following treatments were given at the Clinics :—

Electrical treatment 1,039, Massage 757, Remedial exercises 2,817, Strapping, Plaster, and Splinting 67, General Supervision 340 (including 21 visits to patients at their homes). Total 5,020.

Surgical appliances have been supplied to 70 patients during the year, under the Orthopædic Scheme.

Hospital Treatment.

Sixty-five patients were treated at the Heritage Hospital, Chailey, and at other Hospitals during 1938. Details are given below.

TABLE XX.
IN-PATIENTS.

Classification.	Nature of Deformities.																Results of treatment			
	Rickets.	Tuberculosis.					Talipes.	Kypholordosis and Scoliosis.	Torticollis.	Cong. Dislocation of Hip.	Other Congenital Defects.	Infantile Paralysis.	Osteomyelitis.	Spastics.	Other Deformities.	TOTAL.	Cured.	Improved.	In Statu Quo.	Removed or left County
Children under 5 years of age	13	—	—	1	2	1	3	1	—	2	1	3	—	—	2	29	10	17	—	2
Children between 5 and 16 years of age	—	3	5	2	1	1	4	1	2	1	—	6	1	1	8	36	3	30	2	1
TOTALS	13	3	5	3	3	2	7	2	2	3	1	9	1	1	10	65	13	47	2	3

Of the 65 patients, 56 were treated at the Heritage Hospital, Chailey, 2 at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, 2 at the St. Vincent's Orthopædic Hospital, Pinner, 4 at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, and 1 at the Alexandra Hospital, Swanley.

Dr. G. Murray-Levick, the Council's Consultant for Physical Treatment, reports:—

" In submitting the figures and results of the treatment given at our out-patient clinics, I should like to add the following observations.

" A summary of the figures shows an increase on last year of 48 patients seen at the seven clinics, the total number this year being 555.

" The number of treatments given, for all cases, has increased by 769 to 5,020. This increase may lend emphasis to my recommendation in last year's report, for the appointment of a second masseuse in order that a longer period of treatment (especially remedial exercises) may be given the children at each attendance.

" There are certain drawbacks to the Hailsham Clinic and most important of these is the floor of the treatment room. This floor is dressed with an oily substance which retains dirt and soils the feet of children who have to do exercises barefoot. I suggest that the most satisfactory floor from every point of view is some form of lino.

" *Rickets.* Last year I called attention to the large incidence of this condition. The figures given in the present report signify a decided decrease, but perhaps I may be allowed to anticipate next year's report by remarking that since the end of last December (the date on which this report ends) the number of new cases attending the clinics has cancelled the apparent reduction. This renders all the more necessary the recent introduction of concentrated vitamins A and D for the pre-natal and Infant Welfare Clinics. I feel sure that if expectant and nursing mothers would avail themselves of this provision, the incidence of rickets would decrease in our County area.

" I am glad to report that the orthopaedic out-patients' scheme is working smoothly and well, and receiving the co-operation of the medical practitioners throughout its area."

The new Society formed to work in East Sussex under the auspices of the Central Council for the Care of Cripples is carrying out valuable work. After-care work for crippled children who have been given vocational training by the Education Committee has been a want felt for some time.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920 AND 1938.

The East Sussex Association for the Blind.

The County Council, in their Scheme for the Welfare of Blind Persons in the County, have entrusted the arrangements for their care to the East Sussex Association for the Blind.

The Association take an active interest in the welfare of all blind persons in the County. The needs of individual blind persons are dealt with by a General Case Committee, which meets fortnightly. Regular weekly grants were made in 1938 to between 140 and 150 unemployable and necessitous blind persons whose incomes were inadequate, and single grants were made for a variety of individual needs. Six hundred and twenty-one applications for assistance were also dealt with.

The Staff of the Association in 1938 consisted of Miss Salisbury, Organising Secretary, assisted by two clerks. Miss Howlett, Miss Beaven, and Miss Clarke were the Home Teachers and Mr. Pryor was Assistant Appeal Organiser. A fourth Home Teacher, Miss Pole, was appointed in April, 1939.

Prevention and Treatment.

Names are added to the Blind Register only after examination by Ophthalmic Surgeons, who give a full report on each applicant to the Association, on the nature and cause of loss of eyesight; on the need, or otherwise, for treatment; and on the prospects of recovery. Persons requiring treatment are sent to the Voluntary Hospitals at Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, and Tunbridge Wells, with which the County Council have arrangements for examination and treatment in their Eye Departments.

The Association have, at the present time, on their preventive register, 151 cases of deteriorating eyesight. As a result of following up and continuance of treatment some of these persons have greatly improved, while others have had to be placed on the Blind Register.

Register.

There are now 511 names on the Register of blind persons, an increase of 40 during the year. The following table gives details as to these persons.

TABLE XXI.

NUMBER OF BLIND PERSONS ON REGISTER AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.		AGES AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED.		EMPLOYMENT, AGE PERIOD 16 AND UPWARDS.	
Age Period.	Number.	Age Period.	Number.		Number.
0 to 1 year	1	0 to 1 year	38	Employed	62*
1 to 5 years	3	1 to 5 years	11	Trained but Unemployed	—
5 to 16 years	20	5 to 16 years	14	Under Training	5
16 to 21 years	9	16 to 21 years	33	No Training, but Trainable	1
21 to 40 years	26	21 to 40 years	39	Unemployable	419
40 to 50 years	49	30 to 40 years	30		
50 to 65 years	118	40 to 50 years	40		
65 to 70 years	58	50 to 60 years	76		
70 years and over	222	60 to 70 years	103		
Unknown	5	70 years and over	116		
		Unknown	11		
Total	511	Total	511	Total	487

*Including 17 Home Workers.

Training.

Industrial Training is provided by the County Council for all blind persons capable of profiting by training in Institutions. Three men and one woman were under training at the end of the year.

Blind Home-Workers.

Seventeen blind home-workers were on the Register at the end of the year, one of whom was a Braille copyist.

The wages of each blind home-worker approved by the Public Health and Housing Committee are augmented by the County Council to the extent of 15s. per week. The Home Industries Department of the National Institute for the Blind provides the workers with materials and markets their finished articles when not sold locally.

In addition to the 17 home-workers in the Blind Home-Workers' Scheme, there were 45 employed blind persons in the County, 25 of whom are under St. Dunstan's auspices.

The following is a list of the occupations of all employed blind persons in the County :—

Basket Workers	6	Porters, etc.	1	Mat Makers	6
Boot Repairers	1	Dealers, Shopkeepers, etc.	7	Musicians	1
Braille Copyists, Proof Readers	1	Firewood Workers	3	Poultry Farmers	3
Brush Maker	1	Machine Knitters	6	Piano Tuners	6
Carpenters	4	School Teachers	1	Miscellaneous	8
Netting Makers	4	Masseurs	3		

Home Teaching.

The three Home Teachers systematically visit the blind in their homes and give lessons in Braille and Moon Type, and instruction in rug-making, pulp cane and raffia work, knitting, etc. General advice and help is also given as far as possible in any difficulty.

Four thousand three hundred and sixty-nine visits for instructional purposes were paid during the year, and 760 lessons were given to 151 blind persons. Those who receive this instruction are capable of doing pastime work, which gives them an interest, and sometimes a small addition to their income.

Unemployable Blind and their Dependants.

The total amount distributed by the Association as domiciliary assistance to unemployable blind persons and their dependants during the financial year 1938-39 was £2,818. The whole of this amount was refunded by the County Council in their annual grant.

National Library.

A grant of £60 was made in 1938-39 to the National Library for the Blind for the loan of books to blind persons in the County. At the end of the year the Library was used by 61 blind readers on the County Register.

Wireless Certificates.

During the year the County Medical Officer of Health issued 40 certificates to blind persons, exempting them from payment for wireless receiving licences.

Blind Persons Act, 1938.

This Act, which came into force on the 1st April, 1938, lowered from 50 to 40 years the age which blind persons must have attained in order to be entitled to the Old Age Pension; and it amended the law with respect to the provision of assistance in relation to such persons by local authorities. In connection with the latter amendment, the County Council have approved a new scale of assessment for considering the needs of necessitous blind persons and their dependants. The payments are made through the East Sussex Association for the Blind.

Power was given under the Act to recover the cost of any such assistance by one Council from another for a period of five years, subject to specified residential qualifications. Claims amounting to £148 7s. 2d. were made in respect of 12 Blind Persons during the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938.**Ascertainment.**

The number of new cases ascertained and reported to the Local Authority during 1938 was 82. This was an increase of 13 as compared with the previous year.

The ascertainment of mental defectives is carried out by two Home Visitors, one of whom is a male full-time officer and the other a female part-time officer. Cases are also reported by Medical Practitioners, Health Visitors, Relieving Officers, and Voluntary Associations. The female Home Visitor also holds the office of Secretary of the East Sussex Mental Welfare Association and therefore has intimate knowledge of the borderline cases which are on the Register of her Association and may become subject to be dealt with as statutory cases under the Mental Deficiency Acts. Both officers cover the whole of the administrative County.

The cases ascertained and reported during 1938 are shewn under the following headings:—

(a) Notified by Local Education Authorities under Section 2 (2) of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as amended by Section 2 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1927	11
(b) Informal notification by Local Education Authorities	10
(c) Reported by East Sussex Association for Mental Welfare	29
(d) Reported by other Local Authorities	2
(e) Reported by Relieving Officers	15
(f) Reported by Health Visitors and District Nurses	4
(g) Referred from Juvenile Courts and Petty Sessions	4
(h) Reported from other sources	7
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

The cases notified were dealt with in accordance with their needs as follows:—

Admitted to Certified Institutions	10
Placed under Guardianship	8
Placed under Home Supervision	63
Removed from County	1
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

Defectives on Register on 31st December, 1938.

The number of defectives on the Register of the Local Authority on the 31st December, 1938, was 657, including six defectives maintained by the State in the Rampton State Institution, Retford, Nottingham. This total includes 179 defectives in Certified Institutions, 38 patients placed out on licence from Institutions, 68 maintained under guardianship, 7 on licence from guardianship, 365 under supervision, of whom 14 were in Poor Law Institutions, 2 maintained in Approved Homes, and 9 awaiting consideration by the Local Authority.

The following table gives details of the numbers of defectives at the end of the year with the corresponding numbers for the year 1937. The table includes 54 alleged defectives under voluntary supervision whose cases are under consideration by the Authority.

TABLE XXII.

				Male.		Female.		TOTAL.	
				1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938
(a) (1) In Institutions	..	..	Under 16 years of age ..	13	12	5	6	18	18
			Aged 16 years and over ..	64	68	95	87	159	155
(2) On Licence from Institutions	..	..	Under 16 years of age ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
			Aged 16 years and over ..	14	11	22	27	36	38
(b) (1) Under Guardianship	..	..	Under 16 years of age ..	1	2	7	4	8	6
			Aged 16 years and over ..	18	28	21	34	39	62
(2) On Licence from Guardianship	..	..	Under 16 years of age ..	—	1	—	1	—	2
			Aged 16 years and over ..	2	2	4	3	6	5
(c) In "places of safety"	..	..	Under 16 years of age ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
			Aged 16 years and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Under Home Supervision—(1) Statutory Supervision	..	..	..	187	191	135	146	322	337
			(2) Voluntary Supervision ..	31	18	31	36	62	54
(e) In Approved Home (permissive case)	..	..	..	—	1	1	1	1	2
(f) In receipt of Poor Relief:—									
(1) Institutional	..	..	..	3	1	19	13	22	14
(2) Domiciliary	..	..	..	4	—	9	3	13	3
(g) Action not yet taken under any of the above headings:—									
(1) Notified by Local Education Authorities	..	..	..	1	3	—	1	1	4
(2) Otherwise ascertained	..	..	..	6	3	9	2	15	5
TOTALS	..	..	..	346	341	358	364	704†	705†

† Excluding 4 cases detained in Rampton State Institution in 1937 and 6 in 1938.

During the year the following cases were removed from the Register:—

TABLE XXIII.

	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.
Deaths (i) In Institutions ..	3	2	5
(ii) Under Guardianship ..	0	1	1
(iii) Under Home Supervision ..	0	5	5
Transferred to County Mental Hospital	3	3	6
Transferred to Eastbourne and Hastings County Borough Councils ..	3	8	11
Left the County Administrative Area ..	8	5	13
Referred back to Local Education Authority ..	1	0	1
Not certifiable ..	1	0	1

Institutional Provision.

During the year the question of providing further Institutional accommodation in the County was considered. At the time of writing this Report the provision of Mental Deficiency Colony accommodation within the County area is under consideration.

The County Public Assistance Institutions at Chailey and Cuckfield which are approved under Section 37 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, contain accommodation for 58 male and 15 female patients and 10 male and 20 female patients respectively. At the Chailey Institution the defectives are given instruction in rug-making, gardening, etc., and are encouraged to take part in physical training, cricket, walks, indoor games and dancing. At the Cuckfield Institution female defectives receive instruction in needlework, knitting, and crochet work given by the Brabazon Society once weekly. The male defectives at this Institution assist in simple domestic duties in the Institution and some are occupied in garden work. Facilities for recreation and exercise are provided by means of walks, indoor and outdoor games. At both Institutions cinematograph entertainments are arranged.

The Hermitage Training Home, Fairwarp, near Uckfield, is maintained by a voluntary Committee and provides facilities for the training of 44 high and medium grade female defectives. The Superintendent has made arrangements with residents in the locality of the Home whereby suitable defectives are placed out in full-time domestic service or in daily work. They are placed out on licence, and supervised by the Lady Superintendent who furnishes the County Council with reports on their progress and conduct. There are ancillary premises at Wharf House, Lewes, for 16 patients. During the year ended 31st March, 1939, 64 girls were under training at the Home and at Wharf House, Lewes, including those placed out on licence in domestic service or in other suitable care. Of these, 18 were employed in daily service for varying periods and 9 were under care in resident domestic service, some of whom were self-supporting. The East Sussex County Council were responsible for the maintenance of 39 of the 64 patients referred to above. The Home is situated in exceptionally healthy surroundings and excellent work has been done by the staff in the training of defectives. Recreations include country dancing, singing, and games of various kinds.

There are two small Institutions for male patients in the County area which are provided by the Guardianship Society, viz., Dungates Institution, Horam (7 beds), and Tubwell Farm Institution, Jarvis Brook (7 beds). These are small Farm Houses used partly as Hostels and partly for training high and medium grade defectives in elementary farm work. The more capable defectives are placed out on licence with farmers for training and employment.

Thirty-seven males and 45 females are in Certified Institutions and 1 male and 1 female in Approved Homes outside the Administrative County.

The Institutions and Approved Homes in which East Sussex defectives were accommodated on the 31st December, 1938, are shewn in the following table:—

TABLE XXIV.

Name of Certified Institution.	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.
Barvin Park, Potter's Bar	1	—	1
Besford Court	1	—	1
Brentry Colony	4	—	4
Chailey Public Assistance Institution	39	12	51
Cuckfield Public Assistance Institution	12	26	38
Dungates, Horam	3	—	3
Etloe House, Leyton	—	3	3
Girls' Village Home, Barkingside	—	1	1
Handford Home, Ipswich	—	1	1
Hermitage Training Home, Fairwarp	—	39	39
Eaton Grange, Norwich	—	1	1
Mary Dendy Home, Sandlebridge	—	1	1
Mount Tabor Certified Institution, Basingstoke	—	4	4
Pield Heath House, Hillingdon	—	1	1
Princess Christian's Farm Colony, Hildenborough	1	4	5
Rampton State Institution, Retford	4	2	6
Royal Earlswood Institution, Redhill	1	2	3
Royal Eastern Counties Institution, Colchester	1	—	1
Rock Hall House, Bath	10	4	14
St. Elizabeth's Home, Much Hadham	—	1	1
St. Joseph's Home, Sudbury	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Alton	—	4	4
St. Teresa's Home, Lewisham	—	1	1
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol	14	14	28
Tubwell Farm, Jarvis Brook	4	—	4
Alexander House Approved Home, Hildenborough	—	1	1
The Priory Approved Home, Arundel	1	—	1
TOTALS	96	123	219*

* Including 38 on licence.

Defectives under Guardianship.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases placed under guardianship. On the 31st December, 1938, there were 75 (33 males and 42 females) as compared with 53 (21 males and 32 females) on the 31st December, 1937. At the end of the year, 7 of these defectives were on licence, one being employed in farm work and two in domestic service. The Guardianship Society of Brighton have arranged for the supervision, visitation, and medical care, of these defectives and monthly reports on visits of supervision and quarterly medical reports are supplied to the County Medical Officer of Health. The Society have provided an Occupation Centre at Brighton, and defectives living within a reasonable distance attend the Centre for instruction in carpentry, boot repairing, cane work, dressmaking, envelope making, and other handwork. In addition, the Society maintain social clubs for boys and girls. Some of the defectives under guardianship are in wage earning employment. Social functions were organised for the benefit of the defectives during the year. The Council's Supervising Officers co-operate with the Guardianship Society and visit these defectives and furnish special reports on their progress from time to time. In some cases the defectives have been placed under the guardianship of their own parents and financial assistance has been given by the Local Authority in order that the defectives may be properly cared for.

Mental Defectives on Licence.

The following are particulars of defectives on Licence from Institutions and Guardianship on the 31st December, 1938:—

	(a) from Institutions		(b) from Guardianship		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
On licence to care of parents	4	5	—	—	9
" " in situations	1	11	1	2	15
" " to care of foster-parents	4	5	2	1	12
" " in Hospital	2	1	—	1	4
" " in other Institutions	—	5	—	—	5
	11	27	3	4	45

Difficulty was experienced in connection with one defective who developed criminal tendencies and had to be returned from his own home to institutional care. He was afterwards transferred to the Rampton State Institution.

Many of the defectives placed on licence are in full or part time employment. Before they are placed on licence careful enquiries are made as to the character and conduct of the defective and as to the means of care and supervision to be provided by the licensee. Quarterly visits are paid by the Home Visitors and supervision is provided in many cases by officers of the Guardianship Society. Arrangements for the provision of medical attendance for patients on licence are made in accordance with the suggestion contained in paragraph 30 of Circular No. 808 issued by the Board of Control in June, 1935.

The Board of Control in their circular No. 850 dated June, 1938, stressed the fact that licence is of little value unless assistance is provided by properly trained officers of the Local Authority to enable the patient to adjust himself to community life. This assistance is given by regular visits by the Home Visitors but their visits should be supplemented by the provision of training and occupation. Wherever possible defectives are assisted to obtain employment and thus benefit from contact with ordinary working conditions of life and association with normal people.

Defectives who remain continuously on licence in community care for a period of two years and whose conduct and mental condition are proved to be satisfactory are referred to the Board of Control for special consideration with a view to deciding whether they may be discharged from care under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

The extension of the practice of licensing defectives to community care is shewn by the following particulars of cases who were granted licence during recent years:—

Years.	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
From Institutional Care	7	21	35	43	59
From Guardianship	1	3	11	6	14
TOTAL	8	24	46	49	63

Defectives under Home Supervision.

There were 337 defectives under statutory home supervision. There are also 54 alleged defectives under voluntary supervision by the East Sussex Association for Mental Welfare, 14 under supervision in Public Assistance Institutions, 3 under supervision in their own homes and in receipt of poor law relief, making a total of 408 on the 31st December, 1938. The supervision is carried out by the Council's Home Visitors who have the assistance of voluntary visitors working on behalf of the East Sussex Association for Mental Welfare.

East Sussex Association for Mental Welfare.

The Local Authority have again received considerable assistance from this Association whose co-operation is much appreciated. In addition to the services rendered for the County Council valuable work is done by the Association in connection with the care of patients of sub-normal mentality, who are not on the register of the Local Authority.

Reconsideration of Cases by Visitors and Petitions dealt with.

During the year 1938, the Visitors appointed in accordance with Section 40 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, interviewed 175 defectives in the discharge of their duties under Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and Justices of the Peace dealt with 33 Petitions, and 20 Varying Orders under the Acts.

Mental Deficiency Act, 1938.

The Mental Deficiency Act, 1938, came into operation on the 13th July, 1938. This Act extends by one month the time within which the Board of Control are required by Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, to determine whether Orders made under that Act are to be continued and validates Orders purporting to have been continued under that section.

Circular 857 of Board of Control.

In December, 1938, the Board of Control issued Circular 857 instructing Local Authorities that certain duties formerly carried out by the Board on behalf of Guardians of defectives would in future be performed by the Local Authorities with regard to defectives placed under Guardianship. The Board have also decided that a Guardian may in future receive three mental defectives without obtaining the prior consent of the Board.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTY.

Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, which is administered as a Public Assistance Hospital now provides 336 beds, of which 117 are for men and 219 for women. During the year 30 additional beds for the accommodation of chronic sick patients were brought into use by the adaptation and modernisation of two wards. An extension of the accommodation for nurses has been provided and the closing in of the open corridors leading to two wards was completed.

The Hospital serves a large area of the administrative County of West Sussex in addition to the whole of the administrative County of East Sussex. The West Sussex County Council have by agreement reserved a number of beds in the Hospital for patients living in their area.

The Public Assistance Committee are proceeding with their programme of improvements to the Hospital. The Nursing Staff has been increased by 7 trained nurses and 13 untrained Staff. The Hospital is recognised as a training school for nurses.

The Voluntary Hospitals serving the administrative County of East Sussex are mainly situated in the County Boroughs of Brighton, Eastbourne, and Hastings, and the Boroughs of Bexhill, Hove, and Royal Tunbridge Wells. Other Voluntary Hospitals are provided at Crowborough, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Rye, and Uckfield. The number of beds provided at these Hospitals is shewn hereunder:—

Name of Voluntary Hospital.	Number of beds.
Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	272
Hove General Hospital	53
Sussex Maternity and Women's Hospital, Brighton	52
Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital, Brighton	32
New Sussex Hospital for Women and Children, Brighton	60
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Brighton	100
Sussex Eye Hospital, Brighton	56
Lady Chichester Hospital for Nervous Disorders, Hove	61
Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, Eastbourne	120
Leaf Homœopathic Hospital, Eastbourne	31
Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital, Eastbourne	20
Royal Eye Hospital, Eastbourne	14
Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings	143
Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea	103
Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea	100
Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	210
Homœopathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	30
Bexhill Hospital	58
Crowborough War Memorial Hospital	26
Haywards Heath King Edward VII Memorial (Eliot) Hospital	50
Lewes Victoria Hospital	35
Rye, Winchelsea, and District Memorial Hospital	15
East Grinstead Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital	43
Uckfield Cottage Hospital	11

Some of the Voluntary Hospitals have carried out extensions and improvements to their accommodation and equipment, the most notable being the extension of the Bexhill Hospital, providing a complete out-patient department, the total cost of the site, building, and equipment being over £18,000.

In the larger Voluntary Hospitals which serve the County, equipment conforming with modern methods of treatment has been provided and schemes for extension of the wards and special departments are under consideration.

Hospital accommodation for chronic sickness is provided in the eight infirmaries of the Public Assistance Institutions in different parts of the County. The various improvements carried out at these institutions are detailed in the section relating to Public Assistance.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Bed Accommodation.

The number of beds available (excluding beds for mental defectives and Lunacy Act patients) in the Public Assistance Hospital and Infirmaries and in the Hospitals maintained by the Eastbourne and Hastings County Borough Councils on the 31st December, 1938, is given hereunder:—

TABLE XXV.

	MEN.	WOMEN.	CHILDREN.	TOTAL.
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham (a)	117	219	—	336
Battle Infirmary	46	48	4	98
*Chailey Infirmary	38	48	—	86
*Cuckfield Infirmary	71	70	6	147
East Grinstead Infirmary	30	28	3	61
Newhaven Infirmary	40	20	2	71
Rye Infirmary	29	31	0	60
Ticehurst Infirmary	21	26	—	47
*Uckfield Infirmary	25	28	1	54
Beds reserved at Eastbourne, St. Mary's Hospital (b) ..	6	6	—	12
Beds reserved at Hastings Municipal Hospital (b) ..	12	13	—	25
Totals	435	546	†16	997

(a) Including beds reserved by the West Sussex County Council.

(b) Additional beds can be obtained when available.

* In addition, there are 22 beds in open-air shelters for tubercular patients, viz.:—Chailey, 16; Cuckfield 4; Uckfield, 2.

† There is only one sick children's ward in the County Institutions, viz.:—at Cuckfield. The remaining children's beds are in adult wards.

Maternity patients and women suffering from puerperal pyrexia are received at the Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, from the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees of the East Sussex and West Sussex County Councils and of the Hove and Worthing Borough Councils. The Battle, Cuckfield, and Newhaven Institutions also receive maternity patients, and a Nursery for the care of children is provided at each of these Institutions.

The Cuckfield and Chailey Institutions are Certified Institutions under Section 37 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, providing accommodation for 10 male and 20 female defectives at Cuckfield, and 58 male and 15 female mental defectives at Chailey.

Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.

REPORT BY MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

(The following Report is submitted with the authority of the Chairman of the Public Assistance Committee.)

"The admissions for the year totalled 3,758, once again an increase of nearly 400 over those of the previous year. Of these 3,000 had a duration of stay of under a month. The number of children treated totalled 512 in addition to 470 healthy infants born in hospital. That almost 1,000 children should be dealt with, although no special provision is made for them, explains the fact, noted elsewhere, that sometimes it is necessary to place cots in unusual and improvised accommodation. (A Children's Ward of 16 beds is now in the course of erection but to deal with between 500 and 600 children annually, irrespective of the new born, would require a further 30 beds.)

Theatre operations totalled a full thousand and in addition many minor operations were carried out in the wards and special departments. The appointment of a second Resident Surgeon had to be made in April, 1938, and with increasing work in the theatre the wards must necessarily suffer, for the other Medical Officers have either to assist at operations or to administer anaesthetics.

The urgent need for the provision of isolation rooms related to the maternity wards was shown in March, when, owing to a case of obstetrical scarlet fever arising, it was necessary to close the wards to new admissions for two to three weeks. Urgent maternity cases had to be dealt with on general wards and for a period the whole maternity service for the area was dislocated. Despite this temporary closure, 606 cases were dealt with throughout the year on the maternity wards (516 confinements and 90 complications of pregnancy). The importance of the provision of isolation accommodation for potentially infected cases is realised by both medical and lay men and the present lack of suitable rooms calls for remedy at the earliest possible opportunity. (In March, 1939, one maternity ward has again had to be closed for admissions).

During the September crisis there was wholesale discharging of patients to willing and unwilling relatives and the numbers dropped to 242, the lowest for the year. In a short time, however, those who had been sent out returned, recommended for re-admission by outside doctors and by the Relieving Officers. This occurrence is interesting to note as it shows that, when emergency standards require the discharge of patients before they are recovered, the passing of the tension period immediately raises again the criterion of admissibility to hospital to the pre-existing normal level—and, further, it is an assurance to those in authority that cases are not ordinarily being retained in hospital longer than is absolutely necessary.

In the emergency, too, many offers of part-time nursing assistance were forthcoming from local Red Cross and St. John detachments. It has been found possible to make use of these offers of service and nursing volunteers are now being trained on the wards with benefit to all. The Council's interests have been safeguarded by a suitable insurance cover.

The principal improvements carried out during the year were as follow :—

G and H wards were redecorated and modernised by the introduction of new sanitary annexes and have now been opened for 90 chronic sick cases. The connecting corridor has been closed in and refloored.

K ward has been converted into Night Nurses' quarters accommodating fifteen nurses.

The hospital grounds, both in appearance and in the high standard of the produce obtained from them, have been a source of great pleasure and benefit to patients and staff.

The milk which is supplied by the County Council's School of Agriculture, Wales Farm, Plumpton, has continued to be of the highest quality."

Improvements at Southlands Hospital and Infirmary.

The principal improvements carried out during the year were as follow :—

SOUTHLANDS HOSPITAL, SHOREHAM.

Installation of automatic telephone system.
Erection of partitions to Blocks "I" and "J."
Erection of Bath Room partitions to Blocks "G" and "H."
Adaptation of "K" Block to provide accommodation for Nurses.
Conversion of Casual Wards for emergency purposes.
External painting to the Institution.
Redecoration and adaptation to "G" and "H" Blocks.
Provision of two sanitary blocks to "G" and "H" Blocks.
Internal painting to the Laundry.
Improvements to corridors "G" and "H" Blocks, entrance hall, and roadway.
Reroofing portion of corridor between "G" and "H" Blocks and Administrative Block.
Provision of Linen Room between "G" and "H" Blocks.

BATTLE INSTITUTION.

New Mortuary.
Extension of hot water service, new sluices, and additional windows in Dormitories.

CHAILEY INSTITUTION.

New calorifier.

CUCKFIELD INSTITUTION.

Erection of new Master's House.
Installation of central heating to Main Building.
Glazing sides of covered ways to Dining Hall.
Provision of Staff Lavatories and observation windows in the Day Room.
Utilisation of well water for laundry purposes.
New sluice to Male Infirmary.

EAST GRINSTEAD INSTITUTION.

Provision of Bath Room, Stores, extension of corridor floors, alteration in Sanitary Annex.
New Bath Room and sluices to Infirmary.
New wood block floor to Ground Floor Dormitory and Dining Hall.
New W.C. ; renewing tiled floors in corridors to Men's Quarters.

NEWHAVEN INSTITUTION.

New washing machine and hydro extractor to Laundry.
Alterations to Laundry and additional clothes bunkers.
Improvements to Infirmary Bath Room and House Women's Washing place.
Provision of new calorifier.
Provision of fire escape stairs in Female Quarters.
New floor to Wash House and new washing troughs.

RYE INSTITUTION.

Erection of new Nurses' Home (in progress).
Erection of new house for Master.
New water storage tanks.
Provision of new greenhouse complete with heating.
Installation of fire alarm bells.
Conversion of Master's Old Quarters to provide Office Accommodation.
Provision of new electric light cable.

TICEHURST INSTITUTION.

Reconditioning and improvements to Female House sanitary block.
New washing machine in Laundry.
Provision of gas service and gas stove to Ward Kitchen.

UCKFIELD INSTITUTION.

New floor to Laundry, and renovation of Wash House.
Provision of foul-washing machine to Laundry.
Provision of new sinks in Kitchen and Scullery.
Plastering walls in Day Rooms and dormitories.
Redecoration of Male Infirmary.

Subscriptions to Voluntary Hospitals and Associations.

The County Council authorised subscriptions amounting to £224 rs. od. to Voluntary Hospitals and Associations in respect of the year 1938-39, which included subscriptions to 15 Voluntary Hospitals and 9 Associations.

Domiciliary Medical Relief.

The "Free Choice of Doctor" Domiciliary Medical Service has been extended during the year and is now in operation in the following districts:—

- (a) the Borough of Hove and the Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea;
- (b) the Parishes of Falmer, Stanmer, Kingston-near-Lewes, Iford, and Rodmell;
- (c) the Parishes of Hooe, Ninfield, Rotherfield, Wartling, Herstmonceux, and Hellingly;
- (d) the Urban District of Newhaven, and the Parishes of South Heighton and Tarring Neville;
- (e) the Parish of Haywards Heath and part of the Parish of Lindfield;
- (f) the Parishes of Alciston, Alfriston, Berwick, Folkington, Jevington, Litlington, Lullington, Selveston, Westdean, and Wilmington;
- (g) the Parishes of Barcombe, Chailey, Hamsey, Newick, and St. John (Without) Lewes.

It will be seen that the "Free Choice of Doctor" Service has now been introduced into 1 Borough, 2 Urban Parishes, and 30 Rural Parishes. Panels of Doctors have been approved for each District and a satisfactory service has been maintained. The co-operation of the Doctors in connection with this Scheme is much appreciated.

Details are given below of the patients attended by the Medical Practitioners serving on the Panels and the number of attendances given during 1938:—

(a) Number of Doctors on Panel	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
(b) Number of Patients attended	..	..	..	..	..	..	350
(c) Number of attendances at homes of Patients	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,095
(d) Number of attendances at Surgeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	937
(e) Number of Medicines provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,252

With regard to the remainder of the County in which domiciliary medical attendance is given by District Medical Officers, particulars of the patients attended and attendances given are as follow:—

(a) Number of District Medical Officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
(b) Number of Patients attended	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,166
(c) Number of attendances at homes of Patients	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,658
(d) Number of attendances at Surgeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,295
(e) Number of Medicines provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,738

County Ambulance Service.

The County Council has two ambulances which are stationed at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, and are used mainly in connection with the transport of patients under domiciliary or institutional treatment provided by the Council. The ambulance services maintained by sanitary authorities, the Police, and voluntary and private bodies are given in a later section of this report.

Pathological Examination of Specimens.

The Pathological Laboratory of the County Mental Hospital, Hellingly, carries out the examination of specimens and furnishes reports as required by the Medical Officers of the County Public Assistance Hospital and Institutions. The Medical Superintendent of Southlands Hospital also sends specimens to the Stephen Ralli Memorial Laboratory, Brighton, when reports are urgently required.

Statistical Tables.

Statistics relating to the Poor Law Hospital and Infirmaries are given in the following three tables:—

TABLE XXVI.

Accommodation in Public Assistance Hospitals and Infirmaries for various types of cases (excluding mental cases) and the extent to which it was occupied on the 31st December, 1938.

Classification.	Wards	MEN.		WOMEN.		CHILDREN.		TOTALS.	
		Provided.	Occupied.	Provided.	Occupied.	Provided.	Occupied.	Provided.	Occupied.
Medical and Surgical ..	84	395	339	445	379	10	20	850	744
Children ..	1	—	—	—	—	6	3	6	3
Maternity ..	7	—	—	60	25	—	—	60	25
Tuberculosis ..	7	18	12	10	5	—	1	(a) 28	18
Isolation ..	5	4	4	12	5	—	4	16	13
	104	417	355	527	414	16	34	(b) 960	803

(a) Excluding beds in open-air shelters for tubercular patients.

(b) In addition, beds are reserved for East Sussex patients as follows:—

Eastbourne, St. Mary's Hospital: 12 beds, and additional beds if accommodation is available.
Hastings Municipal Hospital: 25 beds.

TABLE XXVII.
STATISTICS RELATING TO POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Institution.	Total Admissions.	Maternity Cases Admitted.	Live Births.	Still Births.	Deaths among newly-born (under 4 weeks).	Total deaths among children under 1 year.	Maternal Deaths.	Total Deaths.	Patients discharged.	Beds occupied.		Surgical operations under anaesthetics.
										Highest occupied.	Lowest occupied.	
SOUTHLANDS HOSPITAL ...	3758	516	490	33	27	40	5	466	3326	349	242	693
BATTLE ...	127	10	10	0	0	0	0	48	68	80	62	0
CHAILEY ...	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	84	88	69	0
CUCKFIELD ...	442	61	62	1	1	2	0	78	360	143	101	0
EAST GRINSTEAD ...	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	92	49	39	0
NEWHAVEN ...	234	15	14	1	0	1	0	49	167	72	56	8
RYE ...	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	33	67	53	0
TICEHURST ...	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	22	91	84	0
UCKFIELD ...	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	37	51	41	0
TOTALS ...	5044	602	576	35	28	43	5	806	4189	990	747	701

TABLE XXVIII.

CLASSIFICATION OF IN-PATIENTS WHO WERE DISCHARGED FROM OR WHO DIED IN POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Institutions.	Acute Infectious Disease.	Influenza.	Tuberculosis.		Malignant Disease.	Rheumatism.			Venereal Diseases.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Other Diseases of Pregnancy.	Mental Diseases.	Senile Decay.	Accidental Injury and Violence.	Disease of the Nervous System.	Disease of the Respiratory System.	Disease of the Circulatory System.	Disease of the Digestive System.	Disease of the Genito-urinary System.	Disease of the Skin.	Other Diseases.	Women and Infants discharged after Confinement.	Totals.
			Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.		Acute.	Other Types.	Chronic Arthritis.															
SOUTHLANDS HOSPITAL	66	9	52	22	108	18	25	25	22	108	415	63	0	343	166	226	305	543	230	121	148	777	3792
BATTLE ...	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	14	44	2	4	2	5	22	116
CHAILEY ...	0	1	21	2	10	0	3	2	0	0	0	7	19	4	0	25	15	1	2	3	15	0	130
CUCKFIELD ...	5	2	22	0	12	0	7	0	0	1	8	15	24	19	25	34	43	25	14	26	34	122	438
EAST GRINSTEAD	7	12	1	0	5	1	1	1	0	0	1	8	7	9	7	13	28	4	5	7	8	0	122
NEWHAVEN ...	9	2	3	1	10	0	1	3	1	0	1	23	6	14	15	8	22	17	5	6	36	33	216
RYE ...	0	0	3	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	1	1	9	15	2	1	1	10	0	57
TICEHURST ...	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	8	0	7	3	6	0	1	0	2	0	38
UCKFIELD ...	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	21	37	3	0	0	12	0	86
TOTALS ...	87	27	102	25	165	20	39	39	23	109	425	122	76	394	228	353	515	597	259	166	270	954	4995

Blood Transfusions.

Blood Transfusions for patients under treatment at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, were given in 60 cases. The clinical conditions of these were menorrhagia, hæmorrhage, hæmorrhage, aplastic anaemia, gastric ulcer, amputation of leg, partial gastrectomy, ante- and post-partum hæmorrhage, caesarian section for placenta prævia, nasal polypus, puerperal pyrexia, peptic ulcer, puerperal sepsis and debility, infective arthritis, agranulocytosis, septicæmia, incomplete abortion, and other conditions.

The transfusions at this Hospital are performed by the Hospital Staff and the blood donors for the 60 transfusions given were obtained from relatives of the patients in 18 cases and from the British Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in 42 cases.

The British Red Cross Society provides blood donors through their Blood Transfusion Service for patients in whose cases it is not possible to obtain a suitable donor from relatives. Facilities for transfusions have been made available for patients in all Public Assistance Infirmaries and the services of a specialist can be obtained by the Medical Officers of the Infirmaries when necessary.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933—Poison Rules, 1935.

The above Act and Rules came into operation on the 1st May, 1936. During the year 1938 the County Institutions have been regularly visited and matters concerning the storage of poisons and dangerous drugs have been dealt with.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For General Non-infectious Cases.

The County Council maintain 2 motor ambulances which are garaged at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.

Ambulances provided by the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade are stationed at Battle, Bexhill, Brighton, Crowborough, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hailsham, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Rye, and Uckfield. Other ambulances are provided by the Brighton Police, the Hove Police, Newhaven and District Nursing Association, Haywards Heath Cottage Hospital, Hill House Hospital Wadhurst, Lewes Borough Council, Seaford Urban District Council, Heathfield and Waldron Ambulance Committee and the Portslade Gas Works. There are five private ambulances at Hove and one at Eastbourne.

(b) For Infectious Cases.

Ambulances are available for the transport of cases of infectious disease in connection with the following isolation hospitals:—Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Hove, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead, Hurstpierpoint, Lewes, and Newhaven.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS MEDICAL SERVICES.

Ministry of Health Emergency Medical Scheme.

In January, 1938, the Minister of Health, through his Regional Hospital Officer, carried out, in co-operation with this Department, an extensive Survey of the entire hospital accommodation in the County, including that for convalescent and infectious cases. The information obtained included particulars of the additional beds which could be accommodated by crowding, and by equipping other existing accommodation. This Hospital Survey has been the basis upon which all subsequent action has been taken in respect of the development of the Emergency Medical Service.

During the year, information regarding this Service has been circulated to all concerned, and the following is a brief outline of the arrangements made. In time of war, the Ministry of Health will control the whole Hospital Service of the country, including that provided by both Local Authorities and Voluntary Hospitals. The Country has been divided into Regions, and the Hospital Officer in charge of each Region acts as Liaison Officer between Local Authorities and the Ministry. At the time of writing, the Regional Hospital Officer of the South Eastern Region is Dr. W. S. Craig, "The Chestnuts," Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, and close contact is maintained with him.

In order to facilitate local organisation and control of the Emergency Medical Service, each Region has been further sub-divided into hospital areas, and in East Sussex there are three such areas based on the railhead towns of Brighton, Eastbourne, and Hastings. Certain Hospitals and Institutions in the north-western part of the County are included in a Scheme of Affiliation to Hospitals in danger areas. Hospitals have been classified into three categories, according to their suitability for the treatment of different types of case, namely:—

CLASS 1A.—The larger Hospitals and Institutions with facilities for dealing with casualties, both medical and surgical.

CLASS 1B.—The smaller Hospitals for the less seriously injured.

CLASS 2.—Institutions, Homes, etc., for the reception of convalescent and chronic cases, and cases which need in-patient treatment not requiring any special facilities.

The following Table gives up-to-date information as to the units in the Administrative County included in each Group or Sector :—

Class.	Sector IX.	Brighton Group.	Hastings Group.	Hospitals in the Emergency Medical Service but not included in any Group or Sector.
CLASS 1A.	King Edward VII Memorial Eliot Hospital, Haywards Heath. Cockfield P.A. Institution. Brighton C.B. Mental Hospital, Haywards Heath	Hove General Hospital. Southlands Hospital, Shoreham. Marine Hospital, Tide-mills, Bishopstone.	Bexhill Hospital	East Grinstead P.A. Institution.
CLASS 1B.	Victoria Cottage Hospital, East Grinstead.	Victoria Hospital, Lewes	—	—
CLASS 2.	—	Uckfield P.A. Institution. Seaside Convalescent Home, Seaford. Surrey Convalescent Home for Men, Seaford. Newhaven P.A. Institution. Boys' Heritage, Chailey. Girls' Heritage, Chailey.	Metropolitan Convalescent Home for Women, Bexhill. Battle P.A. Institution. Rye P.A. Institution. Ticehurst P.A. Institution.	—

NOTE.—A number of other hospitals were originally included in the Scheme, but have either been withdrawn or suspended.

A Group Officer has been appointed to each group to co-ordinate the working of the majority of the voluntary hospitals included in the Emergency Scheme, and it is the duty of the County Medical Officer of Health, in liaison with the Public Assistance Officer, to act in a similar capacity in respect of the County hospitals and institutions and of the voluntary hospitals not included in the areas of Group Officers.

During the first stage of an emergency, certain hospitals in the East Sussex area were to be required to receive patients transferred from London hospitals. In order that accommodation might be available to receive these patients, it was necessary to arrange to decant all patients who could be moved to their homes or to institutions of a simpler character. Following the initial transfers from London, there was to be a re-distribution of these patients within the County to enable the hospitals to deal with ordinary cases.

First Aid Posts.

In March, 1938, the County Council decided upon a policy of decentralisation of air raid precautions services, and Councils of County Districts were asked to prepare schemes for their own areas and to submit them to the County Council, as the Scheme Making Authority, for co-ordination and submission to the Home Secretary as a composite whole.

During the year a great deal of survey and detailed work was undertaken in an endeavour to obtain suitable premises to act as First Aid Posts. Where County Council premises were selected, plans, specifications of work to be carried out and estimates of cost were prepared and submitted to the County Air Raid Precautions Committee.

The Minister of Health, on 10th January, 1939, issued Circular 1764, which indicated that for various reasons Posts should, wherever possible, be located at, or very close to, hospitals or other buildings ordinarily used for medical purposes. In view of these instructions, therefore, it was necessary to review the premises to be utilised as First Aid Posts, and these were subsequently reduced from a total of 29 to 14 fixed Posts, with the addition of 11 mobile First Aid Posts.

First Aid Points.

During the year, arrangements were considered for the establishment of first aid points, primarily in rural districts, and the Councils of County Districts submitted their proposals with regard to the location of these Points to the County Council. The Ministry of Health subsequently authorised the provision of 137 first aid points in the County.

Medical Equipment.

Authority was given to obtain necessary medical equipment from local sources, if found to be urgently necessary, but following the September, 1938 crisis, information was received from the Home Office that equipment for hospitals, first aid posts and points would be supplied from central stores and, therefore, the local arrangements were not carried out.

Ambulances.

During the crisis, detailed arrangements were made with the persons responsible for the maintenance of all private or publicly-owned ambulances in the County, in order that they could be immediately available for emergency work, if required.

These arrangements are still valid, but during 1939 a complete emergency ambulance service has been organised in the County in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

First Aid Parties.

The enrolment and training of First Aid Parties has been delegated to the Councils of County Districts. It is unnecessary to stress the importance of this first aid service which will attend to casualties at the scene of action.

First Aid Parties have their headquarters at Depots which also act, in most cases, as Ambulance Depots, and in the 15 County Districts there are 84 parties located at 42 Depots. Telephone communication is available between each Depot and the A.R.P. Sub-Controls. The person appointed as Executive Head of first aid parties in each District is the First Aid Commandant, who works under the guidance of the District Medical Officer of Health.

Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

At the request of the Government, the Medical Research Council have organised, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, an emergency public health laboratory service to operate in time of war to supplement the facilities ordinarily available for the examination of specimens.

ADMINISTRATION OF MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

During the year existing legislation in respect of the above underwent certain changes by reason of an Order made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under Section 34 (3) of the Agricultural Act, 1937, and in consequence Part IV of the Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1938.

Part IV, Section 19, provides for the transfer of the functions of Veterinary Inspectors of Local Authorities to Inspectors appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Whilst the effect of this was to place the veterinary inspection of animals under the Ministry of Agriculture, Local Authorities still retain all their functions under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

The transfer of veterinary functions also made necessary a revision of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and Amendment Orders in respect of these were made by the Minister of Health accordingly.

The new arrangements also necessitated a revision of the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, and this was superseded by the Order of 1938. These new provisions all operated from the 1st April, 1938.

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

By Section 4 of the above Act, where a Medical Officer of Health of any local authority has reason to suspect that tuberculosis is caused, or is likely to be caused, by the consumption of milk which is being sold or exposed for sale within the area of the local authority, he shall endeavour to ascertain the source or sources of supply and on ascertaining the facts shall forthwith give notice of them to the Medical Officer of Health of the County or County Borough concerned.

The information received during the year was forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, who arranged to conduct an investigation at the farms involved.

A total of 14 statutory notifications was received during the year in respect of actual or suspected tubercle infected milk supplies from the following authorities :—

County of London	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
County Borough of Brighton	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
County Borough of Hastings	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Urban District of East Grinstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rural District of Uckfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

In addition to the foregoing, 3 supplies were investigated as a result of departmental activities.

The following summary indicates the number of notifications received under the provisions of the Act since 1928.

Year.	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
No. of Notifications	17	19	24	26	22	32	12	17	14	22	17

Fifteen of the notifications dealt with during the year involved supplies from individual farms, the remaining two concerning mixed supplies to which 54 farms contributed.

Investigations were conducted in each case, and a total of 823 dairy cattle were examined. Forty-two samples of milk from individual cows and 75 group samples, involving 580 cows, were submitted for examination. Twenty-eight group farm samples were also taken from consignments in course of delivery. As a result of these investigations 16 cows were found to be diseased and were dealt with under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1925 and the Order of 1938; 15 of these animals were giving tuberculous milk.

Milk and Dairies Orders, 1926-1938.

From returns furnished by the Medical Officers of Health of the local Sanitary Authorities in the Administrative County Area there are, registered under the provision of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, approximately 2,474 cowkeepers with 3,834 cowsheds housing 38,469 cows. Inspection of premises during the year amounted to 3,371, and 2,062 samples of milk of all grades were obtained by the local Sanitary Authorities for examination, 350 of which were also tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

The following table shows the work of inspection of dairy cattle by the County Authority under Part IV of the Order, 1926, and by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture following the operation of the Amendment Order of 1938, for the years 1936-38 inclusive.

TABLE XXIX.

	Inspection of Dairy Cattle under the Provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders, 1936-38.		
	1936	1937	1938
No. of Farms visited	63	468	572
No. of Cattle examined	1022	8908	8939

As a result of the routine inspections 14 cows were found to fall within the scope of the Tuberculosis Order, and were slaughtered; 3 of these animals were giving tuberculous milk.

Departmental investigations were undertaken in 51 instances respecting information received concerning cows and calves which, on slaughter, had been found to be diseased and suffering from tuberculosis. Enquiries made at the farms concerned revealed the source of the calf infection in 4 cases, and 4 animals were slaughtered, all of which were giving tuberculous milk.

Seven notifications were also received concerning diseased pigs which were investigated, but no source of infection was discovered.

Twenty-one reports received concerned abnormalities in milk. Two cases of undulant fever in which the milk supply was thought to be the infecting agent were investigated, and one in respect of contagious abortion.

In connection with the foregoing investigations 122 samples of milk were submitted for microscopical or biological examination.

Co-operation by the Divisional Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture resulted in the examination of all animals where necessary.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-38.

Licences authorising the use of a special designation in connection with the production and bottling of milk at farms in the administrative area are granted by the County Council. Applications for licences are received by the County Agricultural Department and information in respect of these is forwarded by the Director of Agriculture to the County Medical Officer of Health for his observations as to the suitability of the premises prior to consideration by the Agricultural Committee of the issue of licences.

At the end of the year the numbers of licences in operation were as follows :—

<i>Designation.</i>							<i>Production only.</i>	<i>Production and Bottling.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	13	53
Accredited	..	..	..	..	..	..	367	36	403
							—	—	—
							407	49	456
							—	—	—

Milk in Schools Scheme.

The Scheme inaugurated by the Milk Marketing Board for the provision of milk in schools at a cost to the children of a half-penny per one-third pint bottle, was satisfactorily maintained during the year.

From returns submitted to the Board of Education by Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools, it was ascertained that 149 Departments, or 88.2 per cent. received a supply of liquid milk under the Scheme. The number of children participating in the Scheme at these schools was 9,563, or 56.8 per cent. of the total average attendance. Of these children, 1,042 were provided with a free supply. Seven of the schools had, in addition, arrangements for supplying reconstituted milk foods, providing for 125 children. Of the remaining 20 schools, re-constituted milk was provided at 13, and 346 children were supplied. Thirty-eight of these received a free supply.

The total number of children who received extra nourishment by way of liquid or re-constituted milk was 10,034, or 59.6 per cent. of the total average attendance.

In addition six Secondary Schools had supplies of milk through the Scheme and 648 children participated, whilst 52 children were provided with re-constituted milk.

The approximate daily consumption of liquid milk in both elementary and secondary schools, excluding canteens, was 425 gallons.

Supervision of milk supplies was periodically carried out and 51 samples were obtained for examination. Of the samples examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, one was found to be infected. Investigations were conducted in this case and the source of infection was identified and dealt with.

HOUSING ACTS, 1925-36.

Provision of New Houses.

The provision of new houses has been maintained during the year, 338 being erected by local authorities and 2,613 by private enterprise, the latter including 3 additional dwellings provided by the conversion and erection of new flats.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-32.

The total number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year by Officers of the Local Sanitary Authorities for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts was 5,330; of these 2,196 were inspected and recorded under the above Regulations.

The number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation was 232, and representations were made respecting 89 of these. In the case of 60 houses, undertakings were accepted in 40 instances from the owners to render them fit for habitation, and as regards the 20 others, to use them for purposes other than for human habitation. Demolition orders were made in respect of 83 houses, and in pursuance of such orders, 129 houses were demolished during the year.

The total number of other houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation was 2,161. Of the defective dwelling-houses dealt with during the year, 1,805 were rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 71 in consequence of action under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and 87 following proceedings under the Public Health Acts, making a total of 1,963 repaired.

Housing Act, 1936.

Provision is made under Section 115 of the Act of 1936 that where a Rural District Council adopt proposals for the provision of houses, and where any they propose to provide in the district are required for the accommodation of the agricultural population, the County Council shall undertake to make a contribution of £1 per house for each of the forty years following the completion of such houses. No applications were received during 1938. The number of houses in respect of which contributions of £1 per house per annum have been approved is three.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

The County Council are the Authority for the administration of the scheme formulated under these Acts for the improvement of housing accommodation.

The total number of dwellings in respect of which applications for assistance were received up to the end of 1938 was 216, of which 210 were in respect of grants and 6 by way of loans. Of the former, 38 were refused and 16 withdrawn. In the remaining 156 cases, the total grants promised amounted to £11,535 2s. 4d., of which £10,007 2s. 4d. has been paid.

Of the 6 applications for loans, 3 were refused in respect of conversion of buildings and 3 concerning improvements to dwellings approved, the total of the loans advanced amounting to £140.

WATER SUPPLY.

Meteorological records set out in Table XXXIII give the rainfall for the year recorded at seven stations in the County. For the purpose of comparison the monthly records for 1937 are shown in italics.

The average for the seven stations recorded is 28.88 inches, whilst that for 1937 was 36.87 inches, a decrease during 1938 of 7.99 inches. For the five years 1934-38 the average rainfall was 33.20 inches.

The rainfall is a factor of considerable importance by reason of the water supplies in the County being dependent mainly upon underground sources and, unless the average annual rainfall is maintained, supplies may be adversely influenced, particularly in the case of shallow wells.

During the year, extension of mains and improvements have been carried out by several of the Water Undertakers and proposals in some instances are under consideration.

The scheme for providing a public supply to the principal aggregations in the parish of Catsfield, Battle Rural District, was completed during the year.

Several investigations have been undertaken by the Health Department in connection with individual supplies arising out of insufficiency or suspected impurity.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS, 1876-1893.

Rivers Pollution—Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Constant observation of the rivers and streams continued during the year and, where necessary samples of stream waters and sewage effluents were taken and submitted for examination.

With the possible exception of the month of January, the rainfall was below the average, and the flow in streams was accordingly affected.

A representation received from the Kent County Council regarding an alleged pollution of a reach of the River Medway within the East Sussex Administrative Area was the subject of an investigation during the year. Examinations revealed the admission of several polluting sewage outfalls and unsatisfactory effluents from disposal works. The attention of the Uckfield Rural District Council was drawn to unsatisfactory conditions at the Groombridge Disposal Works in the parish of Withyham, and at the Crowborough and Forest Row Works. The effluent discharged from small works in the parish of Speldhurst, Tonbridge Rural District, County of Kent, was also found to be involved and was referred to the Kent County Council. As a result of the action taken, improvements were subsequently effected.

The Kent Ditch and Hawkhurst Stream in the Rother Drainage Area were the subject of examination and samples of the stream waters indicated the admission of polluting matter at some

point in the parish of Hawkhurst, Kent, sufficient adversely to affect the purity of the main stream. The information was transmitted to the Kent County Council for their attention.

The scheme for the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal in the parish of Salehurst, Battle Rural District, was completed and came into full operation during the year. Following the completion of the Salehurst Works, a scheme prepared by the County Health Inspector for the provision of new main drainage works connecting the Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge; to the new system of sewers, was undertaken by the County Council and the existing private disposal works were subsequently abandoned. The works in question were completed during the year.

In the Burgess Hill Urban District a scheme for the provision of new works of sewerage and the extension and improvement of the existing disposal works was approved by the Ministry. These works were commenced during the year.

Regarding the contemplated scheme by the Cuckfield Rural District Council for the provision of new sewers, reconstruction and repair of existing sewers, and the construction of new disposal works at Hurstpierpoint, which was referred to in the Annual Report for 1937, the scheme in question was approved and the works were commenced during the present year. The scheme for the provision of sewerage for the Sayers Common district of Hurstpierpoint was also completed.

The comprehensive schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal providing for the two groups of contiguous parishes in the Ouse Drainage Area of the Chailey Rural District were still under consideration at the end of the year.

The scheme of the Uckfield Rural District Council providing for improvements in connection with the sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements in adjoining portions of the parishes of Buxted, Crowborough, and Withyham was approved and the works of construction were in progress at the end of the year. The proposals effect the centralisation of sewage treatment at the existing St. John's Works, Withyham, and provide for their extension to deal with the increased volume of sewage and for the consequent abolition of the Ocklye Outfall Works which had become obsolete.

The following table summarises the applications made to the Ministry of Health by authorities in connection with works of sewerage, sewage disposal and water supply which were the subject of Local Inquiries at which the County Council was represented.

TABLE XXX.

Date of Inquiry.	District.	Subject Matter of Inquiry.	Amount of Loan.
1938			£
1st March	Battle Rural	Water supply (Catsfield)	5,200
13th December	Burgess Hill Urban ..	Sewerage and sewage disposal	13,912

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929—SECTION 57 (1), PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—SECTION 307.

Seven applications for financial assistance, under the specified Sections of the above Acts, were received during the year from several local authorities in connection with schemes for the provision of water supply or sewerage and sewage disposal, and in two instances contributions were approved. Since the Act came into force in 1930 contributions have been made by the County Council in the following instances :—

Local Authority.	#	Parish or Area Concerned.	Scheme.
Portslade Urban District .. ..	..	Mile Oak	Sewerage.
Battle Rural District .. ..	..	Salehurst	Sewerage and sewage disposal.
" " " " .. ..	..	Crowhurst	Water supply.
Chailey " " " " .. ..	..	Ditchling, Barcombe, and parishes intervening	Sewerage and sewage disposal.
" " " " " " .. ..	..	Kingston, Hord, Rodmell, Peacehaven, and Telscombe	" " " " " "
Cuckfield " " " " .. ..	..	West Hoathly	" " " " " "
" " " " " " .. ..	..	Hurstpierpoint	" " " " " "
" " " " " " .. ..	..	Hurstpierpoint (at Sayers Common) ..	" " " " " "
" " " " " " .. ..	..	Poyning	" " " " " "
" " " " " " .. ..	..	West Hoathly (at Birch Grove) ..	Water supply.
Hailsham " " " " .. ..	..	Hailsham and Hellingly	Sewerage and sewage disposal.
Uckfield " " " " .. ..	..	Rotherfield	" " " " " "
" " " " " " .. ..	..	Maresfield	Water supply.
" " " " " " .. ..	..	Withyham	Sewerage and sewage disposal.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

This Act is administered by the General Purposes Committee of the County Council, and not by the Public Health and Housing Committee.

The subjoined summary shows the number of samples taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, during the year 1938, together with the number of adulterated samples detected :—

TABLE XXXI.

Article Analysed.	Total No. of Samples.	Report of Analysis.		Greatest amount of adulteration of any one sample.
		No. Genuine.	No. Adulterated.	
FORMAL SAMPLES.				
Butter	1	1	—	(a) One sample was deficient in fat 33.0% and one in solids not fat 11.4%.
Milk	325	299	26 (a)	
INFORMAL SAMPLES.				
Aspirin Tablets ..	1	1	—	(b) One sample was deficient in fat 61.6% and one in solids not fat 48.8%. (c) Deficient in ethyl nitrite 48.8%.
Bread	1	1	—	
Butter	17	17	—	
Camphorated Oil ..	1	1	—	
Chocolate	1	1	—	
Cocoa	3	3	—	
Coffee	14	14	—	
Coffee and Chicory ..	1	1	—	
Cream	9	9	—	
Demerara Sugar ..	4	4	—	
Ground Ginger ..	2	2	—	
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	1	—	
Linseed Meal ..	1	1	—	
Malted Milk ..	1	1	—	
Margarine	1	1	—	
Milk	28	—	28 (b)	
Sweet Spirits of Nitre	1	—	1 (c)	
Tincture of Quinine ..	1	1	—	
Tinned Full Cream Unsweetened Milk	3	3	—	
Tinned Milk ..	3	3	—	
Vinegar	1	1	—	
Formal Samples ..	326	300	26	
Informal Samples ..	95	66	29	
Totals	421	366	55	

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925.

One hundred and five samples were obtained and submitted to examination under the above Regulations during the year as follows :—

Bread, 1; Biscuit Meal, 1; Cake, 2; Confectionery, 54; Cordial, 1; Cream, 8; Fruit, 2; Ginger, 1; Honey, 2; Jam, 1; Lemon Curd, 1; Meat Paste, 1; Meat Pie, 1; Mince Meat, 1; Pickles, 2; Pork, 1; Preserved Fruits, 1; Salmon, 1; Sausages, 8; Sausage Skin, 1; Seasoning, 2; Soup, 1; Steak and Kidney Pudding, 1; Tinned Cream, 2; Tinned Fish, 1; Tinned Fruit, 1; Tinned Meat, 2; Tinned Peas, 1; Tomato Sauce, 1; Tongue, 1; Veal and Ham Pie, 1.

Confectionery. Of the 54 samples, 11 contained sulphur dioxide, the amounts being within the limit prescribed by the Regulations.

Sausages. Two of the 8 samples, 1 informal and 1 formal, contained a trace of boric acid contrary to the Regulations.

NOTES ON INQUESTS HELD IN THE LEWES CORONER'S DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1938.

By EDWARD FITZWILLIAM HOARE, M.D., CH.B., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

The number of deaths reported to the Coroner during the year was 544, a decrease of 11 on the previous year. This includes 153 in mental institutions, 7 in other institutions, and 384 other persons—in all, 289 males and 255 females.

Apart from the deaths in mental institutions there were 391 other cases, 229 being disposed of by inquiries and medical reports, including 63 by post-mortem examinations, leaving 162 to be disposed of by inquests.

The latter, with the 2 inquests on mental cases brings the total number of inquests held to 164, an increase of 5 on the previous year.

The total number of post-mortems was 17 in cases of inquests and 63 in non-inquest cases, making a total of 80. This is an increase from 39, due largely to the inherent necessity of the case and in part possibly to the greater facilities now available for such examinations. To some extent adequate mortuary accommodation may tend to increase these examinations as more useful information is obtainable in proportion to the suitability of accommodation and operator.

The number of inquests exceeds the number of verdicts returned by 1, this arising in a case of murder adjourned under Section 20 of the Coroners Act—subsequently found guilty but insane at Assize.

The verdicts returned are shewn in Table XXXII.

As to the manslaughter verdicts, these were both road fatalities and both were found not guilty, at Assize, of manslaughter, but one guilty of dangerous driving.

The suicides were 27 males and 14 females, showing a decrease of 5 males and 8 females, resulting in a decrease of 13 for the year, so the final figure of 41 is well below the five years' average of 49.4. This decrease is possibly due to an all-round economic improvement. The analysis of periods, causation, and methods is here set out and the Home Office return of age groups:—

Month.	Male.	Female.	Total.
January	4	1	5
February	3	2	5
March	4	1	5
April	1	3	4
May	1	2	3
June	—	2	2
July	1	1	2
August	3	1	4
September	2	1	3
October	5	—	5
November	3	—	3
December	—	—	0
	27	14	41

ANALYSIS OF SUICIDE.

Causation.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Methods.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mental Instability ..	11	5	16	Gassing	5	8	13
Worry (finance, domestic, etc.)	4	4	8	Hanging	7	—	7
Disease, or dread ..	4	4	8	Drowning	4	3	7
Grief	3	1	4	Cliff jumping	4	2	6
Drink, drugs	1	—	1	Shooting	2	—	2
Loneliness	2	—	2	Poisoning	2	—	2
Insomnia	—	—	—	Trains	1	1	2
Love	2	—	2	Throat cutting	1	—	1
Felo-de-se	—	—	—	Electricity	1	—	1
	27	14	41		27	14	41

HOME OFFICE RETURN OF AGES OF SUICIDES.

Age Group.	Felo-de-se.		Others.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
16 to 17	—	—	1	—	1
17 " 21	—	—	1	—	1
21 " 30	—	—	3	—	3
30 " 40	—	—	2	4	6
40 " 50	—	—	4	3	7
50 " 60	—	—	5	4	9
60 and over	—	—	11	3	14
	—	—	27	14	41

Accidental Deaths. An analysis table showing the monthly rate, the type of vehicle involved, and the class of accident causing the death is here set out :—

ANALYSIS OF ALL ACCIDENTAL DEATHS FOR 1938.

ROAD ACCIDENTS					OTHER ACCIDENTS															
Date	Cars	Bus and Lorry	Motor Cycles	Cycles (pedal)	Total	Falls	Drowning	Burns	Wounds	Gun	Suffocation	Crushing	Gas	Air	Train	Sport	Drugs	Total	Total of all Accidents	
January	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	8	9	
February	1	—	2	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	1 tree fall	—	1	—	football hunting	—	5	9	
March ..	—	—	2	3	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	
April ..	1	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	
May ..	1	—	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	1 horse kick	—	—	1	—	—	5	7	
June ..	3	3	—	1	7	3	—	—	1	—	1	1 pile driving	—	—	—	1 bathing	—	7	14	
July ..	2	1	3	—	6	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	10	
August	—	—	1	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	1 pile driving	—	—	1	—	—	4	7	
September	1	—	—	—	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	1 folding bed	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	
October	3	2	1	1	7	2	1	—	—	—	2	1 timber falling	1	—	—	—	—	7	14	
November	—	1	2	—	3	3	1	1	—	—	1	1 quarry	—	—	2	—	—	8	11	
December	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1 engine	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	
	12	7	12	11	42	23	5	6	2	—	6	8	1	2	5	3	1	62	104	

Under cars and vans, one more is to be added to each, as being deaths due to vehicles but caused by manslaughter and not, therefore, falling under a verdict of accident.

This brings the total of vehicular deaths to 44 which, with the other fatalities of 62, amount to 106 in all, and still leaving the "other" accidents exceeding the vehicle ones by 18. This is a lessening of traffic fatalities of 4 on last year's 48, but an increase of 19 in the other accidents.

The analysis shows the type of vehicle involved. This year the Omnibuses, lorries, and vans have been separated from "cars" as broadly the classification amounts to a distinction between private and commercial vehicles—last year there were 19 cars and 11 "commercial" vehicles involved—this year the figures are 13 "private" and 8 "commercial," a lessening of 9 accidents but motor-cycle accidents have increased by 4 and pedal-cycle ones by 1, leaving only a total lessening of 4 fatalities in all.

Nearly all the pedal-cycles were involved in collisions with cars. The main root cause appears to be failure to be seen early enough, either from ineffective rear light or want of arm signals. One curious factor emerges from the figures and that is the increasing deaths of elderly bicyclists—no less than 6 out of the 11 accidents involving riders of over 58 years old (including 4 of over 70 years) whereas only one young person of 14 was killed. This perhaps indicates a certain lack of skill and quickness and a tendency to become confused under modern traffic conditions and the figures over two years would seem to indicate that the risk of cycling increases with advancing years. But in the main and except in a few odd cases nothing can alter the fact that the death arose from collision with a motor vehicle, and the two outstanding remedies would seem to be a wider clearance of bicycles by motorists and a clearer indication by cyclists of where they are in the road and what they propose to do.

The age group of these vehicular fatalities is not without interest, especially in relation to the Safety First training of children. It is as follows :—

Under 10 years	..	..	..	..	3 (which 3 were under 7 years old)
10 years to 20	..	..	..	..	6
20 " " 30	..	..	..	..	12
30 " " 40	..	..	..	..	5
40 " " 50	..	..	..	..	3
50 " " 60	..	..	..	..	3
Over 60 years	..	..	..	..	12

This age group is of the victims and it is rather curious that the alert age between 20 and 50 should be so high, but this supports the view that those over 60 tend to be more helpless under modern traffic conditions than school children.

The perusal of this analysis leads me to compare the age group of the victims with those causing the deaths and their analysis is as follows:—

Under 20 years	..	..	..	..	3
20 to 30	..	..	..	..	18
30 .. 40	..	..	..	..	10
40 .. 50	..	..	..	..	5
50 .. 60	..	..	..	..	2
Over 60	..	..	..	..	6

It would appear that "the dangerous age" is between 20 and 40, followed by a period of carefulness in the next 20 years and thereafter by a slowly increasing danger period, due to slowed reaction in sight, hearing, and responsiveness. I say this because on the actual facts in evidence there is a broad distinction between these age groups, the younger having as a root cause of accident excessive speed—the older a lack of control in emergency—in the one case a deliberate getting into difficulties, in the other a difficulty in getting out of difficulties.

As to the masculine myth of "women being no good in emergency"—it may or may not be so; perhaps the feminine driver has the good sense not to create emergencies and so is not called on to avoid them but at any rate from a "safety first" point of view it is laudable and the fact emerges that it is seldom a female driver appears in my Court as the slayer; this last year, for instance, in only 3 cases as compared with 41 males, two in the 20 to 30 age group and one in the 40 to 50 group. It would be interesting to compare this with the female defendants in civil actions, if the ratio were largely increased it might show woman drivers had more accidents but it is quite obvious they are almost a negligible quantity as regards fatalities, especially as the ratio of female to male drivers is steadily increasing.

The suffocation group, unfortunately, with the exception of one, all involve the loss of life of children or youths. There was no case of "over-lying," but three cases of deaths whilst lying in cots, by the use of soft feather pillows and the dragging of the blanket up to the mouth. These cases arouse great interest and one lady took the trouble to write from Australia mentioning that "out there" they had a specially hard material to stuff the pillows and also tied the infant in a loose bag, secured lightly round the neck, both to obviate the necessity of much bedding and the risk of the sleeping infant pulling the blankets up to its mouth. Whatever the value of these suggestions, there is no doubt as to the extreme danger of using soft pillows.

This "other accidents" group, as will be seen from the table is nearly half as much again as the traffic group, whereas last year, for the first time, it actually fell below the traffic group, and the total is increased from 43 to 62, whereas the traffic fatalities fell from 48 to 42, so the total increase to 104 from 91 is entirely due to "other accidents."

The air disasters were both concerned with R.A.F. machines—one due to the parachute failing to open in a forced descent after collision with another machine—the other due to flying into an overhead cable.

Legally, some points of interest arose. In one manslaughter case which was sent to Assize, before the Justices had heard it, the Judge stressed the right of the accused to be heard before the Justices and enlarged the recognizance till the next Assize, when the Justices meanwhile having found the accused not guilty of manslaughter but guilty of dangerous driving, the prosecution offered no evidence at the next Assize and the accused was discharged.

The other interest is the new Factory Act which enlarges the class of accidents falling within the survey of the Factory Inspector, so enabling one to have the assistance of the Inspector at more inquests and it further clears up and settles the right of additional persons to examine the witnesses, "subject to the power of the Coroner to disallow any question which is not relevant or is otherwise not a proper question"—whereas heretofore though especially requested to allow certain persons to question witnesses, the Coroner was not bound to allow any questioning of the witnesses. This therefore now gives the right to the workman's representatives to ask questions concerning industrial accidents and is extended to deaths from industrial diseases. Further, if at any inquest at which an Inspector had not necessarily to be present, it appears that any neglect or defect caused the accident or disease, the Coroner shall give notice thereof to the Inspector.

The numbers of inquests with Juries was 65—those without 99. So that relatively this is the same proportion with Juries as last year because, though the road accidents were less, the industrial accidents among "other accidents" necessitated a Jury.

Expenses Incurred by the Coroner. These were £932 3s. 2d., an increase on 1937 of £100, bringing the figure to about the same as 1936, due to a slight increase in the number of inquests, an increase in the number of post-mortem examinations and the rather unusual costs of bringing witnesses long distances—an unfortunate result of motoring tending to become more universal rather than local—frequently it happens that persons involved in car accidents have ultimately to be brought to inquest from quite distant parts.

TABLE XXXII.

Return of Inquests held in the Administrative County during 1938.

CORONER'S DISTRICT.	Sex.	Deaths by Wilful or Criminal Acts.				Deaths from Neglect, Exposure or Excess.			Disease aggravated by neglect	Want of attention at birth.	Accidental causes.	Natural causes.	"Open " Verdict.				Stillborn.	Destroyed during birth.	Inquests but no verdicts returned.	Treasure Trove.	Total.	
		Murder and Manslaughter.	Suicide.	Felo-de-se.	Want, cold and exposure.	Excessive Drinking & Drugs	Injuries.	Drowning.					Other known causes.	Unascertainable causes.	Male.	Female.						
LEWES DISTRICT.	Males ...	2	27	—	—	—	—	2	65	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	102	—		
	Females ...	—	14	—	—	1	—	—	39	2	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	62		
RYE DISTRICT.	Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—		
	Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
RAPE OF HASTINGS AND HUNDRED OF ROBERTSBRIDGE.	Males ...	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	14	—		
	Females ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	10		
TOTAL ...	Males ...	2	34	—	—	—	—	2	72	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	119	—			
	Females ...	—	17	—	—	1	—	—	42	3	1	5	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	73		

TABLE XXXIII.
Meteorological Data, 1938.

RECORDING STATION.	DETAILS SUPPLIED BY	RAIN GAUGE. Diameter of funnel: height above ground; and above sea level.	RAINFALL IN INCHES.												Total rainfall in inches, 1938.	Average rainfall for 5 years, 1934 to 1938.
			January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.		
LEWES	J. T. P. Johnston, Esq.	8 inches. 15 inches. 11.34 feet.	5.27 *6.31	1.12 6.16	0.74 4.37	0.52 3.31	2.86 3.41	0.88 1.98	2.03 1.49	1.26 1.44	2.74 3.09	5.39 3.40	4.49 1.56	3.75 4.98	31.05 41.50	37.95
COXLOW, HORAM ...	Miss P. C. Harrison	5 inches. 12 inches. 260 feet.	4.58 *5.65	0.83 5.67	0.65 4.68	0.68 2.78	2.53 2.27	0.64 1.60	2.48 1.17	1.79 1.58	3.57 2.17	5.28 3.89	4.29 1.62	3.73 4.11	31.05 37.19	33.92
HIGH CROSS, FRAM- FIELD.	R. L. Thornton, Esq., C.B.E., D.L.	5 inches. 12 inches. 200 feet.	4.09 *6.07	0.88 4.54	0.44 3.81	0.42 2.74	2.16 2.81	0.41 1.39	2.61 0.95	2.21 1.24	2.62 2.13	4.59 3.48	3.81 1.70	3.71 3.86	27.95 34.72	32.57
SEAFORD	E. Sykes, Esq.	5 inches. 12 inches. 45 feet.	3.75 *4.67	0.84 4.85	0.75 3.19	0.31 2.56	2.74 2.69	0.27 1.42	1.59 1.33	1.88 1.62	3.49 2.14	3.14 2.89	4.21 1.68	3.20 4.14	26.17 33.18	28.88
BEXHILL	H. J. Sargent, Esq.	9 inches. 12 inches. 11.98 feet.	3.81 *5.23	0.94 4.83	0.55 4.03	0.69 2.58	2.36 2.19	0.44 1.96	1.32 1.08	1.53 1.73	2.54 2.62	2.93 3.79	3.90 1.27	2.83 4.21	23.84 35.52	29.90
SOUTH RIDGE, HEATHFIELD ...	P. Lennox Wright, Esq.	8 inches. 12 inches. 540 feet.	4.86 *6.64	0.82 5.86	1.04 4.17	0.75 3.11	3.36 2.77	0.73 2.21	3.04 1.08	2.17 1.87	4.60 2.03	4.18 4.59	3.86 1.84	4.22 4.84	33.63 41.01	35.51
DARVELL HALL SANATORIUM, ROBERTSBRIDGE	Dr. J. R. Dingley	5 inches. 3 feet. 100 feet.	4.42 *6.23	0.49 5.79	0.52 3.90	0.45 2.45	2.52 2.37	0.92 1.94	2.27 0.82	1.50 1.50	3.25 1.85	4.69 2.71	3.97 1.06	3.47 4.34	28.47 34.96	33.66

* The figures in italics are the records for 1937.

