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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, 1939

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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F. J. PARSONS, LTD., THE COUNTY PRINTERS, LEWES, HASTINGS AND SEAFORD.

1940

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Twelfth Annual Report, and the forty-fifth of the series, on the Health of the Administrative County of East Sussex in the calendar year 1939. The Ministry of Health in their Circular 2067 dated 19th July, 1940, stated that interim

The Ministry of Health in their Circular 2067 dated 19th July, 1940, stated that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939 and that these should be confined to essential and urgent matters. This Report, therefore, is curtailed in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, but records of matters not included will be carefully preserved in order that, after the termination of the war, a full Report may be issued.

Vital Statistics.

In order that there may be continuity of record, the vital statistics of the county for 1939 are submitted in the customary tabular form at the end of this Report. Summarising them, the **Birth Rate**, **11.76** per 1,000 of the estimated population, was lower than in 1938 and compares with a rate of **15.0** per 1,000 for England and Wales. The general **Death Rate** was higher than in 1938, being **13.11** per 1,000 of the population compared with 12.82 in the previous year. Corrected for age and sex distribution the rate was **10.23**, while that for England and Wales was **12.1**.

The **Infant Mortality Rate**, which had been reduced to 31.8 per 1,000 live births in 1938, was higher in 1939, being **34.69** per 1,000. There were 10 more deaths of infants under one year than in 1938. The illegitimate death rate was also higher (16 deaths as compared with six in 1938), the ten additional deaths raising the rate from 33.52 (in 1938) to 91.95 per 1,000 illegitimate deaths.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for the County as a whole was 2.72 per 1,000 live and still births. The 1938 figure was 1.58. For the area in which the County Council is the Welfare Authority the rate was 1.54, as compared with 1.55 in 1938. This is the lowest rate so far recorded in this area.

The number of deaths from **Tuberculosis**, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary, showed a slight increase over 1938, but the rate for pulmonary tuberculosis was lower on the increased population. On the other hand, there were fewer deaths from **Respiratory disease**, including pneumonia, than in the previous year.

Deaths from both **Cancer** (640) and **Heart Disease** (1,334) were greater in number in 1939 than in 1938 (Cancer 614, Heart Disease 1,178), although the death rate from Cancer was lower than in the previous year on the increased population.

The Registrar General has stated that until the 30th September, 1939, the usual practice of transferring deaths to the usual place of residence was maintained, but that from that date all deaths would be assigned to the area in which death occurred. An adjustment in the estimated population of each district has been made by the Registrar General for the purpose of the calculation of the Death Rates.

Births, however, were transferred to the area of usual residence, but for the purpose of calculating infant and maternal mortality a secondary assignment has been made corresponding to that adopted for deaths. Two sets of Birth figures have therefore been supplied by the Registrar General, one for calculating the Birth Rates and one for the Infant and Maternal Mortality rates.

Infectious Diseases. (See Table V.)

No notifiable Infectious Disease occurred in epidemic form in 1939. Immunisation of children against diphtheria has been strongly advocated by all the District Medical Officers of Health. The administrative measures taken for this by the Local Authorities vary in effectiveness. It was recommended during the year that consideration should be given by the County Council, as the Welfare Authority, to the desirability of giving financial assistance to the District Councils, with a view to more active steps being introduced to ensure the protection of children from diphtheria, which is still one of the principal killing diseases of childhood.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

The provision for isolating cases of infectious disease remained as set out in last year's Report, except

(1) that the East Grinstead Urban District Council and the Uckfield Rural District Council together have made an arrangement with the Council of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells to receive patients in the Tunbridge Wells Isolation Hospital when the accommodation at the High Grove Hospital, East Grinstead, is overtaxed, and

(2) that a Joint Isolation Hospital Board was formed under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, consisting of representatives of the Urban Councils of Newhaven and Seaford and of the Borough of Lewes to administer the Newhaven Isolation Hospital as the hospital for the reception of cases of infectious disease from their respective districts.

Tuberculosis.

257 primary notifications of tuberculosis were received in 1939, 180 of which were of pulmonary and 77 of other tuberculous diseases, as compared with a total of 363 in 1938. 164 patients (81 males and 83 females) with pulmonary tuberculosis and 14 patients (3 males and 11 females) with non-pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to the Darvell Hall Sanatorium from the East Sussex area, and at the end of the year there were 53 East Sussex patients under treatment there.

Steps were taken during the year to increase the provision made for Sanatorium treatment at Darvell Hall. The proposal to erect a new Men's Hospital and to increase the accommodation at the Sanatorium from 93 to 162 beds, in order that patients with chronic and advanced disease need no longer be sent to Poor Law Institutions, could not be carried out, owing to the war. A small extension was, however, made, after the close of the year, giving an additional 15 beds for male patients. Occupational therapy was made more effective, in 1939, by the appointment of a Handicrafts Instructor. Dr. J. I. Terry was appointed to assist Dr. Dingley in the increased work at the Lewes Artificial Pneumothorax Clinic. Arrangements for the recovery of the cost of Sanatorium Treatment were reviewed during the year. Under the Military Training Act, 1939, the services of the Tuberculosis Officer were made available for providing expert advice in respect of tuberculosis when required by Military Medical Boards.

Venereal Diseases.

The total attendances at the Out-patient Clinics at Brighton, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells were 5,735, as against 7,351 in 1938. This reduction was possibly caused by lack of facilities for travelling owing to war conditions, rather than to a decrease in the prevalence of the disease. The number of in-patient days was 102, as compared with 115 in 1938.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service was fully maintained throughout the whole of the year 1939. The Government Evacuation Scheme placed a heavy responsibility on the County Council in relation to the care of mothers and infants and of young children under the age of five years. In addition to the services provided for local residents, an emergency maternity home of 86 beds was established for evacuees at Bexhill, with a resident Medical Officer and an Assistant Medical Officer. 201 confinements occurred at this home in less than three months without the loss of the life of one mother. In addition to the evacuees received at Bexhill, approximately 304 others in various stages of pregnancy were received in billets in other parts of the county. Certain of these, however, returned home before their confinements, but up to the end of 1939, 57 had been provided with hospital treatment in hospitals other than the Bexhill Emergency Maternity Home. The Borough Council of Hove, an independent Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare, also provided special maternity accommodation for evacuees.

Additional Infant Welfare Centres and additional sessions at existing Centres were provided for evacuees, who were afforded the same facilities as local residents in all respects. Dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and of infants under the age of five years was continued without interruption and 2,707 mothers and 681 infants were dealt with.

The number of certified midwives who notified their intention to practise, either temporarily or permanently in the area for which the County Council are responsible, was 216. At the end of the year there were 157 certified midwives on the register. Seventeen cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, including eight evacuees, were notified during the year in the maternity and child welfare area; nine of these were treated in hospital. In none of the cases was there any impairment of vision reported. Fifty-two cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in the maternity and child welfare area. Of these, 33 received hospital treatment under the County Council's scheme and 19 received treatment in their homes. All the patients recovered. Seventeen marasmic, i.e., wasting, infants were admitted to the Chailey Heritage Hospital.

On the 31st December, 1939, there were 406 children and 180 foster parents on the Child Life Protection Register. 874 visits were made during the year by the Infant Protection Visitors and District Nurses. Eleven applications for the registration of premises under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936, were received and granted. Seven homes were closed voluntarily. At the end of the year there were 63 homes on the County Register.

Welfare of the Blind.

By the death of Mr. J. L. P. W. Hewison in 1939 the Blind Persons Sub-Committee lost a most able Chairman, and the blind in the County and in the Southern Region an untiring worker on their behalf. The Southern Regional Association for the Blind was reorganised under his Chairmanship during the year. The Association keeps a central register of blind persons in the region, collates statistics for the Ministry of Health and assists County Associations to solve local problems. On the 31st March, 1940, there were 519 blind persons on the register, an increase of eight during the year.

In September, 1939, about 300 evacuees, official and unofficial, from London, Croydon and other areas, arrived in East Sussex, and their care was undertaken by the East Sussex Association for the Blind on behalf of the County Council, together with the paying of domiciliary assistance allowances. The majority of these persons were billeted in Bexhill, Lewes and Hove.

Mental Treatment.

The Mental Treatment Clinics set up by the Visiting Committee of the County Mental Hospital have met a real need in providing out-patient guidance and treatment for persons suffering from incipient or developed nervous disorders. It is regretted that the Committee did not see their way to extend the service, in order to enable persons who are in need of examination, but who are unable or unwilling to attend the Clinics, to be visited once in their homes by a Consulting Psychiatrist.

Mental Deficiency.

At the end of December, 1939, there were 686 mentally defective persons on the County Register, as compared with 657 in 1938. 182 were being maintained in Certified Institutions, four in Approved Homes, 34 were on licence from Institutions, 81 were under guardianship, six on licence from guardianship, and 379 not under order were under supervision, including 24 in Poor Law Institutions.

Milk and the Public Health.

As the safeguarding of the purity of milk and its freedom from infection is a matter of the utmost moment to the public health, a representation was made during the year to the Agricultural Committee that arrangements should be made for collaboration between the Officers of the two Committees in regard to the administration of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in order that the Public Health Department should have a greater degree of responsibility in what is primarily a public health matter. Following a Conference between representatives of both Committees a measure of co-operation was introduced, which should be extended to include the regular inspection, by officers of the Public Health staff, of the sources of supply of accredited milk.

General Nursing of the Sick.

Further provision was made, during 1939, to afford financial assistance to Voluntary Associations employing trained nurses for nursing the sick in the County.

Public Assistance.

The number of beds available in Southlands Hospital and the Infirmaries at the end of 1939, excluding those for mental defectives and Lunacy Act patients, was 1,331. In addition, beds were reserved at the Eastbourne St. Mary's Hospital and at the Hastings Municipal Hospital. Maternity patients and women suffering from puerperal pyrexia are received at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, from East Sussex, West Sussex, Hove and Worthing. Maternity patients were also received at the Battle, Cuckfield and Newhaven Institutions. The Cuckfield and Chailey Institutions are Certified Institutions under the Mental Deficiency Acts, and between them provide accommodation for 68 male and 35 female mental defectives.

The free choice of doctor domiciliary medical service has been extended during the year, and has now been introduced into one Borough, three Urban and 29 Rural Parishes. Further extension of this Scheme has been postponed until after the war.

Civil Nursing Reserve.

Early in the year the Ministry of Health asked the County Council to make local arrangements to recruit nursing personnel for the Civil Nursing Reserve, which was to consist of trained nurses, not already engaged in hospital, assistant nurses with some hospital experience and nursing auxiliaries enrolled from members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the British Red Cross Society or from the general public. Those without previous training were required to undertake courses in first aid and home nursing and a minimum period of 50 hours' instruction in hospital. Members of the Civil Nursing Reserve are available to supplement, where necessary, the nursing staffs of Hospitals, District Nursing Associations and First Aid Posts. The County Medical Officer was entrusted with the organisation of the local arrangements for recruitment and training. Up to the 31st December, 1939, there had been 1,493 applications for training nursing auxiliaries, of whom 1,474 had been accepted. At the end of the year there were 923 registered members in this county, of whom 235 were trained nurses, 111 assistant nurses and 577 qualified nursing auxiliaries, whilst 551 applicants were still receiving nursing auxiliary training; 600 of the members (128 trained nurses, 52 assistant nurses and 420 nursing auxiliaries) had been allocated to hospitals, First Aid Posts or to district nursing.

Appointment of Deputy County Medical Officer of Health.

In view of the large increase in the work of the Public Health Department, the County Council, at the end of the year, authorised the appointment of Dr. Frank Langford as Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer, who took up his appointment on the 1st February, 1940.

Air Raid Precautions.

On 10th January, 1939, the Minister of Health issued Circular 1764, which gave effect to the transfer from the Home Office to his Department of the responsibility for approving, under the Air Raid Precautions Act, 1937, the provisions in Local Authorities' Schemes which relate to First Aid Posts, First Aid Points and Ambulance Services. Circular 1764 placed upon Local Authorities the responsibility for organising an Emergency Ambulance Service, and the County Medical Officer of Health was designated as County Ambulance Officer to organise the Service. The establishment for East Sussex was originally fixed at 126 Ambulances, of which approximately half were standing by whole-time and were manned by personnel who would report for duty when required; 84 cars for sitting casualties were also included in the Service.

Fourteen First Aid Posts and 11 Mobile Posts were established in the County for the treatment of air raid casualties. The staff of these Posts consisted of a medical officer in charge, a trained nurse and nursing auxiliaries. Some Posts are manned continuously by both whole-time and part-time nursing personnel, while others are manned by part-time volunteers who attend either on a duty roster, on the sounding of an air raid warning, or at such other times as may be required.

Arrangements were made during the year for qualified Home Office Instructors to give demonstrations of the Baby's Protective Helmet, prior to general distribution, to members of the medical and nursing profession. These demonstrations, held in all the main towns and villages in the county, proved to be of interest and help and were well attended.

Dr. W. C. Bentall was appointed as Assistant Medical Officer (Air Raid Precautions) on the 3rd May, 1939. He resigned his appointment to take up a post in the Ministry of Health on the 21st March, 1940.

Emergency Medical Service.

On the 1st September, 1939, a telegram was received from the Regional Hospital Officer of the Ministry of Health with instructions to "clear hospitals." These instructions were immediately conveyed to all Hospitals, Institutions and Homes included in the Emergency Scheme, a description of which was given last year. All patients who could reasonably be sent home or sent to friends or relatives were immediately discharged. Beds made available by these discharges were then reserved for the reception of patients evacuated from London Hospitals and the number received into the county was approximately 450, while a further 86 patients were received from Hastings.

Distribution of medical equipment to Hospitals and First Aid Posts from a Central Store at the Hellingly Mental Hospital was carried into effect during August, 1939, with great efficiency by the Steward of the Mental Hospital.

Acknowledgments.

The year 1939 began under the shadow of war and the last four months saw the country actually at war. I should like to express my very deep appreciation of the support and encouragement so constantly given to me and to the staff of the Health Department throughout the year by the County Council, its Committees, and by individual members in the work connected with the adaptation and expansion of the health services to meet new and unprecedented circumstances. The staff answered every call for intensive exertion to cope with ever increasing work, and I take this opportunity of thanking them all for their loyal, cheerful and unselfish devotion to duty.

Public Health Department,

County Hall, Lewes. December, 1940. R. ASHLEIGH GLEGG,

County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

TABLE I.

Group.	Population estimated by Registrar		live rths.	De	aths.	D (un	nfant eaths der t sar).	fi H	eaths rom eart sease.	Pulm	hs from ionary reulosis.	ot Tube	hs from her rculous eases.	Respi Disci not in	is from ratory uses, cluding ienza.	fr	om ncer.
	General 1939.	No.	Rate.	No.	• Rate.	No.	† Rate.	No.	• Rate.	No.	• Rate.	No.	* Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
Large Towns	(a) 95,640 (b) 100,820	932	9.74	1004	15.91	35	35.82	537	5-33	39	. 39	9	.09	98	-97	263	2.61
other Urban Districts	(a) 63,460 (b) 66,180		13.61	808	12.21	26	29.55	2.48	3.75	32	.48	4	.06	48	.73	116	1.75
5 Rural Districts	(a) 143,700 (b) 151,800	1766	12.29	1766	11.63	66	36.59	549	3.62	48	.32	12	.08	111	.73	261	1.72
Whole County	(a) 302,800 (b) 318,800	3562	11.76	4178	13.11	127	34.69	1334	4.18	119	.37	25	.08	257	.81	640	2.01

† Rates calculated per 1,000 of the registered live births.
 ***** Rates calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population.
 (a) Population for calculation of Birth rates.
 ***** Rates calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population.
 (b) Population for calculation of Death rates.
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Totals for County		499647	302800	3562	11.76	122	.40	33.12	127	34.69	4178	13.11
TOTALS		464151	143700	1766	12.29	66	.46	36.03	66	36.59	1766	11.63
Uckfield		112096	38780	463	11.94	14	. 36	29-35	8	17.00	480	11.70
		94629	34460	433	12.56	15	+44	33.48	15	33.63	405	11.32
Cuckfield Hailsham		74335	24770	303	12.23	12	.48	38.10	16	51.28	307	11.58
Chailey		66038	17010	214	12.15	8	-45	36.04	12	55.81	217	11.78
Battle		117053	28080	353	12.57	17	,61	45-95	15	41.43	357	11.86
Five Rural Districts.			a9.09.						1997			
TOTALS	••	21562	63460	864	13.61	32	. 50	35.71	26	29.55	808	12.27
Seaford	•••	4274	9270	81	8.74	3	.32	35.71	2	23.81	118	12.29
Rye		1027	4149	58	13.98	2	.48	33-33	2	34.48	64	14.70
Portslade-by-Sea		1953	12420	209	16.83	9	.72	41.28	0	0,00	127	9.95
Newhaven		1772	7112	109	15.33	4	.56	35.40	2	18.35	90	12.25
East Grinstead		6600	9712	131	13.49	4	-4I	29.63	6	45-45	133	13.17
Cuckfield		3912	13880	189	13.62	4	.29	20.73	8	41.45	172	11.73
Burgess Hill		2024	6917	87	12.58	6	.87	64.52	6	65.93	104	13.11
Seven other Urban Dis	tricts.											
TOTALS	••	13934	95640	932	9-74	24	.25	25.10	35	35.82	1604	15.91
Lewes		1988	12020	163	13.56	6	.50	35.50	5	29.70	153	12.39
Hove		3953	59860	506	8.45	13	.22	25.05	20	38.83	1107	17-45
Bexhill		7993	23760	263	11.07	5	.21	18.66	10	34.01	344	13.74
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		Area in statute acres (land and inland water).	Population esti- mated by Regis- trar General. 1919-	Number.	Rate per 1,000	Number,	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Bye Births Registered.	Deaths at II Ages belonging to the District.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.
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TABLE II.

Owing to the movement of population during the latter part of 1939 the Registrar General has supplied separate figures for births on which the infant mortality has been calculated.

TABLE III.

Number of deaths at different periods of life in the Administrative County during the year 1939.

	1				Urb	an D	istric	ts.					1				Rura	d Dis	tricts	4				
Sex.		Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25- 35		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	1059	33	6	3	13	22	29	47	80	182	301	343	892	45	6	9	11	20	2.4	33	58	156	231	299
Females	1353	28	2	7	9	12	28	46	79	155	357	630	874	21	2	4	5	12	29	31	62	120	215	373
Totals	2412	61	8	10	22	31	57	93	159	337	658	973	1765	66	8	13	16	32	53	61	120	276	446	672

TABLE IV (a).

Causes of and Ages at Death during the year 1939 in the Urban Districts.

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6

Causes of and Ages at Death during the year 1939 in the Rural Districts. TABLE IV (b).

Deaths in or belonging to each District, at all ages. Uckfield. .madeliaH 0 1 0 mo 5 H C m | H 11 54 s Cuckfield. 14 | | | | + + | | 0 + | | 0 + 0 0 + 8 + 8 0 0 % | | | \$ 4 | = 0 0 4 0 0 | | Chailoy. Battle. sprewdu 75 and nuqet 75. 65 and 3410 10-1 111 HHH 11 10 200 nuqet 65. 55 and 10101 111 N 00 1 10 4 1 00 1 4 1 00 1 4 4 1 00 1 Deaths in or belonging to Districts, at subjoined ages. .25 apun band - | 01 121 33 18 50 W40 -St appan 13 cm | | | = | 00 N | | - - -1 4 20 1 1 1 NH 3 4 11 10 H Pue SE se and 25 and 5 10 1111 19 (7) H H H -1 11 -Sz Japun + | = 50 = 78 H ---- | | | -----11 00.19 pue SI order 15. Sand 1111 ------10+1 s and 2 and 11 H 01 01 |--||| 0 0 0 11 nuqet 3 -* T. 111 11 pue 1 year. ||||||»+|º|| 111 - | - | . 1 ||||#|||"| 1 Under I - - - - - - - -- 10 All Ages. :::::: ::: Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System Other Tuberculous Diseases ... Syphilis General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis Cancer, Malignant Disease ... Malforr ::::: Other Respiratory Diseases . Peptic Ulcer . Diarrhoza, etc. (under 2 years) Appendicits . Cirrhosis of Liver , etc. Other Diseases of Liver , etc. Other Diseases of Liver , etc. Other Diseases and Chronic Nephritis Prerperal Sepsis . Other Puerperal Causes . Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, M. CAUSES OF DEATH 11 1.1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers Measles Scattet Fever Whooping Cough Diphtheria Influeriza Encephalitis Lethargica Other Violence Other Defined Diseases Diarrheea (2 years and over) Diabetes Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. Heart Disease Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Other Violence Senility Suicide

480

405

217 307

357

672

446

276

120

5

22

32

16

2

-

89

1766

÷

8 2

{ Total ...

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

All Causes ...

7

TABLE V.

Cases of Notifiable Diseases occurring during the year 1939.

Rural Districts.

TOTAL NUMBERS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN EACH DISTRICT.

Urban Districts.

Boroughs.

inistraty.

Totals.		
	215 215 215 215 215 200 215 215 200 215 200 215 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 20	399
Uckfield.	21 H 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	117
.msdelisH	0 0 X H X 0 0 0 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	85
Cuckfield.	оо <u>По 4</u> 0000и оо но осонио	13
Chailey.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	27
Battle	0000000040H400008H0	102
.elais.	032000100000000000000000000000000000000	170
Seaford.	004000000000000000000000000000000000000	18
Portslade-	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	33
Иемрачеп	00%H 40000H 00H 00000 %0	17
East Grinstead.	004+00+00+0000000000	29
Cuckfield.	0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	20
Burgess	00HNH000000000000000	14
Totals.	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	219
Kye.	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	-61
Lewes.	00H000000000000000000	29
Bexhill.	о о о о о о о о о о о о о о о о о о о	59
Hove.	300000HH000/0000000	112
tive Court	0 0 0 0 1 1 2 2 0 0 0 1 1 2 2 0 0 0 1 1 2 2 0 0 0 0	788
mbA 101 lstoT		1
	Small-Pox	

*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.