

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, East Sussex County Council.

Contributors

East Sussex (England). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

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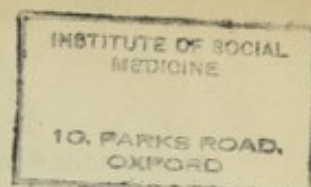
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EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UPON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the East Sussex County Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my seventeenth Annual Report, and the fiftieth of the series, on the Health of the Administrative County of East Sussex. The Report deals with the calendar year 1944, a year of great activity in preparation for the further development of the public health services.

National Health Service. Early in the year the Government indicated that they proposed to bring the Country's full resources to bear upon reducing ill health and promoting good health in all its citizens and to that end they published their proposals in a White Paper entitled "A National Health Service." The comprehensive state medical service therein set forth, embracing full domiciliary medical care and complete hospital provision for every member of the community involved far-reaching changes in regard to medical attention in sickness, both domiciliary and institutional, for the whole community and a considerable change in local government administration. The proposals received full consideration and were the subject of a memorandum by the County Medical Officer of Health to the Clerk of the County Council.

Rural Housing. The Government also represented to County Councils and Rural District Councils that steps should be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Report of the Central Housing Advisory Committee on Rural Housing, which was issued in May, 1944, and to that end to unite in making a combined effort to raise the standard of working class housing and to improve such allied services as water, sewerage, and the County health services. A Conference of representatives of the County Council and of the Rural District Councils was held in September, 1944, following which a Joint County Committee was formed to consider the whole question of rural housing including post-war programmes and standards. A Technical Committee, comprising officers of the Authorities, was appointed which drew up a suggested uniform standard for the demolition, reconditioning and repair of houses. This standard was accepted by the Joint Committee and recommended for adoption by the Constituent Authorities. The Technical Committee's report on the Survey of working-class houses was also accepted and recommended to be put into operation by the District Councils.

Water Supply. The need for improving the Water supply throughout the County, which was stressed by the Central Housing Committee, was, in 1944, the subject of another Conference consisting of representatives of the County Council, Local Authorities and Water Companies. Following this the Joint Advisory Committee on Water Supplies was reconstituted, with three Committees covering the whole County in areas most conveniently grouped for water supply purposes.

The Committees gave serious consideration to the needs both present and future of these areas and to the means by which these needs could best be met. Considerable progress has been made by the North-Western Area Committee in whose area conditions are particularly favourable to combination of effort. The other two Committees have made progress in their work of ascertainment of the possibilities of providing an adequate and sufficient piped water supply throughout their areas.

Civil Defence and Casualty Services. The County Council, while retaining the general direction of the civil defence services of the County, delegated from the early days of the war the detailed arrangements to the District Councils. These set up a complete organisation under District Sub-Controllers assisted by A.R.P. Organisers comprising a headquarters staff, and a service of wardens to report incidents, and of rescue and first-aid parties, decontamination squads, etc. The local Casualty Services included ambulances with drivers and attendants, first-aid posts both fixed and mobile with medical and trained and auxiliary nursing staff. In the rural districts many first-aid points were established and staffed by voluntary workers. District Medical Officers of Health with their sanitary officers were generally in charge of the casualty services, which involved them in much administrative and executive work and attendance at frequently held practices and demonstrations to maintain the efficiency of staff and vehicles. The County Medical Officer of Health, in addition to acting as medical adviser to Mr. Martin, the County Controller, and to Colonel Hickie, the A.R.P. Organiser, in regard to the Casualty Services of the County, held the office of County Ambulance Officer and administrative Gas Identification Officer. In the latter office most able assistance was given by Mr. Jessop, the County Health Inspector, who acted also as an A.R.P. Training Officer and as officer in charge of all County civil defence stores and also of stores supplied through the Ministry of Health for war time hospitals and institutions.

At the time of writing the war is officially at an end and tributes have been paid by the Ministry of Health to all connected with the civil defence services. It is with full knowledge of the self-sacrificing labours of those who were engaged in the Casualty Services both central and local that I can say that the Minister's tributes were well deserved by all engaged in these services throughout East Sussex and very specially by the devoted band of voluntary workers.

District Public Health Services. In addition to the special work undertaken jointly by the County Council and the District Councils during the year as mentioned above to effect a large scale improvement in regard to housing and water supplies, both the County Council and the Local Sanitary Authorities maintained the public health services at as high a level of efficiency as was possible with depleted staffs and with the extra heavy burden of work imposed upon them in respect of Civil Defence.

That these services were maintained efficiently is borne out by the very low incidence of disease generally considered to be attributable to insanitary conditions. (Vide Table IV appended.)

The health of the people in East Sussex was on the whole very good in 1944, in spite of war-time circumstances and restrictions. The Urban and Rural District Councils are the Sanitary Authorities, with executive powers and duties in respect of housing, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, the abatement of nuisances, the control of infectious disease and the supervision of the milk supply and of food exposed for sale. In general their public health powers and duties relate to the maintenance of healthy conditions of life in their areas.

County Public Health Services. The County Council, while having a general responsibility to the Ministry of Health for the efficiency of the environmental health services in the County, has, in increasing measure, been entrusted by the Government with the personal health services, which commence with those provided for the child pre-natally and extend after the child's birth, through school life, till old age, when special provision is made for malignant disease, which has its chief incidence in the closing years of life.

Needs in regard to Personal Health Services. The chief needs in respect of the County health services remain as set out in last year's report. Action is being taken to meet these needs as follows:—

Premises are being inspected with a view to providing institutional accommodation for advanced cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. Additional maternity hospital accommodation is being sought through the provision of new maternity units at Southlands Hospital and in connection with the Lewes and Bexhill Voluntary General Hospitals. A Conference has been held with representatives of the District Councils to consider how best to provide for aged and infirm persons and the Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective have under consideration the establishment of institutional accommodation for mental defectives of all ages.

There remain the following special needs which should be borne in mind as being required to make the health services more complete.

- (a) Hostel accommodation for chronic sufferers from tuberculosis.
- (b) Clinic premises for maternity and child welfare and school medical and dental work.
- (c) Convalescent Home accommodation.
- (d) Home for unmarried mothers under Welfare Authority auspices.
- (e) County Ambulance Service.

A review of the public health work of the County Council carried out in 1944 is set out hereunder, together with a brief note on the vital statistics and on the incidence of infectious disease.

Staff Changes. Dr. W. R. Dunstan, Medical Officer of Health of Lewes Borough, Seaford Urban District and Chailey Rural District, retired on health grounds on 31st March, 1944. He was succeeded by Dr. G. M. Davidson Lobban.

Dr. Dunstan had served the Education Committee of the County Council faithfully and well since 1913 when he was appointed Assistant School Medical Officer. During Mr. Foulerton's and Dr. Beeley's absence from 1915 to 1919 he acted as County Medical Officer of Health. On the rearrangement of county districts under the Local Government Act, 1929, Dr. Dunstan became the first whole-time Medical Officer of Health in the districts named above. Realising that sound child nutrition was of fundamental importance in the promotion of better health, he devoted much attention to this subject both as medical officer of health and as school doctor. He ably administered the public health services of his districts.

Mr. F. Harding, Assistant County Health Inspector, resigned in May, 1944, to take up the appointment of County Health Inspector in Buckinghamshire. Mr. T. F. Ayrton was appointed in his place.

Vital Statistics. (See Tables I, II, III and V appended.)

The **Estimated Population**, which decreased from 282,000 in 1942, to 273,700 in 1943, still further decreased in 1944 to 271,460, a reduction of 2,240 in the year.

The **Birth Rate** for the County was 17.77 per 1,000 of the estimated population, an increase of 1.43 over 1943, as compared with a rate of 17.6 for England and Wales. The **live births** increased from 4,473 in 1943 to 4,824 in 1944. The number of illegitimate live births in East Sussex was 605.

The general uncorrected **Death Rate** was 15.3 per 1,000 in 1944 as compared with 15.39 in 1943.

The **Infant Mortality Rate** for the Administrative County was 38.14 per 1,000 live births in 1944 as compared with 33.75 in 1943. The rate for the Welfare Authority area was 35.48. The illegitimate death rate was 51.4 per 1,000 illegitimate live births for the Welfare Authority Area and 51.2 in respect of the Administrative County as compared with 72.3 and 66.7 respectively in 1943.

The **Maternal Mortality Rate** for the Administrative County was 2.22 per 1,000 live and still births and 2.11 for the Welfare Authority area. The corresponding figures for 1943 were 1.96 and 2.02 respectively. There were 11 maternal deaths in the Administrative County.

The deaths from all forms of **Tuberculosis** show a decrease of 1 in 1944 over the previous year, there being 3 more deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 less from other tuberculous diseases.

Deaths from **Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases** (378) were 16 more than in 1943.

There was a reduction of 68 in the number of deaths from **Cancer** compared with the previous year. Deaths from **Heart Disease** increased by 73.

Infectious Diseases. The Returns given in Table IV appended refer only to civilians. Comparing them with those for the previous year it will be seen that there was a large reduction in the number of cases of measles—only 1,027 cases as compared with 4,091 in 1943. On the other hand, the number of cases of whooping cough shows an increase of 831 over the number notified in 1943. There was only one death from measles, but there were ten from whooping cough of which four were under one year of age, five were between one and five years and one was over 65 years of age. There were nine more cases of scarlet fever without any deaths, but diphtheria, with thirteen cases, claimed two deaths. These two had not been immunised. Only one case of enteric fever was notified. Dysentery was more prevalent in 1944, there being 129 cases notified as compared with 10 in 1943. Fifty-two of these were in the Cuckfield Urban District and 48 in the Hailsham Rural District, and in these districts the disease occurred chiefly amongst inmates of the Mental Hospitals.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Immunisation has been energetically carried out in all districts of the County by the District Medical Officers of Health with varying success. The County Council pay grants of 50 per cent. of the cost of immunising children under 5 years of age.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The services provided on behalf of mothers and children under five years were further improved and extended during 1944.

The Rushcliffe Midwives' Salaries Committee's recommendations as to salaries and conditions of service of district nurse midwives were adopted and applied, which gave great satisfaction to the nurses and should do much to raise the status of the profession, although full adoption will only be possible when a larger number of midwives becomes available.

Following the adoption of the Rushcliffe Report the County Council decided to simplify the method of payment of grants to the District Nursing Associations in respect of the midwifery and infant health visiting services by making block grants based on the salaries and allowances of the midwives at the commencement of the financial year. One half of the increased cost of carrying out the recommendations of the Rushcliffe Committee, after taking into account the grant from the County Council, is to be borne by the Ministry of Health. The County Council have been asked to make this payment on behalf of the Ministry.

Maternity Hospital Provision. Maternity hospital treatment was provided under the County Scheme for 1,020 women, 128 of whom were admitted to the Emergency Maternity Homes of the Ministry of Health, as evacuees from coastal areas.

The policy of the County Council in respect of maternity hospital accommodation as part of the Welfare Authority's provision for safeguarding motherhood is that such accommodation shall be made available to maternity patients in whose cases difficulty is expected or complications arise in connection with confinement; or whose home circumstances are unfavourable for safe delivery.

During 1944 it was found possible to provide hospital treatment for all who required it under the County Scheme. Negotiations are proceeding with a view to the provision of additional accommodation to meet the increasing need arising from the progressive increase in the birth rate.

Care of Illegitimate Children. District Nurse Midwives acting as Health Visitors continued to give special attention to the care of illegitimate children during the year. They made special reports regarding unmarried mothers who required help from welfare workers. These mothers were immediately put in touch with the officers of the Moral Welfare Association or with the County Council social welfare worker, and every effort was made to meet difficulties and to safeguard the children. The County Council made a grant of £50 to the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association in respect of their maintenance of a Home for unmarried mothers, which was reopened at Eastbourne during the year. This Home replaced Melbourne House, Crowborough, referred to in last year's Report, which was closed during the year owing to danger from flying bombs. The County Council are prepared to send unmarried mothers to that Home for three months before confinement and to maintain them there for nine months thereafter, in order that the children may benefit by breast feeding and that the mothers may learn how to care for their children. Very few of the mothers are willing to remain after the first three months after confinement.

It is considered that the provision of hostel accommodation made by the Moral Welfare Association should be supplemented by a Home for Unmarried Mothers administered under Welfare Authority auspices. Such a Home might, with advantage, serve the areas of more than one Welfare Authority.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939. During the year, the Child Life Protection Visitors visited and inspected the homes of 55 persons who proposed to adopt children and paid 90 visits to children who were under supervision pending adoption.

It is of importance that, when considering the suitability of persons applying to adopt children, the Court should have before it a certificate from the Medical Officer of the Welfare Authority as to the physical and mental health of the applicants.

As the law is administered at present, no reference is made to the Welfare Authority and representations by the County Medical Officer of Health as to unsuitability of prospective adopters are only made when, by indirect means, officers of the Authority happen to have heard that an application for this purpose is being made to the Court.

Care of premature infants. The Ministry of Health issued a circular 20/44, in March, 1944, on the care of premature infants. In this circular the Minister brought to the notice of the Welfare Authorities the recommendations of his Advisory Committee on the Welfare of Mothers and Young Children, regarding the care of premature infants, asking that such action as was practicable should be taken to make facilities available that are required for the care of these infants. The County Council adopted the recommendation relating to the provision of special equipment to be loaned by the Authority, including draught-proof cots, hot water bottles, warm clothing, special feeding bottles, etc. District Nurse Midwives were asked to report immediately to the County Nursing Superintendent any premature birth and they were informed of the equipment which could be provided on request. The services of a Paediatrician (specialist in the treatment of children) were authorised when available. It was not found to be practicable to provide a supply of expressed breast milk for such infants.

Home Helps. As reported last year the Scheme for the employment of whole-time Home Helps for mothers during the period of confinement was accepted by the Authority and approval was given early in 1944 to the appointment of three whole-time Home Helps and such part-time Home Helps as could be obtained. It was impossible to obtain during the year any whole-time women with suitable qualifications and it was not until the close of 1944 that the first appointment was made. At the time of writing, there are two whole-time Home Helps employed, whose services are being found to be of great value. Part-time Home Helps were employed during 1944 when available.

Contraceptive Advice. Contraceptive advice was given during the year at the Sussex Mothers' Clinic in Haywards Heath and in Brighton and Hastings to married women, in cases in which pregnancy would be dangerous to health. The Sussex Mothers' Clinic undertook a useful extension of their work by giving advice with regard to sterility. This is a branch of maternity and child welfare work which might well be developed and advice made available to all married women who might seek it in any part of the County after medical recommendation.

Midwifery, Health Visiting, Child Life Protection and other Services. The combined nursing scheme adopted in the County continues to work satisfactorily. Five Assistant County Nursing Superintendents employed by the County Council supervise the combined work of the midwives, nurse-midwives and health visitors and carry out other public health duties for the County Council under the direction of the County Nursing Superintendent and County Medical Officer.

During 1944, 61 Infant Welfare Centres held regular sessions. Of these, 55 were established by Voluntary Bodies and 6 by the County Council.

The number of Nursing Associations in the County is now 59, employing 92 Nurses in respect of whose salaries the County Council allow grants.

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 178. At the end of the year there were 148 certified midwives on the register.

Sixteen cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year in the Maternity and Child Welfare area; 12 of these were treated in hospital; no impairment of vision was reported in any case.

Twenty-two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Of these 14 received treatment in hospital and 8 in their own homes. One death occurred.

Fifteen Marasmic (wasting) infants were admitted to the Chailey Heritage Hospital under the County Scheme, of whom 1 died; 13 were admitted to Elflinsward—3 died; 6 to other Hospitals. Nineteen infants received treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths.

On the 31st December, 1944, there were 501 children and 190 foster parents on the Child Life Protection Register. 1,248 visits were made during the year by the Child Life Protection Visitors and District Nurses.

War-time Nurseries. The war-time Day Nurseries established at Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, and Hurstpierpoint continued to receive children of women engaged on work of national importance during the year. The Day Nursery at Crowborough was closed, as there were not sufficient children in attendance to justify its continuance.

The three residential Nurseries, viz., Heath House, Buxted, "Fairfield," Cross-in-Hand, and Horsted Place, near Uckfield, were evacuated during the year owing to the danger from flying bombs. The two latter returned to East Sussex before the close of the year. Heath House Nursery, the only war-time short-stay Nursery, remained at "Heatherdown," Storrington, until the end of the year. It was closed early in 1945 while still evacuated.

In a report to the Principal Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health, who had invited comments from Authorities in the country, as the result of experience with regard to war-time (day) nurseries, I stated that my impression had been that the children had derived very great benefit. Physically, they gained from supervised activity in good conditions, and from having regular good food. An appreciable proportion had not had their full allowance of vitamin supplements before admission, which gave opportunities for instructing and advising the mothers. Several cases of rickets had thus been cured. Temperamentally the gain was also very great. Not only did they meet other children and thus learn social adaptation, but being allowed the "run of the house" they learned to fit into a household, and to treat equipment properly, more quickly and effectively than at home.

Of the eight residential Nurseries which, as reported last year had been evacuated to East Sussex early in the war, three of the five London County Council Nurseries were moved out of the County, one of which returned before the end of the year. Of the other three, established by Voluntary Societies, one was moved to another area and did not return. The other two remained in the County throughout the year.

Great responsibility rests on the staffs of the residential nurseries in view of the risk of the spread of infectious illness. The administrative arrangements included regular visitation by a medical practitioner and general supervision exercised by both the District and County Medical Officers of Health. The E.M.S. laboratory at Horsham was very helpful in investigating outbreaks of infection that occasionally occurred.

The County Welfare Officer (Mrs. Cairns) continued to help the Billeting Authorities by dealing with matters relating to the welfare of evacuated mothers and children.

Tuberculosis. There were 251 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1944, of which 164 were in respect of patients between 15 and 45 years of age. Notifications of other tuberculous diseases, mainly of glands, bones and joints, numbered 61, of which 29 were under 15 years of age. The number of notified cases on the register of the District Sanitary Authorities on 31st December, 1944, was 1,838 (1,236 pulmonary and 602 non-pulmonary).

Treatment allowances in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Health in Circular 2741 were continued during the year 1944; 62 applications were received for these allowances and 49 patients were found to be eligible for them and received appropriate allowances. The Committee have under consideration the appointment of a trained almoner to deal with allowances and with the general welfare and after care of tuberculous patients. Tuberculosis dispensaries were held regularly at Bexhill, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Hove and Lewes. At Hove the County Council have taken, on lease, premises at 33 Clarendon Villas, and have adapted them for use as a tuberculosis dispensary in substitution for the dispensary previously held at the Hove Hospital, where the accommodation was found to be insufficient for the purpose. The first clinic at 33 Clarendon Villas was held on the 27th September, 1944.

The County Sanatorium at Darvell Hall, Robertsbridge, provided, under the able direction of Dr. J. R. Dingley, institutional treatment on modern lines for 339 patients during the year. Of these 277 were admitted from East Sussex, 41 from Hastings, 15 from Brighton and 6 from Eastbourne. In the X-ray department, 782 films were taken, of which 247 were of out-patients. These out-patients were made up of 67 sent by medical boards for expert advice and 180 dispensary cases. The present apparatus needs replacement, being too slow for efficient chest work. Artificial pneumothorax, unilateral or bilateral, is still the treatment of choice. Twenty-nine patients with artificial pneumothorax whose lung collapse was unsatisfactory had adhesions divided. Phrenic operation was done in the case of 58 patients and one thoracoplasty (at Brompton Hospital). The ground floor of the new Nurses' Home was finished in July, so all the Nursing staff are now resident and comfortably housed. War savings have continued to mount as shown by the following figures:—1940, £642; 1941, £942; 1942, £1,418; 1943, £2,080; 1944, £3,052. Occupational therapy has been continued with excellent results during the year by Miss Ridgeway, the Handicraft Instructor, who deserves special commendation for the enthusiasm she has been able to inspire in the patients, who practically all were engaged in some useful pastime occupation which proved to be a valuable adjunct in their treatment. An exhibition was held in 1944 which demonstrated the high standard of work carried out by the patients.

The arrangements made with the Brighton County Borough Council for the reservation of six beds in the Brighton Sanatorium for chronic cases of tuberculosis from the County area and of a similar number of beds at Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge, for ambulant cases from Brighton, were continued and the agreement between the two Authorities has now been renewed indefinitely.

In order to provide more adequately for the hospital treatment of advanced cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, efforts have been made, so far unfortunately without success, to obtain suitable premises for the purpose in the western part of the county. The county sanatorium is not conveniently situated to be suitable for the reception of advanced cases occurring in Hove, Haywards Heath or East Grinstead and neighbourhood. Pending the provision of this accommodation, the County Council have made a reciprocal arrangement with the County Borough Council of Eastbourne on the same lines as with the Brighton Corporation providing for the reception of four patients in their respective institutions.

Dr. Ruth Dingley was appointed as a whole-time medical officer on the staff of the County Council as from the 1st April, 1944. She continued to act as assistant medical officer of the Sanatorium and took on new duties as assistant tuberculosis officer for the area served by the Bexhill Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Following the receipt of the Ministry of Health Circular 33/44 it was agreed that any woman taking up work in the Sanatorium as a nurse or domestic servant should have a preliminary medical examination. An offer was also made to carry out Mantoux skin tests for the staff of nurses in Public Assistance Infirmaries. Forty-two Nurses were tested and the Masters of the Infirmaries were advised as to the action to be taken with regard to the seven cases in which the test was negative.

The County Council continued to pay their grant of £300 in the financial year 1944/45 to the Sussex Rural Community Council for the after care of tuberculous patients. That Council has four area committees which are attended by the assistant County Nursing Superintendents in their capacity as tuberculosis nurses. 173 patients were assisted during the year, the amount expended on case relief during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1945, being £997. Assistance was given by the Rural Community Council for domestic help, boarding-out of children, nourishment, fuel, clothing, transport, providing occupation and for placing in paid employment.

Orthopaedic Treatment. During the year, 47 children received treatment in the Heritage Hospital, Chailey and other Hospitals. Each of the six out-patient orthopaedic clinics were held three times per week. The number of children receiving treatment at them was 872. Mr. Harris, Deputy Medical Director of the Heritage Hospital, Chailey, who acted as medical officer of the clinics, reported that there had been a large increase in the use made of the Orthopaedic service during 1944, the number of cases having almost doubled since the beginning of the war. This was partly caused by evacuees, but there was a considerable increase in the number of East Sussex children under treatment. This increase has resulted in some of the clinics being very overcrowded and will probably necessitate having two medical officers in attendance. He reported also that there had been an increase in the number of cases of deformities sent to the clinics in the early stages and that it was now not uncommon to see congenital deformities in the first week of life, which greatly improves the outlook in these cases.

Miss Casebourne and Miss Inglis continued in their appointments as Physiotherapists and were responsible for carrying out the treatment prescribed, both in the clinics and in the homes of the children. They co-operate with the Organisers of Physical Education and with the Head Teachers of the secondary and public elementary schools.

Venereal Diseases. The Clinics at Brighton, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells were continued during the year, the total number of new patients attending being 1,064, an increase of 100 on the numbers for 1943. The total number of attendances of patients from the East Sussex area was 8,581 for 1944 as compared with 7,860 in the previous year. East Sussex patients also attended the clinic administered by the Eastbourne Corporation, but the number of attendances made at this clinic was small. During the year 52 notifications were received under Defence Regulation 33B; a second notification was received in only six of these. The advice given by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 2896 that action should be taken on receipt of one notification under this Regulation was followed during the year and 36 persons suffering from venereal disease were traced and advised to attend the clinics for advice and treatment.

A Special Social Worker was appointed part-time for an experimental period on the staff of the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, for the purpose of following up attendances of contacts and facilitating continuance and completion of treatment. It was reported at the end of the year that her work had been most effective in achieving the objects for which she was appointed.

An extension of the blood testing arrangements connected with the treatment of venereal disease, to include pregnant women attending the maternity and child welfare clinics was authorised and put into operation at maternity and child welfare centres whenever possible.

Educational work was continued by the Central Council for Health Education and the Sussex Rural Community Council by arrangement with the County Council.

Welfare of the Blind. The number of blind persons on the East Sussex register increased from 511 in 1939 to 605 in 1944. More than half of those whose names were on the register at the end of the year were over 70 years of age, many of them being over 80 years of age. The home teaching staff of the East Sussex Association for the Blind carried on their work throughout the war years, despite the difficulties caused by shortage of petrol and other restrictions. They kept up their visits to an average almost equal to pre-war days. A Home Teacher was appointed for the north-west area of the County, where there had not been a regular visitor for some time.

The County Council provided domiciliary assistance for necessitous blind persons and their sighted dependants at increased rates to meet the higher cost of living.

Mental Deficiency. At the end of December, 1944, there were 776 mentally defective persons on the County Register, as compared with 733 in 1943. 190 were being maintained in Certified Institutions, 1 in an Approved Home, 34 were on licence from Institutions, 131 under Guardianship and 16 on leave of absence from Guardianship; 4 were detained in a place of safety. 396, not under Order, were under supervision. Assistance towards the maintenance of 4 cases dealt with under Section 3 in Institutions was also given.

During the year the names of 25 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons:—Discharged by the Board of Control, 5; removed from the area, 6; admitted to the County Mental Hospital, 6; died, 6; no longer needing supervision, 2.

As mentioned earlier in this Report, there is urgent need for more institutional accommodation for mental defectives of all ages in the County.

County Council Hospital and Domiciliary Medical Services. There were no changes during 1944 in the general administration of the hospital and domiciliary medical services, the institutional accommodation for the sick being provided at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, the Eastbourne and Hastings Municipal Hospitals, and in the Infirmarys at Battle, Chailey, East Grinstead, Newhaven, Ticehurst and Uckfield. The domiciliary services were provided by part-time district medical officers.

There were 4,094 admissions to Southlands Hospital (519 beds) during the year. Maternity patients confined in the hospital were 661, an increase of 42 over last year. The pressure on the bed accommodation in 1944 was severe and admissions of chronic cases had to be strictly limited owing to great shortage in nursing and domestic staff. Senior medical officers of the hospital visited the other county institutions to consult with their medical officers regarding treatment of patients in their care. This was arranged in order that the Council might be satisfied that full consideration was given to the possibility of benefit from treatment in all cases, including those suffering from chronic disease. The staff of the Radiological and Physio-therapy departments was increased. The work of the latter department proved so useful in speeding-up patients' restoration to working capacity that the staff was increased and now includes a masseuse, a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist. Mr. E. K. McLean, F.R.C.S.E., has, at the time of writing, completed his first year as Medical Superintendent and has fully maintained the high reputation of the hospital.

Cancer Act, 1939. The Interim Arrangements made by the County Council under the Cancer Act, 1939, have been in operation since September, 1944. Under these arrangements the Council have an Agreement with the Westminster Hospital, London, for the reception of patients residing in East Sussex for the purpose of diagnosis and, if necessary, specialised treatment either as out-patients or in-patients. Travelling expenses of patients and their escorts are paid in cases of need. The arrangements also provide for diagnosis and treatment facilities at Hospitals associated with the Westminster Hospital, and, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health, at other hospitals which can provide the necessary specialised treatment. Up to the time of preparing this report, 43 cases have been referred to the Public Health Department under these arrangements. Of these, 34 have been sent to the Westminster Hospital and 9 to other Hospitals.

Public Vaccination. The last returns made by the Vaccination Officers were in respect of 3,291 children whose births were notified to them during the calendar year 1943. Of this total, 1,537 were successfully vaccinated by 31st January, 1945; 17 were insusceptible of vaccination; 74 died unvaccinated; vaccination was postponed by medical certificates in 14 cases; 181 children removed to other districts and 205 removed and could not be traced. Declarations of conscientious objection to vaccination were made by the parents of 1,118 children or 34 per cent. of the 3,291 births notified to the Vaccination officers. A further 145 were unaccounted for.

Health Education. The County Council entrusted the education of the public in East Sussex on matters relating to health to the Sussex Rural Community Council. This voluntary body included in its programme lectures to adults and school children, a wide-spread poster display and the distribution of an attractively edited magazine entitled "Better Health" to doctors' surgeries, women's institutes and to health visitors, teachers and youth leaders. As stated last year, there is much sub-normal health at all ages in the community that could be improved with consequent gain in personal happiness and efficiency, if the simple laws of healthy living were understood and followed by all.

General County Public Health Administration. The County Health Inspector and his two Assistants dealt with all matters that were referred to them during the year relating to general sanitation, although the work of supervision of civil defence stores and attendances at conferences relating to rural housing and water supplies occupied much of Mr. Jessop's time. The Health Inspectors undertook investigations required in connection with applications for licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-43, and in connection with the supervision of the Milk in Schools Scheme and also concerning tubercle infection and other abnormalities affecting milk supplied to the public. Matters reported to the County Health department relating to the purity of rivers and streams, to drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal and to nuisances were the subjects of investigation and report to the Public Health and Housing Committee.

Civil Nursing Reserve. On the 1st January, 1944, there were 689 names on the County Register (96 trained nurses, 41 assistant nurses, and 552 nursing auxiliaries). Ministry of Health Circular 1/44 required that members should be withdrawn from the Register if (a) suitable work within the framework of the Reserve was not available, (b) suitable work was available but the member was no longer considered suitable for retention in the Reserve, or (c) suitable work was available and the member was considered suitable for retention in the Reserve but she refused without good reason to take up work to which she was posted. As a result of these instructions it was necessary to make many withdrawals from the Register, especially of those members living in the rural areas and for whom no regular work could be found. During the year a considerable number of resignations was received for health and other reasons and, by the 31st December, 1944, there were only 507 members on the Register.

Twenty-two nursing auxiliary candidates completed their training during the year.

On the 29th February, 1944, the Minister of Health announced that His Majesty had given his approval to the award of war service chevrons and wound stripes to Civil Nursing Reserve members.

As a result of Ministry of Health Circular 76/44, dated the 13th July, 1944, dealing with the Nurses Act, 1943, applicants now wishing to join the Civil Nursing Reserve as assistant nurses must be on the Roll of Assistant Nurses kept by the General Nursing Council. All those members who were classified as assistant nurses before the date of this Circular have been advised to apply for admission to the Roll. Those who are successful in their application will continue to be classified as assistant nurse members of the Reserve, but those who are unsuccessful or who decide not to apply are being invited either to agree to re-classification as nursing auxiliaries, or else to tender their resignation from the Reserve as assistant nurses. I am not yet able to report on the applications made as they are still being considered by the General Nursing Council.

I should like to express my thanks to Miss Blackmore, Miss Learoyd and Miss Spencer for interviewing new candidates, and to Mrs. Offord for her untiring work for the Civil Nursing Reserve in Hove and Portslade.

Acknowledgments. I gratefully acknowledge the help and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Committees concerned with the work of the Public Health Department. The proposals which I have submitted from time to time throughout my term of office have always been given full and sympathetic consideration with a view to the progressive improvement of the health services.

Dr. Langford, as Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, has given most competent help in maintaining an efficient medical administration and to him I would express my thanks. To all my other colleagues in the health work of the Council, the medical, dental and nursing officers and clerks, and especially to Mr. George F. Akehurst, the Chief Clerk, I tender my warm thanks and commend them for their loyalty and devotion to duty.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. ASHLEIGH GLEGG, M.D., D.P.H.,
County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL, LEWES.
September, 1945.

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

TABLE I.

Group	Population estimated by Registrar General 1944.	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.
Large Towns	78190	1227	15.69	1441	18.42	56	45.63	443	5.66	37	.47	11	.14	133	1.7	231	2.95
Other Urban Districts	56140	1132	20.16	795	14.16	40	35.33	259	4.61	25	.44	2	.03	64	1.14	129	2.29
Rural Districts	137130	2465	17.97	1919	13.99	88	35.69	593	4.32	36	.26	15	.1	181	1.31	300	2.18
Whole County	271460	4824	17.77	4155	15.3	184	38.14	1295	4.77	98	.36	28	.1	378	1.39	660	2.43

† 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, 1944.	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	14310	274	19.14	12	.83	41.95	7	25.54	246	17.19
Hove	3953	52130	738	14.15	7	.13	9.39	39	52.84	1026	19.68
Lewes	1988	11750	215	18.29	6	.51	27.14	10	46.51	169	14.38
TOTALS ..	13934	78190	1227	15.69	25	.31	19.96	56	45.63	1441	18.42
<i>Seven other Urban Districts.</i>											
Burgess Hill	2024	7316	136	18.58	4	.54	28.57	6	44.11	100	13.66
Cuckfield	3912	14500	270	18.62	11	.75	39.14	9	33.33	195	13.44
East Grinstead	6600	9648	178	18.44	9	.93	48.12	5	28.08	147	15.23
Newhaven	1772	5232	115	21.98	4	.70	33.61	2	17.39	62	11.85
Portslade-by-Sea	1953	10880	248	22.79	5	.45	19.76	12	48.38	126	11.58
Rye	1027	3333	59	17.7	1	.3	16.66	0	0.	58	17.40
Seaford	4274	5231	126	24.08	0	0.	0.	6	47.61	107	20.45
TOTALS ..	21562	56140	1132	20.16	34	.6	29.15	40	35.33	795	14.16
<i>Five Rural Districts.</i>											
Battle	117053	24990	413	16.52	12	.48	28.23	13	31.47	359	14.36
Chailey	66038	16630	309	18.58	7	.42	22.15	18	58.25	220	13.22
Cuckfield	74335	26290	502	19.09	9	.34	17.61	16	31.87	353	13.42
Hailsham	94029	32020	527	16.45	15	.46	27.67	20	37.95	402	14.42
Uckfield	112096	37200	714	19.19	18	.48	24.59	21	29.41	525	14.11
TOTALS ..	464151	137130	2465	17.97	61	.44	24.14	88	35.69	1919	13.99
Whole County	499647	271460	4824	17.77	120	.44	24.27	184	38.14	4155	15.3

TABLE III.

Number of deaths at different periods of life in the Administrative County during the year 1944.

Sex.	Urban Districts.							Rural Districts.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1-5.	5-15.	15-45.	45-65.	65 and over.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1-5.	5-15.	15-45.	45-65.	65 and over.
Males	987	59	13	5	67	206	637	900	52	13	7	70	184	574
Females	1249	37	8	8	58	207	931	1019	36	9	6	52	192	724
TOTALS	2236	96	21	13	125	413	1568	1919	88	22	13	122	376	1298

TABLE IV.
CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR 1944.
 (Not including cases of Tuberculosis, details of which are given on Page 5).

	Total for Administrative County.	TOTAL NUMBERS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN EACH DISTRICT.																	
		Boroughs.					Urban Districts.						Rural Districts.						
		Hove.	Bexhill.	Lewes.	Rye.	Totals.	Burgess Hill.	Cuckfield.	East Grinstead.	Newhaven.	Portslade-by-Sea.	Seaford.	Totals.	Battle.	Chichester.	Cuckfield.	Hailsham.	Uckfield.	Totals.
Small-Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	29
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	13	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	3	—	1	—	6	3	—	1	2	—	6
Erysipelas	84	20	3	5	1	29	—	2	6	1	6	6	21	4	4	7	2	17	3
Scarlet Fever	492	90	26	23	4	143	17	29	31	3	17	4	101	33	17	70	63	65	24
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	27	5	2	3	—	10	—	4	1	—	2	—	7	4	—	—	1	5	1
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	12	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	2	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	19	3	—	2	—	5	1	3	—	—	—	1	5	2	1	—	3	3	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	729	1	—	—	—	1	—	52	1	1	—	2	56	—	6	5	48	13	7
Pneumonia	183	34	12	15	1	62	3	1	12	—	14	18	48	24	8	7	10	24	7
Trench Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1159	95	18	131	—	244	112	30	7	13	41	11	214	122	95	77	90	317	70
Measles	1027	188	11	53	1	253	78	62	3	2	123	21	289	50	121	73	68	173	48
Totals	3182	439	72	233	7	751	214	183	64	20	204	65	750	244	281	241	290	625	168

TABLE V (a).
CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944 IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to Districts, at subjoined ages.							Deaths in or belonging to each District at all ages.									
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.	BOROUGHES.									
								Bexhill.	Hove.	Lewes.	Rye.	Burgess Hill.	Cuckfield.	East Grinstead.	Newhaven.	Portslade-by-Sea.	Seaford.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	62	—	2	—	28	22	10	5	25	7	2	1	5	—	3	8	—
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	13	—	1	1	8	1	2	1	8	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	6	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
9. Influenza	17	1	—	—	—	5	11	2	7	2	—	1	1	2	—	1	—
10. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Mouth, Throat and Uterus	35	—	—	—	1	10	24	4	14	3	2	1	2	2	1	4	—
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	53	—	—	—	2	15	30	9	24	5	—	—	6	—	2	3	—
15. Cancer of Breast	56	—	—	—	2	21	33	5	30	4	—	2	4	6	1	2	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	216	—	1	—	12	67	136	23	95	15	6	10	28	14	4	10	—
17. Diabetes	15	—	—	—	1	2	12	3	5	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	307	1	—	—	3	50	253	41	156	16	6	13	22	16	10	15	—
19. Heart Disease	702	—	—	1	9	94	598	76	313	54	24	40	61	45	19	34	—
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	42	—	1	—	1	8	32	9	14	5	—	4	5	3	—	1	—
21. Bronchitis	90	2	—	1	—	16	71	14	41	12	1	—	5	4	5	7	—
22. Pneumonia	73	4	4	1	5	13	46	4	40	4	3	5	5	6	2	3	—
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	34	1	—	—	1	12	20	2	16	—	—	1	6	5	1	1	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	23	—	—	—	2	10	11	4	8	3	1	3	1	2	—	1	—
25. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	16	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	11	—	—	2	1	2	6	2	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	63	2	2	3	4	17	35	10	24	4	3	2	6	3	3	5	—
28. Nephritis	85	—	—	—	3	13	69	3	54	1	3	4	3	9	1	7	—
29. Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	33	33	—	—	—	—	—	4	11	2	—	—	4	3	—	7	—
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease etc.	33	26	1	1	1	1	3	1	12	5	—	3	2	2	—	5	—
33. Suicide	17	—	—	—	6	4	7	2	8	1	—	—	3	1	1	1	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	14	—	2	1	3	4	4	1	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
35. Other Violent Causes	45	5	2	—	14	3	21	4	23	1	1	1	4	2	5	2	—
36. All other Causes	160	5	2	1	8	19	125	17	65	17	6	5	15	16	3	4	—
All Causes	2236	96	21	13	125	413	1568	246	1026	169	58	100	195	147	62	126	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

 { Total
 Illegitimate

96

15

TABLE V (b).
CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944 IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to Districts, at subjoined ages.							Deaths in or belonging to each District, at all ages.				
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.	Battle.	Chailey.	Cuckfield.	Halsham.	Uckfield.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ..	7	3	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	1
5. Diphtheria ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	36	—	—	1	24	7	4	3	3	9	9	12
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	15	1	2	1	6	4	1	4	1	—	8	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases ..	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	1	1	1	2
9. Influenza ..	27	2	—	—	1	—	20	1	5	6	4	11
10. Measles ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio encephalitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
13. Cancer of Mouth, Throat and Uterus	36	—	—	—	1	14	21	11	4	9	4	8
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	28	—	—	—	1	6	21	6	2	5	7	8
15. Cancer of Breast ..	38	—	—	—	1	20	17	7	10	4	12	5
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	198	—	—	—	6	63	129	36	29	39	40	54
17. Diabetes ..	14	—	—	—	1	4	9	3	1	5	3	2
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ..	241	1	—	—	5	41	194	38	22	41	62	78
19. Heart Disease ..	593	—	—	—	6	85	502	119	66	112	145	151
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	41	—	—	—	1	7	33	6	1	17	11	6
21. Bronchitis ..	82	3	—	—	3	8	68	20	9	11	17	25
22. Pneumonia ..	80	11	3	2	4	13	47	15	11	15	15	24
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	19	—	—	1	1	7	10	2	2	3	5	7
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	14	—	—	—	2	4	8	3	1	—	6	4
25. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1
26. Appendicitis ..	8	—	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	—	4	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases ..	50	—	1	—	7	17	25	9	8	6	9	18
28. Nephritis ..	54	—	—	—	5	8	41	6	5	14	15	14
29. Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
30. Other Maternal Causes ..	4	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	2	1
31. Premature Birth ..	20	20	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	3	5	5
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease, etc. ..	34	29	3	—	1	1	—	8	4	3	9	10
33. Suicide ..	12	—	—	—	3	4	5	2	2	4	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents ..	16	—	2	1	2	5	6	1	4	2	6	3
35. Other Violent Causes ..	63	3	2	4	15	18	21	7	7	11	26	12
36. All other Causes ..	170	8	2	2	20	29	109	44	13	29	27	57
All Causes ..	1919	88	22	13	122	376	1298	359	220	353	462	525
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total .. 88											
	{ Illegitimate .. 16											

