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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, 1946.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the fifty-second Annual Report on the Health of the Administrative County of East Sussex.

Before the end of the year the National Health Service Act was passed, heralding the period of planning, preparation and adjustment which can fairly be described, even in the best administered areas, as a temporary upheaval. While the framework of the Act had not been clothed, by the end of the year, in more than a few of the Regulations for which there is such plentiful provision, it was already clear that without unremitting care and determination at all levels there would be a risk that the interests of the individual might sometimes take second place to large-scale planning. In the future, as often in the past, it will be an important duty of the Medical Officer of Health to secure so far as he is able that the individual in need shall not have cause to feel that those concerned with wide organisation have forgotten the "man in the street."

The records of vital statistics set out in the body of this report show (in so far as figures give a fair picture) that in spite of all handicaps the health of the population of East Sussex is being well maintained. The birth rate (17.22) has risen almost to the 1944 figure of 17.77, while the uncorrected general death rate at 14.2 continues its downward trend. When it is remembered how many people come to Sussex to spend their declining years this favourable balance is reassuring, especially when one takes into account the very low infant mortality rate of 27.64.

The maternal mortality rate at 1.46, is higher than the 1945 figure of .9. No maternal death can be regarded as less than a tragedy; but a trick of statistics is that, when an incidence is very low, one death more or less has a disproportionately large effect on the calculated rate.

The other general feature which is due for improvement is the large increase in the number of cases of venereal disease. While the figures shown are of patients attending the Clinics, there being no other source of information, there can be no doubt that there has been a large increase in the number of persons contracting one or other venereal disease; a state of affairs which although to be expected as an aftermath of war is none the less disturbing. Fortunately a high standard of care has kept down the incidence of ophthalmia neonatorum and there appears no evidence that congenital syphilis is materially increasing.

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

The **Estimated Population** increased from 283,570 in 1945 to 310,830 in 1946.

The **Birth Rate** for the County was 17.22 per thousand of the estimated population, being 1.95 per thousand more than in 1945, as compared with a rate of 19.1 for England and Wales. The **live births** increased from 4,329 in 1945 to 5,353 in 1946. The number of illegitimate live births in East Sussex was 427.

The general uncorrected **Death Rate** was 14.2 per thousand in 1946, as compared with 15.07 in 1945.

The **Infant Mortality Rate** for the Administrative County was 27.64 per thousand live births in 1946, as compared with 40.89 in 1945. The rate for the Welfare Authority Area was 27.5. The illegitimate death rate was 42.42 per thousand illegitimate live births for the Welfare Authority Area and 39.81 in respect of the whole of the Administrative County, as compared with 73.59 and 80.07 respectively in 1945.

The **Maternal Mortality Rate** for the Administrative County was 1.46 per thousand live and still births and 1.77 for the Welfare Authority Area. The corresponding figures for 1945 were .9 and 1.1 respectively. There were 7 maternal deaths in the Administrative County.

Of the seven deaths, two (due to toxæmia, and to toxæmia in a woman with chronic nephritis) can be attributed to persistent refusal on the part of the mothers to accept the advice of the family doctors and other advisers. One patient subjected to Caesarean section died of peritonitis and pneumonia; it was not possible to find any flaw in the antenatal or operative and post-operative care. One pulmonary embolism, occurring a day or so after delivery, could not have been prevented. One death resulted from concealed haemorrhage associated with placenta prævia. Two deaths came into the category of "failed forceps," and in both of these the possibility of an error of judgement cannot be excluded, though nothing is easier, or more unjust, than to be wise after the event.

The deaths from all forms of **Tuberculosis** show a decrease of 32 in 1946 as compared with the previous year, there being 35 fewer deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 more from other tuberculous diseases.

There was a decrease of 38 in the number of deaths from **Cancer** compared with the previous year. Deaths from **Heart Disease** increased by 118.

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 in all but six diseases there was a fall in the number of cases notified. Whooping Cough notifications increased from 438 in 1945 to 450 in 1946. There were two deaths from Whooping Cough, both in children of from one to five years of age. Dysentery cases dropped from 77 in 1945 to 27 in 1946 and Scarlet Fever cases from 400 to 226. The number of cases of Measles dropped from 3,811 in 1945 to 611 in 1946 and there were only two deaths from this cause. Diphtheria notifications rose from 15 to 19, but there were no deaths. Other infectious diseases show very little variation on the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Circulars 193 and 194/45 of the Ministry of Health which were considered by the Council early in 1946 provided that as from the 1st January, 1946, the responsibility for the immunisation of children under the age of 5 years should be placed upon Welfare Authorities, and the Council decided that as from that date they would agree to refund to the District Councils who were carrying out the immunisation of children of all ages the whole cost of the work in respect of children from birth to 5 years of age instead of a grant of 50 per cent. as hitherto. The following is a summary of the returns made by the various District Councils in respect of immunisation carried out during 1946.

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED.

Boroughs.	Age 0—5 years.	Age 5—15 years.	Age 0—15 years.
Bexhill	45.4	56.9	52.6
Hove	83.6	73.4	77.2
Lewes	88.0	40.2	57.5
Rye	47.7	62.9	57.0
<i>Urban Districts.</i>			
Burgess Hill	94.2	96.6	95.9
Cuckfield	66.2	97.9	88.7
East Grinstead	67.2	90.8	82.2
Newhaven	66.5	86.1	78.4
Portslade	86.8	95.8	76.9
Seaford	79.0	41.0	55.7
<i>Rural Districts.</i>			
Battle	42.0	91.8	73.1
Chailey	75.0	39.0	51.8
Cuckfield	64.8	98.3	85.6
Hailsham	57.0	94.5	80.6
Uckfield	76.5	98.2	90.5

Maternity and Child Welfare. This service continued to work satisfactorily and the following is a brief account of the activities under the various headings:—

Domiciliary Midwifery and Infant Health Visiting. The combined nursing scheme adopted in the County continued during the year. Five Assistant County Nursing Superintendents were employed by the County Council to supervise the combined work of the midwives, nurse-midwives and health visitors and to carry out other public health duties for the County Council under the direction of the County Nursing Superintendent and the County Medical Officer.

During 1946, 65 Infant Welfare Centres held regular sessions. Of these, 59 were established by Voluntary Bodies and 6 by the County Council.

The number of District Nursing Associations in the County is 58. The total number of nurses (including emergency nurses) employed in the County by the Nursing Federation is 101; the County Council allow grants towards the salaries of 94 nurses, 8 of whom are engaged as whole-time health visitors and school nurses, 3 as whole-time midwives and the remainder on combined work.

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 184. At the end of the year there were 143 certified midwives on the register.

The district nurses, acting as midwives, attended 1,389 patients in 1946, 351 more than in 1945. Medical aid was summoned under the rules of the Central Midwives Board in 751 cases (636 to mothers and 115 to infants). The main reasons for which medical assistance was needed for the mother were as follows:—

Abnormal conditions found during pregnancy	143
Abortions and miscarriages	25
Prolonged labour	94
Ruptured perineum	212
Other complications at delivery	72
Post-natal complications	90

Of the 115 calls to infants, 37 were for discharging eyes.

Five cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified in the Maternity and Child Welfare Area; 2 were treated in hospital. No impairment of vision was reported in any case.

Twenty-one cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Of these, 12 received treatment in hospital and 9 in their own homes.

Six marasmic (wasting) infants were admitted to Chailey Heritage Hospital under the County Scheme and 5 to other hospitals. There were no deaths. Six infants received treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths.

Child Life Protection. On the 31st December, 1946, there were 237 children and 140 foster parents on the Child Life Protection Register. 705 visits were made to these homes during the year by the Child Life Protection Visitors and Health Visitors. In one or two instances it was necessary to make other arrangements for foster children who were not being cared for satisfactorily. In addition, there were 14 voluntary homes and 95 preparatory schools, accommodating approximately 343 and 1,107 children respectively, under the age of nine years, to which 219 visits were made. One unsatisfactory establishment was closed. A whole-time Health Visitor, Miss D. Roff, whose main duty is to inspect these schools, was appointed by the Staff Committee of the County Council and commenced duty on the 1st May, 1946.

It should be pointed out that the vast majority of foster mothers continue to care for their charges kindly and well. They receive suggestions and advice in a friendly manner, and improvements where desired are brought about by the friendly visits of the Health Visitors, reinforced on occasion by letters and visits from a medical officer. Even on the rare occasions when the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have had cases of difficulty referred to them the safety and welfare of the children have been secured without recourse to legal action.

Ante-Natal Services. The County Council have established or have assisted to establish ante-natal clinics separately from Infant Welfare Centres in 13 districts; 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 women find it impossible to visit a Centre, arrangements have been made whereby medical practitioners undertake ante-natal examinations at an agreed fee. Mothers booked for admission to hospital attend the hospital out-patient clinics. The district nurse-midwives made 13,598 visits to 2,141 expectant mothers during the year.

Provision of Obstetric Consultants. The Council have arranged for an Obstetric Consultant to be available for any medical practitioner who needs such assistance in difficulties or in complications arising during pregnancy or at or after delivery. Consultants were provided in 55 cases, and in some cases they carried out emergency treatment in the patients' own homes.

Maternity Hospital Provision. Maternity hospital treatment was provided under the County Scheme during 1946 for 1,095 women as follows:—

Cuckfield Hospital	308
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	347
Hastings Municipal Hospital	223
Sussex Maternity Hospital, Brighton	149
Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	23
Crowborough Cottage Hospital	5
Tunbridge Wells Maternity Home	6
Brighton Municipal Hospital	6
St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne	17
Other Hospitals or Homes	11

The demand for hospital accommodation for confinement continues to exceed by a large margin the number of available beds, in spite of the suggestion put forward during the year that mothers might be discharged from hospital at the 10th day if the home circumstances were suitable. This suggestion which is open to certain criticisms, has only been acted on occasionally.

Home Helps. The Scheme for the employment of Home Helps was in operation throughout the whole of 1946, when three women were employed whole-time in addition to as many part-time women as could be found to assist. During the year 81 mothers were supplied with either full- or part-time help during the period of their confinement, who otherwise might have had to be admitted to hospital through lack of help at home.

Care of Premature Infants. The County Council provide special equipment on loan, including draught-proof cots, hot-water bottles, warm clothing, special feeding bottles, etc., for use in the care of premature infants. The midwives report immediately to the County Nursing Superintendent each premature birth and the equipment is provided on request. In addition, the services of a Pædiatrician (specialist in the treatment of children) are available when required. During the year there were 169 notified premature births; 75 were born in hospital and 94 at home. 131 of the 169 infants survived the age of one month.

Care of Illegitimate Children. Special attention to the care of illegitimate children was continued. 16 unmarried mothers were admitted to Hostels during the year.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939. 19 persons gave notice under Section 7 (3) of this Act during 1946. Altogether the Child Life Protection Visitors visited and inspected the homes of 94 persons who proposed to adopt children and paid 176 visits to children who were under supervision pending adoption. The total number of completed adoptions recorded by the Welfare Authority during the year was 102.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the initial difficulties in the working of the Act, briefly referred to in my last report, have been smoothed over, the Courts taking full advantage of the information regarding home conditions which is available in the records of the Welfare Authority.

Contraceptive Advice. Contraceptive advice was given during the year to 21 patients at clinics which are held at Brighton, Hastings and Haywards Heath. This instruction is given only to married women when pregnancy would be dangerous to health. The Sussex Mothers' Clinic at Haywards Heath undertook a useful extension of their work by giving advice with regard to sterility.

Domestic Helps. By the end of 1946 six Borough or Urban Districts had accepted delegation from the Council of the powers under the Ministry's Regulations to provide Domestic Helps. In each of these districts part-time Helps only were provided.

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers. On the instructions of the Ministry of Health, dockets were issued from the Public Health Department to expectant mothers whose confinements were to take place at home and who were in need of sheets. During 1946, 5,216 dockets were issued to 1,761 expectant mothers on the recommendation of midwives or doctors.

Sterilised Maternity Outfits. These are supplied to midwives for use in emergency cases.

Maternity Belts. Expectant mothers were supplied with maternity belts at cost price.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Infants. The Council's Scheme for dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and infants under the age of five years is co-ordinated with the scheme for dental treatment of school children. Treatment is carried out at County Clinics, on hired premises and, occasionally, at voluntary Infant Welfare Centres. During the year 617 expectant and nursing mothers and 382 infants received dental treatment under the scheme and 184 dentures were provided.

Registration of Nursing Homes. Five applications for the registration of premises as Nursing Homes were received, all of which were granted. 7 Homes were closed voluntarily and at the end of 1946 there were 43 registered Nursing Homes in the Welfare Authority's area.

War-time Nurseries. The war-time Day Nurseries at Burgess Hill and East Grinstead continued to provide for children of women engaged in useful work.

There are 89 approved places at the two Nurseries; on the 31st December, 1946, there were 84 children in attendance.

These Nurseries, which have now become simply Day Nurseries conducted by the Welfare Authority, continue to exert a beneficial influence, the least part of which perhaps is adding to the available labour-force of the country. It has always been a carefully applied rule that children are not accepted unless there is a sound reason for their admission, the reasons falling under two heads—"Labour" and "Social." Under "Labour" have been included those mothers who are employed whole-time or nearly whole-time, especially on work of general or local importance such as clerical or domestic posts in a hospital. Under "Social" are included women who have children for whose support they must work; these are unmarried or deserted mothers or those whose husbands are mentally or physically incapacitated. In the same group, also, are a few mothers who live in terribly cramped quarters such as upstairs flats where the health and development of a young child are unfairly handicapped.

The benefits of a Day Nursery, however, extend beyond the actual children attending. It has often been noted with interest, not unmixed with friendly amusement, how often mothers with indifferent domestic standards are influenced by the example of other children and their parents seen at the Nursery. A typical remark was overheard outside one Nursery: "Yes, he's come on wonderful since I started him there." A like example has its effect on the children of school age who call at the Nurseries to fetch their juniors in the afternoon.

Tuberculosis. There were 379 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1946, of which 281 were in respect of patients between 15 and 45 years of age. Notifications of other tuberculous diseases, mainly of glands, bones and joints, numbered 98, of which 61 were under 15 years of age. The number of notified cases on the registers of the district sanitary authorities on the 31st December, 1946, was 2,086 (1,410 pulmonary and 676 non-pulmonary).

Treatment allowances in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Health in Circular 2741 were continued during the year; 56 applications were received for these allowances and 44 patients were found eligible for them and received appropriate allowances. 183 patients were receiving treatment allowances at the end of the year. Tuberculosis dispensaries were held regularly at Bexhill, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Hove and Lewes.

Darvell Hall Sanatorium. The County Sanatorium at Darvell Hall, Robertsbridge, provided, under the able direction of Dr. J. R. Dingley, treatment on modern lines for 340 in-patients during the year. Of these, 228 were admitted from East Sussex, 64 from Hastings, 14 from Brighton, 32 from Eastbourne and 2 from other areas.

The following is a report submitted by Dr. J. R. Dingley, the Medical Superintendent:—

1946 has been a year of progress. Much of the pre-war beauty of the grounds has been restored, though internal decoration of many wards is needed for both hygienic and aesthetic reasons. We still anxiously await the completion of the building programme interfered with by the war, namely, a new Men's Hospital, extensions to the Women's Hospital and Nurses' Home,

and also for a revision of our cramped treatment block. Thanks to the loyalty and goodwill of the staff, 36 per cent. of whom are ex-patients, we have not closed any beds from lack of staff, an outstanding record in these times.

Modern treatment, concentrating on more effective collapse of the lungs, requires more prolonged bed rest, thus emphasising the urgency of the building programme.

COMPARISON OF 1945 AND 1946.

	1945. Cases.	1946. Cases.
Artificial pneumothorax successfully established ..	37	67
Adhesions divided	27	52
Establishment of pneumoperitoneum	0	10
Phrenic nerve operation	51	50

On the surgical side, Mr. Wollaston, who operated for us for the past ten years, moved to Northumberland, but we have been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Cleland, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., who visits every six weeks to do thoracoscopies, adhesiotomies and bronchoscopies. Four patients requiring the major operation of thoracoplasty have been transferred to University College Hospital under Professor Pilcher with very little delay. The phrenic nerve interruption operations are, as before, performed by Mrs. Dingley and your Medical Superintendent, who also carry out the routine ear, nose and throat examinations. Mr. St. John Buxton, F.R.C.S., the Orthopaedic Consultant, visited each quarter and saw in all 30 in-patients and 13 out-patients. Mrs. Brown, L.D.S., of Battle, continued to do our dental work, holding 22 sessions and doing 119 treatments.

Our equipment is rapidly approaching a satisfactory standard. The outstanding event has been the installation in November of a modern, powerful X-ray plant, made by the General Radiological Company, with facilities for tomography. This improvement has considerably increased the accuracy of assessing lung conditions. The department, under Nurse Carr, has not only carried out increased work, but has raised its already high standard. The following figures show the amount of work done :—

	1945.	1946.
Films	800	1,048
Screening	1,300	2,040

Regarding housekeeping, I am glad to report that from September it has been possible to give full breakfast four days a week, a difficult matter these days. The installation of a third steamer and electric slicing machine have further assisted the kitchen work. Our standard of food has only been maintained because of the excellent work done by Mr. Bashford, our head gardener, and his staff.

We were greatly cheered by the generous gifts from Australia of cases of jam, cake, suet, fruit and sweets. I only hope that our kinsmen overseas realise to some extent how much we appreciate not only the gifts, but the spirit that inspired these most friendly and practical gestures.

Handicrafts have maintained, if not exceeded, their previous records in both quality and popularity; the spring exhibition was the best yet held. Requests from ex-patients for materials average 600 a year. Our library has been taken over by the Red Cross, under Mrs. Hornblower and her friends, who have worked hard and obtained many new and up-to-date books for the benefit of the patients. Coloured reproductions of early and modern art are periodically introduced by that enthusiast, Miss Campion, of the Red Cross Picture Library, London. She shows some 30 to 40 pictures and allows the patients to choose one each to be hung in their ward, and larger reproductions are lent for the recreation rooms. Many patients discover a new world; the pictures certainly brighten the sanatorium wards.

Of the 253 patients admitted during 1946, 20 per cent. have been ex-Service men and women. The future of the patients depends on their finding suitable work, and their ability to persevere on sanatorium lines for several years. Any who assist ex-patients to find satisfactory posts are doing difficult but most useful work. I sincerely hope the almoner will soon materialise to bring her trained skill to help solve this most important problem. Our work is already benefiting from the vitality and erudition of the recently appointed Senior Chest Physician, Dr. Ferguson Gow.

The Rev. A. H. Huxtable, who had endeared himself during the 14 years of his chaplaincy, had to retire on health grounds. He has been succeeded by the Rev. F. W. Martin, Rector of Bodiam, whose good work is much appreciated.

The nursing and domestic staff have given excellent service. Four nurses entered for the examination of the Tuberculosis Association; all passed (two taking Part I and two Part II). Tuition was carried out by Miss Russell, Miss Pavay, the visiting sister tutor, Mrs. Dingley and myself. The acute shortage on the domestic side was effectively relieved by the allocation of four displaced persons (Latvian women). Of the clerical staff, Miss Marshall, my secretary, most conscientiously deals with the correspondence and records of patients, while Mr. Crosse with his staff continue to wrestle with the ever-altering and ever-increasing forms and regulations. Miss Hound and Miss Ridgeway carry on their voluntary savings campaign, £1,481 having been saved in 1946, making a grand total of £11,813 since 1940. The staff branch of the County Library, radiogram musical evenings, dressmaking classes, Workers' Educational Association courses on current events and literature have helped those who are interested.

In June a very welcome visit was paid by members of the County Council and the Hastings Borough Council; we do appreciate this interest in our work.

I should like to put on record my appreciation of the work done by Miss Russell during her first year as Matron. Her unselfishness and ever-ready sympathy have endeared her to both patients and staff.

I have no doubt that when we have been swallowed by the regional whale we shall look back on these days with sadness and regret, remembering the interest, guidance and support so freely given by my chiefs and my Committee. Let us hope that we shall be even as Jonah and not reduced to uniform mediocrity by the inevitable process of digestion.

The arrangements made with the Brighton County Borough Council for the reservation of six beds in the Brighton Sanatorium for cases of chronic 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 a similar arrangement for the reservation of beds was made with Eastbourne County Borough Council.

It has not yet been possible to obtain suitable premises in which to house and look after some of the chronic and advanced patients who are unfit for sanatorium but nevertheless need accommodation.

After-care. The arrangements in force by which the Sussex Rural Community Council, who receive an annual grant from the County Council, undertake care and after-care work, continue satisfactorily.

Orthopaedic Treatment. 65 children received in-patient treatment in the Heritage Hospital, Chailey, and other Hospitals in 1946. Each of the 6 out-patient orthopaedic clinics was held three times a week, the number of children receiving treatment at them totalling 976.

The following is the report submitted by Mr. Murray Levick, the Council's Consultant for Physical Treatment :—

The orthopaedic clinics are now settled down, having completed the first full year after the war, and certain conclusions can now be drawn about the work.

There has been a great increase in the numbers attending the clinics. This is due in part to the greater use being made of the clinics by the doctors in the area, and partly because the value of early recognition and treatment of orthopaedic defects is being recognised. It is particularly advantageous to have congenital deformities referred as soon after birth as possible.

During the war an additional physiotherapist was appointed, and this has enhanced the value of the treatment given, as now every clinic has three treatment clinics a week; also visits can be made to special cases in their own homes. The physiotherapists are, however, working with inadequate equipment and accommodation, and I hope that these can be improved. With the exception of East Grinstead and Burgess Hill, I can hardly say that the accommodation provided is up to modern standards.

Regarding equipment, wall bars have been provided, but a Swedish beam is much needed at each clinic. This could scarcely be installed at any of the clinic rooms, excepting the two above named. The lack of these beams militates against the efficiency of the treatment required by posture deformities to a marked extent, but can only be considered together with the need for improved accommodation.

Venereal Diseases. The Clinics at Brighton, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells were continued during the year, the total number of new patients attending being 1,910, an increase of 606 on the numbers for 1945. The total number of attendances of patients from the East Sussex area was 7,128 for 1946, as compared with 6,767 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 11 notifications were received under Defence (General) Regulation 33B. The advice given by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 2896 that informal action should be taken on receipt of one notification under this Regulation was followed during the year and 9 persons suffering from venereal disease were traced and advised to attend the clinics for advice and treatment. The difference between this number and the total of notifications on Form 1 received is accounted for by the particulars being insufficient to enable identification to be made.

The Special Social Worker who has been giving part-time service in association with the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, continued to give very useful service during the early part of the year, but the number of East Sussex cases fell off so much during these months that her employment was not justified after the 30th June, 1946.

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 has increased from 511 in 1939 to 629 in 1946. 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 in a very satisfactory manner and 5,342 visits were made by them during the year. The friendly liaison already established with Officers of the Assistance Board has continued, to the manifest benefit of blind persons and the organisations concerned.

The increase in the number of blind persons in East Sussex may with confidence be described as apparent rather than real, the increase in the number of those registered being due to better ascertainment. To a very large extent we are indebted to the Assistance Board, whose Officers, when enquiring into applications for supplementary pensions, always put in touch with the East Sussex Association for the Blind any person who appears to be blind. The County Council provided domiciliary financial assistance for necessitous blind persons and their sighted dependants.

Mental Deficiency. At the end of December, 1946, there were 761 mentally defective persons on the County Register, as compared with 778 in 1945. 180 were maintained in Certified Institutions, 1 in an Approved Home, 40 were on licence from Institutions, and 148 under Guardianship. 17 were detained in a "place of safety" (of these, 9 were in Emergency Homes). 375, not under Order, were under supervision.

Assistance was also given towards the maintenance in Institutions of 5 cases dealt with under Section 3. 17 cases have been transferred to "friendly supervision" under arrangements made by the East Sussex Association for Mental Welfare.

During the year the names of 39 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons :—

Discharged by the Board of Control	2
Removed from the area	15
Admitted to the County Mental Hospital	11
Died	5
No longer needing supervision	6

County Council Hospital and Domiciliary Medical Services. There has been no change in these services since my last report. Treatment of cases of acute and chronic sickness has been provided in Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, the Cuckfield Hospital, the six Institution Infirmarys and in the accommodation reserved

for East Sussex patients at St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne, and the Municipal Hospital, Hastings. Maternity cases are treated at Southlands Hospital, Cuckfield Hospital and Hastings Municipal Hospital. The Domiciliary Medical Services continue to be provided through part-time District Medical Officers.

Mr. E. K. McLean, F.R.C.S.E., Medical Superintendent, Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, reports that 1946 was a very busy year, the hospital working to the full capacity of the beds available. One of the hospital blocks has been developed for the treatment of fractures in elderly female cases. A Training School for Male Nurses and for Part I Midwifery is now operating at the hospital. Maternity accommodation has been increased to 55 beds by the absorption of AIII Ward of 12 beds. A new four-valve X-ray apparatus with rotating anode and a second portable unit has been installed and an Assistant Radiographer has been appointed.

A seventh Medical Officer has been added to the staff, owing mainly to the increased work of the out-patient clinics. The attendances at these clinics during 1946 were 8,932, as compared with 5,443 in 1945.

On the surgical side the major operations increased from 1,041 in 1945 to 1,340 in 1946. The work of the Occupational Therapy and the Physiotherapy Departments has increased considerably. Accommodation for additional nurses is being provided by conversion of Blocks "E" and "F".

The following is a short statement of statistics relating to the work of the hospital during 1946 :—

	1944.	1945.	1946.
Total number of admissions	4,094	3,901	4,679
Number of women confined in hospital	661	622	949
Number of live births	646	619	943
Number of stillbirths	31	17	31
Number of deaths among newly-born infants	24	21	26
Number of out-patient attendances	5,211	5,443	8,932

Cancer Act, 1939. The Council's Interim Arrangement under this Act continued to operate satisfactorily, with Westminster Hospital as the main treatment centre. Other large hospitals with the necessary facilities for the treatment of cancer are used for the accommodation of East Sussex patients when beds are not available at Westminster Hospital.

Since September, 1944, when the Interim Arrangement came into operation, 114 patients were referred for examination and treatment up to the 31st December, 1946. Of these, 81 were referred to Westminster Hospital, 1 to the Royal Cancer Hospital, 2 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 1 to Brompton Hospital, 9 to St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford, 1 to Hammersmith (L.C.C.) Hospital, 1 to University College Hospital and 1 to Lambeth Hospital. The remaining cases were either considered unsuitable for treatment or were treated under arrangements made by their own medical attendants.

Public Vaccination. The returns made by the Vaccination Officers for the calendar year 1945 show that 2,965 births were returned in the birth list sheets as registered in the area during that year. Of this total, 1,518 were successfully vaccinated by 31st January, 1947; 7 were insusceptible of vaccination; 59 died unvaccinated; postponement of vaccination by medical certificate was recorded in 20 cases; 201 removals of children to other districts were notified to the Vaccination Officers concerned and 128 children were removed to places unknown or which could not be traced. The parents of 891 children made statutory declarations of conscientious objection to vaccination, this number being 30.05 per cent. of the 2,965 births registered. An additional 141 children were unaccounted for. The successful vaccinations were 51.19 per cent. of the total births registered.

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 widespread 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.

Civil Nursing Reserve. On the 1st January, 1946, there were 173 members of the Reserve on the County Register, but by the end of the year there were only 71 (7 trained nurses, 18 assistant nurses and 46 nursing auxiliaries). The reduction in membership has continued steadily as a result of the resignation permission which was given in 1945. There have been no further offers of service.

The General Nursing Council during the year admitted 10 members to the Roll of Assistant Nurses, all of whom were previously classified as nursing auxiliaries.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940. Forty-five samples were submitted to examination under the Regulations during the year, as follows :—

Beverage	1
Cake and pudding mixtures	11
Cereal	1
Confectionery	16
Fish paste	1
Flavourings	7
Meat and bacon	4
Pickles and sauces	4

All these samples satisfied the standards prescribed by the Regulations.

Food and Drugs Act (Milk and Dairies), 1938. Ten notifications were received from Medical Officers of Health of Local Authorities in respect of tubercle-infected milk supplies which were stated to have been produced on farms in East Sussex. The investigations in respect of these notifications revealed 6 cows that were diseased and they were dealt with under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Reports were received regarding 30 cows and 2 calves which, on slaughter at central slaughtering establishments, were found to be suffering from tuberculosis. The investigations which were undertaken failed to reveal any sources of infection. Unsuccessful enquiries were also undertaken in respect of a reported case of undulant fever.

Veterinary Inspections. The following table shows details of the inspection of non-designated dairy herds carried out during the year by Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries :—

No. of Farms Visited.	Animals Examined			Animals found to be diseased and subsequently slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.
	Cows in Milk.	Dried-off and in-calf Cows.	Other Bovines.	
1,608	19,709	3,472	1,603	7

Ministry of Food.

Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

Milk Heat-Treatment Plants. Seven heat-treatment plants in the County were authorised by the Ministry of Food at the end of the year to operate under Regulation 55G. These consisted of one pasteurising plant (holder type) and six heat-treatment plants. The following table shows the results of the milk sample obtained from these plants and submitted to the prescribed tests during 1946 :—

Class of Milk.	Number of Samples Tested.	Prescribed Tests.	Passed.	Failed.
Pasteurised ..	23	Phosphatase	19	4
		Methylene Blue	21	2
Heat-treated ..	168	Phosphatase	142	26
		Methylene Blue	166	2

In all cases of failure to comply with the prescribed tests the attention of the Licensee is drawn to the need for improved control of the heat-treatment plant.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946. With the return of more normal conditions, the number of applications received for Designated Milk licences showed a marked increase over former years. During 1946, 176 farms were under consideration by the Department, either in respect of such applications or other matters involving alterations and improvements to existing dairy premises.

Acknowledgements.

My thanks are due to the County Council and in particular the Chairmen and members of the Committees concerned for their continued help and support in a period of increasing pressure of work. The staff of the Public Health Department, both at Lewes and elsewhere in the county, have formed a friendly and willing team whose energy and co-operation have been of untold help: I ought specially to mention my Deputy, Dr. D. M. Lyon, and Mr. G. F. Akehurst, Chief Clerk. Finally, I pay tribute to the Chief Officer and staff in other Departments, with whom it is a pleasure to work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. LANGFORD, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL, LEWES.
August, 1948.

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

TABLE I.

Group.	Population estimated by Registrar General 1946.	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.	99730	1541	15.45	1657	16.61	41	26.61	361	5.63	28	.28	4	.04	122	1.22	282	2.83
Other Urban Districts.	64710	1213	18.75	791	12.22	33	27.21	242	3.74	20	.31	5	.08	63	.97	123	1.90
Rural Districts.	146390	2599	17.75	1967	13.43	74	28.47	644	4.40	31	.21	13	.09	179	1.22	294	2.01
Administrative County	310830	5353	17.22	4415	14.2	148	27.64	1447	4.66	79	.25	22	.07	364	1.17	699	2.25

† 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, 1946.	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.		
Large Towns.											
Chesham Hill	7993	22540	355	15.75	8	.35	22.04	12	33.80	353	15.66
Slough	3953	64940	953	14.67	20	.31	20.55	27	28.33	1135	17.48
Reading	1988	12250	233	19.02	9	.73	37.19	2	8.58	169	13.80
TOTALS	13934	99730	1541	15.45	37	.37	23.45	41	26.61	1657	16.61
Other Urban Districts.											
Wokingham Hill	2024	7763	145	18.68	2	.26	13.61	6	41.38	115	14.81
Wokingham	3912	14820	246	16.60	6	.40	23.81	6	24.39	195	13.16
Wokingham Grinstead	6600	10580	194	18.34	4	.38	20.20	8	41.24	116	10.96
Wokingham	1772	6388	148	23.17	4	.63	26.32	3	20.27	69	10.80
Wokingham by-Sea	1953	12670	235	18.55	6	.47	24.90	7	29.79	154	12.16
Wokingham	1027	4155	85	20.46	2	.48	22.99	2	23.53	51	12.27
Wokingham	4274	8334	160	19.20	4	.48	24.39	1	6.25	91	10.92
TOTALS	21562	64710	1213	18.75	28	.43	22.56	33	27.21	791	12.22
Rural Districts.											
Wokingham	117053	27440	516	18.80	12	.44	22.73	11	21.32	374	13.63
Wokingham	66038	18410	308	16.73	11	.60	34.48	12	38.96	240	13.04
Wokingham	74335	26610	445	16.72	9	.34	19.82	17	38.20	335	12.59
Wokingham	94629	34660	603	17.40	15	.43	24.27	15	24.87	510	14.71
Wokingham	112096	39270	727	18.51	20	.51	26.77	19	26.13	508	12.94
TOTALS	464151	146390	2599	17.75	67	.46	25.13	74	28.47	1967	13.44
County	499647	310830	5353	17.22	132	.42	24.07	148	27.64	4415	14.2

TABLE III.

Number of deaths at different periods of life in the Administrative County during the year 1946.

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.
.. ..	1085	49	12	3	50	239	732	977	47	15	9	52	210	644
.. ..	1363	25	9	4	60	234	1031	990	27	4	7	53	173	720
TOTALS	2448	74	21	7	110	473	1763	1967	74	19	16	105	383	1370

TABLE IV.
CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR 1946.
 (Not including cases of Tuberculosis, details of which are given on Page 4.)

	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.	Portlady-by-Sea.	Seaford.	Totals.	Battle.	Chailoy.	Cuckfield.	Hailsham.	Uckfield.
Scarlet Fever	276	27	12	3	5	47	—	6	21	7	15	2	51	22	10	58	51	37
Whooping Cough	450	71	17	14	6	108	27	15	16	7	23	3	91	35	18	74	40	84
Acute Poliomyelitis	9	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	3
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	611	42	58	5	2	107	25	25	19	2	24	37	132	81	36	58	56	141
Diphtheria	19	1	5	2	—	8	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	3
Acute Pneumonia	172	35	13	7	1	56	4	1	7	3	17	3	35	20	5	11	27	18
Dysentery	27	2	2	—	—	4	1	18	1	—	—	—	20	—	1	—	—	2
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	47	16	2	—	1	19	1	3	4	1	2	1	12	3	1	3	3	6
Cerebro-spinal Fever	8	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	23	3	1	1	—	5	1	5	—	—	—	—	6	3	3	1	2	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
Malaria	10	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	2
Chicken Pox	12	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
Totals	1673	202	111	34	15	362	60	74	69	21	81	46	351	172	91	207	189	301

TABLE V (a).
CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1946 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.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	48	—	—	—	26	17	5	5	19	4	6	2	7	—	4
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	9	—	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	8	—	—	—	—	4	4	1	5	—	—	—	1	1	—
9. Influenza	18	—	—	1	2	4	11	2	10	1	1	1	2	—	—
10. Measles	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
13. Cancer of Mouth, Throat and Uterus	39	—	—	—	1	18	20	6	11	5	1	1	3	4	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	56	—	—	—	1	16	39	9	28	4	1	1	1	4	4
15. Cancer of Breast	44	—	—	—	3	14	27	5	23	4	—	2	5	—	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	266	—	1	—	7	95	163	37	119	31	1	14	16	11	19
17. Diabetes	13	—	—	—	1	4	8	1	6	—	—	—	3	—	—
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	317	—	—	—	4	57	256	60	145	15	6	17	27	9	15
19. Heart Disease	803	—	—	1	8	97	697	115	395	51	14	40	62	26	45
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	66	—	—	—	1	6	59	12	32	1	1	3	6	5	4
21. Bronchitis	74	—	1	—	4	13	56	7	39	6	2	2	5	2	2
22. Pneumonia	84	6	5	—	6	12	55	10	38	5	5	1	7	9	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	27	—	—	—	4	5	17	3	13	1	1	—	2	4	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	29	—	—	—	3	6	20	5	13	1	2	1	2	—	—
25. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
26. Appendicitis	7	—	1	—	2	2	2	1	4	1	—	—	1	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	73	1	—	—	5	20	47	8	40	3	—	2	7	5	5
28. Nephritis	85	—	—	—	4	12	69	12	43	2	1	7	9	4	3
29. Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Premature Birth	25	25	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	—
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease, etc.	28	27	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	1	1	4	2	4	2
33. Suicide	26	—	—	—	6	13	7	4	11	1	1	—	2	6	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	10	—	—	—	2	3	5	—	4	1	—	—	2	1	—
35. Other Violent Causes	46	3	3	—	6	11	23	8	23	3	1	2	1	1	2
36. All other Causes	232	5	3	4	9	41	170	30	86	24	4	14	17	18	5
All Causes	2448	74	21	7	110	473	1763	353	1135	169	51	115	195	116	69

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

{ Total 74
 Illegitimate 10

TABLE V (b).

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1946 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.	Hailsham.	Uckfield.
Phoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Arlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	31	—	—	—	13	11	7	8	2	4	9	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	13	2	7	1	3	—	—	3	—	3	4	3
Philitic Diseases	7	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	2	1	1	2
Influenza	25	—	—	—	2	5	18	3	5	2	5	10
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encepha- litis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cancer of Mouth, Throat and Uterus ..	29	—	—	—	1	15	13	6	7	5	6	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	51	—	—	—	1	11	30	8	6	15	12	10
Cancer of Breast	31	—	—	—	5	18	8	7	2	10	6	6
Cancer of all other sites	183	—	—	1	9	52	121	45	24	28	46	40
Diabetes	15	—	—	—	—	1	14	1	1	3	5	5
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	243	—	—	—	—	49	104	49	24	40	72	58
Heart Disease	644	—	—	1	9	89	545	122	91	103	164	164
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	58	—	—	—	—	6	52	8	4	4	15	27
Endocarditis	68	—	—	—	—	8	60	10	7	8	28	15
Pneumonia	87	8	4	2	4	19	50	13	20	21	15	18
Other Respiratory Diseases	24	1	—	—	1	6	16	5	—	4	6	9
Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum	18	—	—	—	1	9	8	3	1	4	5	5
Scarlet fever, etc. (under 2 years) ..	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4
Appendicitis	7	—	1	1	—	3	2	2	—	—	3	2
Other Digestive Diseases	56	2	2	—	8	14	30	9	7	9	18	13
Gonorrhoea	57	—	—	1	3	11	42	8	5	18	9	17
Septicæmia and Post Abortion Sepsis ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	2	1	1	1
Premature Birth	18	18	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	1	5	4
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease, etc.	37	30	—	1	3	2	1	6	3	10	7	11
Accidents	23	—	—	—	4	13	6	5	3	4	5	6
And Traffic Accidents	20	—	1	1	9	3	6	3	1	4	7	5
Other Violent Causes	36	2	1	3	5	6	19	6	2	8	13	7
Other Causes	169	4	2	4	16	26	117	37	18	23	41	50
All Causes	1967	74	19	16	105	383	1370	374	240	335	510	508
Of Infants under 1 year { Total					74							
{ Illegitimate					7							

