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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

WILLIAM A. BULLOUGH, M.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

CHELMSFORD :

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PREFACE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Essex County Council.

I have the honour to submit my Twenty-third Annual Report (the fifty-second to be issued), for the Administrative County of Essex for the year 1941.

It will be observed that, except for services ancillary to the War effort, the Report is again in skeleton form, and that at the request of the Ministry of Health, detailed tables showing populations and rates of the Sanitary Districts have been omitted.

Main points from the statistics for the Administrative County are :—

- (a) Birth-rate decreased from 14.8 to 14.6.
- (b) Death-rate decreased from 12.3 to 11.9.
 - (i) Cancer death-rate increased from 1.66 to 1.82.
 - (ii) Tuberculosis death-rate increased from 0.56 to 0.61.
- (c) Infant mortality decreased from 43 to 41.
- (d) Maternal mortality decreased from 2.60 to 1.96.
- (e) Smallpox was again absent, but the notifiable diseases total showed a great increase from 7,027 to 35,169, measles and whooping cough being the main cause.

War-time necessities demand diversion of effort from the normal routine of preventive medicine, but as this report shows the basis of that complex and detailed service has been maintained despite depleted and temporary staffs and the many and various calls made upon them. On the curative side, the hospital and sanatoria service has been in greater demand than ever. If the beds which had been earmarked for casualties had not been released, many of the patients would not have received indoor treatment.

At the time of writing this Preface, there is a still further increase in the incidence of tuberculosis, an inevitable result of the abnormal conditions now prevailing. This problem is an economic, as well as a personal one. Therefore, I welcome the scheme to be launched by the Ministry of Health to provide through the public health services financial aid to the homes of certain tuberculous patients, as it will do much to secure the essential early treatment in sanatoria.

Civil Defence and Civil Nursing Reserve duties have again drawn heavily on the services of the Department. Opportunity was taken to provide further training and refresher courses for the personnel; to link up and assist the excellent voluntary services in the remote rural parts with the First-aid Posts, etc., and to review and bring up-to-date the Civil Nursing Reserve Registers.

The retirement of the Deputy County Medical Officer (Dr. T. P. Puddicombe) in March, 1942, brought to a close the happy association of 22 years duration. I take this opportunity of placing on record my warmest appreciation of the excellent services rendered and of the invaluable assistance given to me by Dr. Puddicombe during this period. He is succeeded as Deputy County Medical Officer by Dr. G. G. Stewart.

Throughout the year, the confidence and support of the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Public Assistance Committees have been a source of strength to the staff and myself in dealing with the many and difficult problems which have arisen. I am especially indebted to the Medical Officers of Health and other Officers of the Local Sanitary Authorities, and to all the members of the staff of the County Public Health Department for their co-operation.

W. A. BULLOUGH,
County Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD.

1st November, 1942.

PART I.

ACREAGE AND POPULATION.

The following table sets out particulars of the Registrar-General's estimate of population for the year 1941, compared with the census figures of 1931. The table gives as in previous years, the rateable value and the product of a 1d. rate.

	Revised Areas.		Registrar-General's Estimated Population, 1941.	Rateable Value, 1st April, 1941.
	Acres. Census, 1931.	Population Census, 1931.		
Administrative County of Essex	959,464	1,189,004	1,252,900	£10,554,023

The product of a 1d. rate is estimated at £39,043.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions were given in the report for the year 1937.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The chief vital statistics of the Administrative County compared with those for England and Wales during 1941, are set out below :—

	Essex.		England and Wales.	
	1937-1941.	1941.	1937-1941.	1941.
Birth-Rate per 1,000 population	14.6	14.6	14.7	14.2
Death-Rate per 1,000 population	10.8	11.9	12.7	12.9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ..	42	41	55	59
Still-Births Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	32	28	39*	Not available

*Period 1935-1938.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A summary of the notifications of infectious diseases in the various Sanitary Districts is set out in Table VII on page 36.

Smallpox.

There were again no cases of Smallpox notified during the year 1941.

ESSEX EPIDEMIOLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

This Committee continued its activities throughout the year, twelve meetings being held. Its Terms of Reference are "to survey periodically the infectious diseases occurring in the Administrative County of Essex and to consider what steps (if any) should be taken to combat those diseases."

Consideration was given to a large variety of subjects, including the disinfection of public air-raid shelters, infectious disease and contacts in public air-raid shelters, examination and treatment of drinking water supplies, incidence of dysentery at certain hospitals, notification and treatment of venereal diseases, diphtheria immunisation, scabies, prevention of infectious conditions in hospitals, typhus fever, enteric fever, whooping cough, fire watchers' posts, exclusions from school in cases of infectious disease, diagnosis of bacillary dysentery, food poisoning and gastro-enteritis, and aggregation of toddlers.

Circulars were issued to local Medical Officers of Health in regard to Bacillary Dysentery, Food Poisoning and Gastro-Enteritis, Diagnosis of Enteric Fever, Stocks of Sodium Hypochlorite, Disinfection of Public Air-Raid Shelters, Conditions at Fire Watchers' Posts, and Water Supplies and Sanitary Services in emergencies. Sufficient copies of the circulars dealing with diseases were furnished on request for circulation to general medical practitioners.

CANCER.

The number of deaths occurring in the County from Cancer during the year 1941 is shown in the table below. The death rate per 1,000 of the population increased from 1.66 in 1940 to 1.82 in the year under review :—

	Age Period.						Total.
	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	
Ad. Borough and Urban Districts	—	5	8	147	778	935	1873
Rural Districts	—	2	1	20	125	263	411
Total for Administrative County	—	7	9	167	903	1198	2284

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

The services of Mr. R. H. Boyd, F.R.C.S., as part-time V.D. Medical Officer were continued throughout the year. Negotiations took place during the year with the authorities of the Chelmsford and Essex Voluntary Hospital for the transfer of the V.D. Clinic to other premises owned by the Hospital which will be adapted for the purpose.

The General Practitioner V.D. Service was established in 1941, whereby suitably qualified Medical Practitioners gave treatment at their own surgeries during normal hours of attendance where there are no clinic facilities available. At the time of writing, 15 practitioners were participating in the Scheme.

The County Council continues to participate in the London and Home Counties Scheme, whereby Essex patients attend for advice and treatment at many of the London Hospitals. Clinics are also available as follows :—

Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford; Essex County Hospital, Colchester; Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, Chelmsford; Ad hoc Clinics, Harwich; East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich; Southend Borough Sanatorium, Westcliff-on-Sea; Ad hoc Clinic, Gravesend; Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham.

Attendances at Clinics.

On page 7 is set out the usual table giving the number of new patients, attendances at clinics, and number of in-patient days.

Travelling Facilities.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1942, fares of necessitous patients to and from the nearest Clinic were paid by the Council at a cost of £172 7s. 2d.

VACCINATION.

During the year ended 31st December, 1940 (the latest period for which complete information is available) the Vaccination Officers' returns summarised in Table I show that 17,913 births were registered. Of these, 4,914 were successfully vaccinated and in 7,954 instances a statutory declaration of conscientious objection was made. Of the remaining 5,045 births, 1,569 removed to places unknown, 1,616 removed to districts of other Vaccination Officers who were duly notified. In 153 cases vaccination was postponed by medical certificate, 88 proved insusceptible to vaccination and 520 died unvaccinated. At the end of the year, 1099 births remained which have not been entered in the vaccination register or temporarily accounted for in the report book.

With regard to the number of persons successfully vaccinated and re-vaccinated out of public expenditure by Public Vaccinators and Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions, the Clerk of the County Council has kindly supplied the following information in respect of the two years ended 30th September, 1940 and 1941.

Number of successful Primary Vaccinations of persons :—

			1940.		1941.
(a)	Under 1 year of age		4,250		3,837
(b)	1 year and upward		545		283
(c)	Total		4,795		4,120

Number of successful re-vaccinations, *i.e.*, successful vaccinations of persons who have been successfully vaccinated at some previous time :—

STATEMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE, YEAR 1941.

Treatment Centre.	Patients from all Areas. Total No. treated for first time.	ESSEX PATIENTS						Total No. of Attendants of Essex Patients.	In-patient Days.
		Total Number treated for first time suffering from							
		Syphilis.	Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhoea.	Not V. D.	Total.			
London Hospitals	...	55	3	190	392	640	9,860	604	
St. Bartholomew's, London...	...	1	—	—	1	2	16	—	
Romford	...	61	—	99	157	317	7,272	427	
Chelmsford	...	32	—	8	39	79	827	—	
Colchester	...	15	—	72	43	130	2,392	454	
Harwich	...	4	—	10	—	14	182	—	
Ipswich	...	1	—	4	4	9	163	—	
Southend	...	13	—	14	15	42	1,030	—	
Gravesend	...	19	—	22	29	70	879	—	
Tottenham	...	6	—	10	23	39	1,441	—	
Total for 1941...	...	207	3	429	703	1,342	24,062	1,485	
Total for 1940...	...	136	1	292	619	1,048	22,932		
" 1939...	...	180	5	557	1,068	1,810	44,814		
" 1938...	...	184	8	705	988	1,885	60,345		
" 1937...	...	174	6	601	810	1,591	63,786		

TABLE II.
VACCINATION.

Guardians Committee Areas.	No. of Births in "Birth List Sheets" registered 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1940.	No. of these Births entered by 31.1.42 in Cols. I, II, IV and V of the "Vaccination Register" (Birth List Sheets), viz. :—			No. of Births which on 31.1.42 remained unentered in the "Vaccination Register" on account of :—			No. of these Births remaining 31.1.42 neither entered in the "Vaccination Register" nor temporarily accounted for in "Report Book."	No. of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination of Children under 14 received during 1941.	No. of Statutory Declarations of Conscientious objection received by V. O. during 1941.
		Col. I. Successfully vaccinated.	Col. II.		Col. IV. No. of Statutory Declarations.	Col. V. Died unvaccinated.	Postponement by medical certificate.	Removal to Districts the Vaccination Officer of which have been appraised.	Removal to places to unknown and cases not found.	
		(3)	(4) Insusceptible of vaccination.	(5) Had Small-pox.	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
(1)		(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Braintree ..	802	268	5	—	424	30	2	2	31	40
Chelmsford ..	2,379	723	18	—	1,021	76	37	316	87	101
Colchester ..	1,811	652	9	—	889	62	—	49	131	19
Epping ..	1,282	365	11	—	509	15	4	239	127	12
Saffron Walden ..	444	226	4	—	170	12	2	15	14	1
Southern ..	6,501	1,660	31	—	2,699	212	55	491	695	658
South Eastern ..	1,509	256	3	—	747	21	16	191	79	196
South Western ..	3,185	764	7	—	1,495	92	37	313	405	72
	17,913	4,914	88	—	7,954	520	153	1,616	1,569	1099
										5,838
										7,101

The Totals of the figures in columns 3 to 11 agree with the figure in Column 2.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

Dr. E. V. Suckling, Bacteriologist for Essex, has kindly furnished the following summary of the work carried out in his laboratory during the year ended 31st December, 1941 :—

Owing to the destruction of the Laboratory by enemy action on May 10th, 1941, the only records available for this report are for the $7\frac{1}{2}$ months period of May 15th to December 31st. These are as follows :—

1. Samples of Water.

Chemical Analyses	..	..	213
Bacteriological Examinations	..	..	270
Samples of Sewage and Effluents	..	..	179
Total	..	..	— 662

2. Samples of Milk and Other Foods.

MILKS :			470
Ordinary	..	..	146
Accredited and Tuberculin Tested	..	..	122
Ordinary, as Accredited	..	..	42
Pasteurised	..	..	76
Phosphatase Test	..	..	51
Sterilised	..	..	1
Microscopical Examination	..	..	2
Cultural Examination for Pathogens	..	..	3
Milk bottles—Tests for sterility	..	..	27
Ice Creams	..	..	—
Other Foods	..	..	—
Total Foods			— 517

3. Pathological Specimens.

	General County.	Oldchurch Hospital.	Public Assistance.
SWABS :	4,429	269	107
Throat	2,795	112	56
Nose	1,350	29	49
Ear	36	9	0
Eye	63	78	0
Cervical and Vaginal	82	31	2
Breast	78	0	0
Miscellaneous	25	10	0
Sputum	2,669	279	5
Fæces	548	175	9
Urine	1,846	0	117
Blood	693	142	6
Pus	50	79	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	112	101	0

	General County.	Oldchurch Hospital.	Public Assistance.
Pleural Fluid ..	71	31	3
Other Body Fluids ..	0	84	0
Hair ..	31	0	0
Miscellaneous ..	25	8	0
Totals ..	10,474	1,168	253
Total Pathological Examinations ..			11,895
Total Foods (from above) ..			517
Total Examinations for the period of 7½ months ..			12,412

ESTIMATED TOTALS FOR 1941.

Samples of Water ..	773
Samples of Sewage and Effluents ..	286
Samples of Milk and Foods ..	827
Pathological Specimens :—	
General County ..	16,759
Oldchurch Hospital ..	1,869
Public Assistance Hospitals ..	405
Total ..	20,919

Other Laboratory Services.

Samples of milk taken from County Council Hospitals, Institutions, Children's Homes and Schools, farms licensed to produce designated milk, farms producing ordinary milk, central depots and in course of delivery to the consumer are examined by :—

Laboratory.	Examinations undertaken.
Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle	Bacteriological.
	Phosphatase.
Dr. A. L. Sheather, Chorley Wood	Biological.

The Pathological Laboratory Service provided at hospitals referred to in last year's Annual Report has been continued and strengthened in association with the Ministry of Health. "Designated" and "Affiliated" Laboratories are operating at the following hospitals :—

Designated.	Affiliated.
St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay.	*Essex County Council Hospitals
The Lodge Emergency Hospital, Orsett.	Black Notley.
St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.	Essex County Council Hospital,
Essex County Hospital, Colchester	Broomfield.

*Since designated.

Designated.
Runwell Mental Hospital.
Harold Wood Hospital.

Affiliated.
Oldchurch County Hospital,
Romford.
St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford.
Chelmsford and Essex Hospital,
Chelmsford.
King George Hospital, Ilford.
Brentwood Mental Hospital.
Goodmayes Mental Hospital.
Claybury Mental Hospital.
Whipps Cross Hospital.

SEWAGE WORKS AND RIVERS POLLUTION.

The usual Table giving details of visits to, and numbers of samples taken from, Sewage Works is omitted. Grand Totals are as follows :—No. of Visits, 331 ; No. of Samples taken, 260 ; of which 88 or 33.8% per cent., were unsatisfactory.

Several Sewage Works are incapable of producing satisfactory effluents. The Local Sanitary Authorities concerned have prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health the necessary improvement schemes, but owing to the national emergency the Ministry is unable to sanction the loans required.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941.

(a) LICENCES. There was a slight increase in the number of licences granted during the year, the figures being Tuberculin Tested milk 94, and Accredited milk 865, Total 959. Seven applications for licences were refused.

Infringements of the Order by licensees were considered by the Milk Special Sub-Committee, the summarised results being :—

No. of licences surrendered	..	..	..	1
No. of licensees cautioned by the Committee	..	..	..	11
No. of Notices of intention to revoke licences	..	..	..	37
No. of licences revoked	..	..	..	26

(b) SAMPLES OF DESIGNATED MILK. The reduced qualified staff was augmented by two Temporary Sampling Officers. Therefore, the number of samples obtained was increased from 3,073 to 4,834, which were submitted to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, with the following results :—

Quarter ended.	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.		
			No.	%.	%.
31st March	.. 1,028	.. 926	.. 102	9.9	(11.7)
30th June	.. 1,374	.. 1,038	.. 336	24.5	(39.4)
30th September	.. 1,288	.. 671	.. 617	47.9	(55.9)
31st December	.. 1,144	.. 985	.. 159	13.9	(17.0)
Totals	.. 4,834	.. 3,620	.. 1,214	25.1	(32.9)

For comparative purposes, the percentage of unsatisfactory samples for 1940 is given in brackets in the above Table. Whilst there is an improvement, the figures still compare unfavourably with pre-war years. Farmers needing assistance in tracing the cause of unsatisfactory samples made increasing use of the excellent advisory service provided by the Essex Agricultural Education Sub-Committee.

Biological Examinations.

During the year, reports were received upon the biological examination of 9527 samples. 35 gave inconclusive results, 883 were free from tubercle bacilli, and 3448 (3.7%) contained tubercle bacilli. This is the lowest percentage ever recorded.

Every positive result was notified to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who took all necessary action thereon.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

Samples of milk were obtained and examined, as follows :—

Biological	119 (4 or 3.4% contained tubercle bacilli).
Bacteriological	279 (77 or 27.6% were unsatisfactory).

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to the County Analyst for the following information in regard to the work undertaken by him during the year 1941 :—

	Samples analysed.	Samples unsatisfactory.
Samples taken from Vendors or in course of distribution	404	121
Samples taken from Schools or Institutions.	101	21
Samples taken on " Appeal to Cow " ..	71	—
	576	142

The usual details regarding kinds of samples examined have been omitted owing to the need for curtailing this Annual Report.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The services of Dr. T. P. Puddicombe, Deputy County Medical Officer, continued to be available both to the Statutory Committee for the Care of the Mental Defective and on application to the Courts of Justice for the examination of, and medical reports on, persons suspected of Mental Defect. Dr. A. R. Forbes, Assistant County Medical Officer, has rendered valuable assistance in this work.

The following table shows the classification of 277 cases examined and individual reports were submitted on each case :—

Diagnosis.	No. Examined.			The figures given in Columns (1), (2) and (3) include the following :—					
				Referred by Justices for Examination.			Epileptics.	Spastic Tetraplegia.	Mongols.
	Male. (1)	Female. (2)	Total. (3)	M.	F.	Total.			
Feeble minded	84	68	152	6	4	10	2	1	1
Imbeciles	47	25	72	1	—	1	2	4	20
Idiots	7	6	13	—	—	—	—	—	1
Not Certifiable under the Acts	25	15	40	9	5	14	3	—	—
Totals	163	114	277	16	9	25	7	5	22

At the end of 1941 the Statutory Committee was responsible for the care and control or supervision of 2,439 persons, an increase of 199 on the previous year, classified under the following headings :—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Institutions	530	392	922
Under Statutory Supervision	744	599	1,343
Under Guardianship	20	23	43
Under Licence from Institutions	59	72	131
Totals	1,353	1,086	2,439

MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930.

The Consultative Psychiatric Clinics held by Dr. A. G. Duncan, Medical Superintendent of Severalls Mental Hospital, Colchester, and by Dr. W. G. Masefield, Medical Superintendent of Brentwood Mental Hospital, have continued to be held.

Dr. A. G. Duncan reports that at the Clinic at the Colchester and Essex Hospital, 552 attendances were made and 118 new patients attended. At the Chelmsford and Essex Hospital the total attendances were 123, and 71 new patients having attended.

Dr. W. G. Masefield reports that during 1941 there were 583 attendances at the clinic at the Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, compared with 255 during 1940. 669 of these were new cases. In order to cope with this increase Dr. Masefield had for a time the assistance of one of his Medical Officers. Dr. Masefield continued to attend at Orsett Lodge Hospital when asked to do so by the Medical Superintendent.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920-38.

The facilities provided for the certification, medical supervision and general care of the blind have continued under the supervision of the Ophthalmic Specialists. Mr. E. H. Young, the whole-time Ophthalmic Specialist, joined the R.A.M.C. in February,

1941, and the ophthalmic work has since been carried out by the continued part-time services of Mr. T. Collyer Summers, F.R.C.S., with the additional part-time service of Miss Monica Low, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (resigned July, 1941), and Messrs. E. J. Baldwin, M.B., B.Ch., D.O.M.S., H. D. Smart, M.D., B.S., J. F. Darbyshire, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S., and S. G. Corner, M.D., D.O.M.S.

During the year 488 persons were examined by the Specialists and occupational training given to 29 persons.

On 31st March, 1942, a total of 2,075 (males 998, females 1,077) were on the Blind Persons Register. Of these 2,023 (males 968, females 1,055), are over sixteen years of age. 1,718 are classified as unemployable, viz., males 748, females 970, and of these 41 are in homes for the blind, 14 in mental hospitals and 107 in Public Assistance institutions.

Of the trades, etc., followed by the blind workers the main occupations show the following numbers:—mat makers 23, machine knitters 21, piano tuners 18, basket workers 18, poultry keepers 14, dealers 13, music teachers 7, telephone operators 7, boot repairers 6, hawkers 5, clerks 5, carpenters 4.

PROVISION OF HOSPITAL SERVICE.

Hospitals.

By the early months of 1941, the Emergency Hospital Organisation had been tried out and apart from minor difficulties had functioned in a smooth and efficient manner. The intensification of night bombing by the enemy did not lead, fortunately, to any marked increase in the number of casualties. By May enemy aerial activity had decreased to a marked extent with a corresponding diminution in the numbers of patients requiring treatment.

A number of notable advances in treatment, particularly in relation to shock, have been developed largely as a result of the experience gained during this period, and correspondingly new knowledge has been gained as to the best treatment for wounds and burns by which patients who would previously have been unfit for further industrial duties have had their functions restored. Much was also done in respect to the rehabilitation of injured persons whereby their usefulness to the community was restored. Accordingly the basis for a sound organisation, which will inevitably benefit throughout the war and the post war periods, has been laid down.

A change is taking place in regard to the treatment of many types of illness, inasmuch as patients seek hospitalisation much more frequently owing to lack of nursing facilities at home, partly due to the calling up of women for war work. This has been particularly marked in relation to the treatment of chronic illnesses and there was during 1941 an unprecedented demand for hospital beds for this purpose. In normal times the incidence of winter ailments meant a heavy seasonal call on hospital beds, but it is to be noted that during the whole of the year under review the figures showed little change. There is no doubt that while such conditions accentuate staffing difficulties there is a benefit to many patients who obtain skilled attention to a degree not previously experienced under average home conditions.

No latent faults were found in the system of extending hospital accommodation by using hatted annexes and these have proved admirable units from a practical point

of view. During the year a further 17 hutted annexes were brought into use at the Essex County Council Hospital, Black Notley, and this E.M.S. hospital represents a complete hospital layout with all necessary ancillary services. The major number of patients were Service cases, most of whom were received at Black Notley during 1941 as the main "boarding centre" for the County. Close liaison was maintained with the Military Authorities in this connection, and particular mention should be made of the very valuable help obtained from Major Snowden, the Military Registrar.

During the year a further development took place with regard to the system whereby special types of cases for whom the Ministry of Health accepted responsibility were sent to special centres where the personnel and particular equipment were available to enable such patients to receive the treatment best suited to their condition.

In June 1941, the Ministry of Health decided to make some rearrangements in their hospital sector scheme to conform with certain military changes. The Group Officer of Sector I—which included all the hospitals in the County of Essex—resigned at the same time. It was decided that the headquarters of the Sector I organisation, which had been housed for convenience in the Essex County Council Hospital, Wanstead, should therefore be disbanded. The Hospital Officer of the Ministry of Health at Cambridge undertook the administration of the hospitals in the County Police District, with the exception of some hospitals situated in the Brentwood area, from the E.M.S. point of view. The latter hospitals, together with the remaining hospitals in the Metropolitan Area of the County, were transferred to the jurisdiction of Sector II. The County Medical Officer was appointed Deputy Hospital Officer, and consequently much of the incidental work was by arrangement centred on the County Hall, Chelmsford. These arrangements involved municipal and voluntary hospitals alike, and as a result there has been a much closer liaison between the two groups of hospitals.

The close association with the London Hospital in regard to the teaching of students continued, and St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, was the main centre for this during 1941.

The Joint Sub-Committee of the Public Health and Public Assistance Committees appointed to act as Co-ordinating Committee continued to function during 1941, and this ensured that a unified policy was maintained in matters of principle involving the County Council's hospitals and institutions.

A recent revision of the figures relating to the number of beds in County Council hospitals and institutions gave the following as the present position :—

Normal bed capacity	2,737
Additional beds by crowding ..	826
Additional beds in hutments	1,986
	———— 5,549
Beds specifically reserved for special types of patients (<i>e.g.</i> Tuberculosis, Chronics, etc.) not included in above	1,833
	———— 7,382
	————

The earlier policy of reserving a specified number of these for casualties was discarded, in view of the pressing demands for beds for civilian sick.

Ambulance Facilities.

The normal ambulance arrangements in the County have continued to work well and the close liaison with the Civil Defence Emergency Ambulance Organisation has been maintained.

Nursing Services.

(a) CIVIL NURSING RESERVE. In the Report for the year 1940, it was possible to refer to many of the activities of the Local Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession and the Civil Nursing Reserve during 1941. They may be briefly referred to as (i) the appointment of Miss H. R. Stock, S.R.N., D.N. (London), as Organiser and Secretary on the 15th April, 1941, (ii) liaison with the Ministry of Labour and National Service in regard to the recruitment of women who wish to take up duty in the Reserve, (iii) the holding of recruiting meetings through the summer, (iv) the very successful Exhibition of Nursing held at the South West Essex Technical College, Walthamstow, in the autumn, and (v) the various propaganda activities in connection with the showing of the Ministry of Information film entitled "Hospital Nurse."

These activities eventually had an effect upon the number of recruits obtained, and there is an adequate number of nursing auxiliaries now enrolled to cover the needs of the Emergency Hospital Scheme in this area. This is borne out by the fact that it has been possible for some considerable time past to allocate nursing auxiliaries to Public Assistance Hospitals to assist with the nursing there.

During the year 1941, 8 intensive courses of instruction on the lines laid down in Ministry of Health circular 2340, dated 11th April, 1941, were held at various hospitals in the County. One hundred and eight candidates attended these courses of instruction and as a result 100 nursing auxiliaries were enrolled.

A review of the local Register revealed the fact that a large number of women whose names appeared on it, were not giving either effective full time or part-time service, nor were they prepared to do so. In many other instances women had taken up other forms of war service. A comprehensive survey of the Register was therefore undertaken and all members falling within these categories and also many others who had been lost sight of were removed from the Register.

Statistics submitted to the Ministry of Health on the 31st March, 1942, indicated that there were 1,694 members on the Essex Register (302 trained nurses, 186 assistant nurses, and 1,206 nursing auxiliaries). At that date, members of the Civil Nursing Reserve, including those on loan from other areas, were employed as follows, in Essex :—

Category.	Employed at Emergency Hospitals.	Employed at First Aid Posts.	Employed in Reception Areas.	Total.
Trained Nurses ..	193	86	2	281
Assistant Nurses ..	165	14	—	179
Nursing Auxiliaries ..	721	449	25	1,195

(In addition, a small number is standing by or serving in Casualty Evacuation Trains, Day Nurseries, with District Nurses, etc.).

The Local Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession met on eight occasions during the year.

(b) GENERAL. Despite undoubted shortages which exist throughout the County, it was possible to maintain a fairly adequate number of nurses to care for the patients actually under treatment in the County Council's Hospitals and Institutions, but it cannot be said that the position is improving. Reference was made in the Report for the year 1940, to Circular 2340, dated 11th April, 1941, and to the action which was then taken by the County Council regarding conditions and terms of service for the Council's nursing staff. Details were also given of the steps which were taken to increase training facilities in the County. Unfortunately, the scheme for an interchange of probationers between voluntary and municipal hospitals in the County did not come to fruition, and there appears to be no immediate prospect of any progress being made in regard to this matter.

The application made to the General Nursing Council for the recognition of the Essex County Council Hospital, Wanstead, as a Training School has been approved, and at the time of writing, progress is being made in regard to the establishment of the school which it is hoped will be ready to function by the 1st January, 1943.

The scheme for pre-entry courses for girls entering the nursing profession at the South West Essex Technical College and the Mid-Essex Technical College was taken a stage further during the year. The former scheme has now been approved by the Board of Education.

Consideration was given to the cost of advertising for nursing staff in institutions and a scheme for a comprehensive advertisement was evolved, and has worked satisfactorily.

During the year the Matrons of all voluntary and municipal hospitals in the County have met in conference on several occasions under the Chairmanship of Miss M. Ruck, the Matron of the Essex County Council Hospital, Black Notley. These conferences have considered many matters relating to the welfare of the Nursing Profession generally, and have been able to make useful recommendations through the County Medical Officer for consideration by appropriate Committees and other authorities from time to time.

Sick Bays.

1. Sick Bays for Unaccompanied Evacuees.

Campions, Harlow. (12 beds).

This Sick Bay for Minor Ailments has continued to operate throughout the year and has proved to be particularly useful for accommodating children suffering from scabies and impetigo.

Child Haven, Hutton.

At this Convalescent Home, run by the West Ham Central Mission, the arrangement made with the approval of the Ministry of Health, whereby 12 beds are available for evacuees, still stands.

Westfield, Bishop's Stortford.

A mutual assistance arrangement with the Hertfordshire County Council came into force during the year whereby children evacuated to the northern part of Essex requiring sick bay accommodation can be admitted to this Sick Bay.

2. *Medical Rest Centres and Rest Homes for Homeless Persons.*

(a) *London Civil Defence Region.*

The following remains available as temporary accommodation for homeless persons of various types, *e.g.*, aged and infirm, severely shocked, delicate, etc. :—

Medical Rest Centre, Beechlands, 42, Alderton Hill, Loughton.

Accommodation for 28 shocked, frail and infirm homeless persons.

There is a trained Sister-in-Charge.

The following have been opened during the year 1941 :—

Rest Home for Aged, Hale Homeless Persons, Holmhurst, Manor Road, Loughton. Accommodation for 30 aged homeless persons. A fully trained Nurse is not in charge as it is being used exclusively for aged persons who are not bedridden and do not require strict medical supervision.

Rest Home for Aged and Infirm Homeless Persons, Brookfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Oak Hill, Woodford Green. Accommodation for 30 aged, infirm and chronic sick homeless persons. A State Registered Nurse is in charge.

Medical Rest Centre, 5, Forest Drive West, Leyton. Accommodation for 12 sick and infirm homeless persons has been provided with the assistance of a Committee of local volunteers.

At the request of the Senior Regional Officer a more prolonged stay is being provided for a limited number of homeless aged persons from the London Region in order that the staff and facilities may be usefully occupied during quiet periods.

(b) *Eastern Civil Defence Region.*

Accommodation at Michaelstow Hall, Ramsey, continues to be available, by arrangement with the Admiralty, as a Sick Bay for up to 6 homeless persons from the Borough of Harwich.

In addition, accommodation has been set aside in the first line Rest Centres in the London Region and in the vulnerable towns in the Eastern Region for the purpose of giving a little extra privacy and attention to a small number of homeless persons using the Rest Centre. These provisions usually consist of 3 or 4 beds in a separate room, with a few comfortable chairs and washing facilities and simple medical stores and comforts. At the request of the Senior Regional Officer, additional arrangements are now being made for similar provisions at all the First Line Rest Centres in the Eastern Region.

The British Red Cross and St. John Joint War Organisation and the Women's Voluntary Services have continued to render invaluable assistance by providing volunteers nurses and helpers in all the above Sick Bays and

supplying many valuable gifts of medical requisites and dressings, articles of clothing and other comforts which have been much appreciated by the homeless sick.

CIVIL DEFENCE CASUALTY SERVICES.

The intensive raiding conditions of 1940 and the early months of 1941 abated during the latter part of that year, although in practically all areas of the county, isolated incidents had to be dealt with during this "quiet" period.

Problems arising out of the numbers of personnel leaving the Service for other duties of national importance have continued to arise in spite of every effort to enrol and train further part-time volunteers. This tendency has been checked to some extent by the "freezing order" issued by the Ministry of Home Security in January 1942, by which personnel are prevented from resigning from the Civil Defence Services, unless for some approved reason.

Good use has been made of the lull in enemy activity to provide intensive training for new recruits and refresher courses for other members of all services. The training has included a variety of exercises for Civil Defence Services only, and also in co-operation with the Military and Home Guard.

A further responsibility has been laid upon the Civil Defence Casualty Services, in that they are now responsible for dealing with Home Guard casualties. A comprehensive scheme to cover all Home Guard Sections has been evolved and approved by the responsible military authorities.

In connection with this extension of the activities of the Casualty Services, special steps have been taken to maintain the full number of First Aid Points allowed by the Ministry of Health. In addition most excellent voluntary efforts have been made to establish "unofficial" First Aid Points in the more rural parts of the County. These points work in conjunction with the main scheme, their promoters being advised by the Scheme Making Authority and the local Medical Officer of Health. The equipping of the "unofficial" First Aid Points has been achieved entirely by the efforts of the volunteers attached to the Points with, in certain cases, considerable help from the Joint War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The growth in the number of First Aid Points has created considerable interest in the smaller villages and outlying areas. Courses of lectures have been arranged, in which members of the general public have also participated.

At the Fixed First Aid Posts many improvements have been undertaken during the year, mainly in the provision of further protection to the Posts, both externally and internally, and in certain additions to the Cleansing Units.

Public Gas Cleansing Centres have been set up on the directions of the Ministry of Health in the heavily populated areas of the County and these are now an integral part of the Civil Defence Casualty Service. Each Centre is affiliated to a Fixed First Aid Post, and is under the direction of the officers of that Post. The part-time volunteers earmarked for manning the Cleansing Centre are trained at the First Aid Post and are supervised by the medical officer and sister in charge.

The Ambulance Service, directed by the County Ambulance Officer, has continued to assist with the transfer of patients under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, in addition to performing the normal duties in connection with the Casualty Services.

The County Equipment Officer, in addition to normal issues, etc., of equipment for the Casualty Services, has had to deal with considerable quantities of extra equipment issued by the Ministry of Health for places of particular importance.

The work of general administration of the Casualty Services increases with these extra responsibilities put upon them. In addition, the routine supervision of these areas and inspection of First Aid Posts, Points, etc., have continued.

The following figures will give some idea of the extent of the Services and the number of personnel, both whole-time and part-time, who are members of this most important branch of the National Civil Defence Scheme :—

First Aid Posts.

	(i) Fixed ..	..	..	98
	(ii) Mobile ..	..	..	35
First Aid Points :	(a) Official ..	..	..	202
	(b) Unofficial ..	..	..	100
First Aid Party Depots ..	..	..	..	88
Ambulance Depots ..	..	..	..	91

Personnel.	Whole-time.	Part-time.	Total.
First Aid Posts (fixed and mobile)	1,542	1,993	3,535
First Aid Points ..	—	1,849	1,849
First Aid Parties ..	1,766	728	2,494
Ambulance Services ..	1,369	853	2,222

Vehicles.	Whole-time.	Part-time.	Total.
Ambulances ..	321	95	416
Sitting Case Cars ..	141	127	268
First Aid Party Cars ..	280	39	319

PART II.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1941, the Tuberculosis Scheme maintained all its functions. The oft-repeated difficulty of obtaining sufficient suitable institutional accommodation was again present and was probably accentuated by the inadequate nursing staffs.

Notifications of Tuberculosis.

TABLE III.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

(a) A summary of the notifications made in the administrative County of Essex during the period 1st January, 1941, to 31st December, 1941, is given below :—

	FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS.												Total Notifi- cations.
	Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis.												
	Age Periods.												
	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	Total (all ages)	
Pulmonary, Males ..	1	6	12	17	62	73	195	169	110	82	25	752	878
„ Females ..	—	6	7	15	67	107	160	88	54	16	9	529	608
Non-Pulmonary, Males..	1	30	41	29	26	6	29	10	10	6	3	191	205
„ „ Females	5	24	37	29	21	18	21	11	8	5	2	181	198

(b) The following summary shows the new cases which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officers of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by formal notification :—

	Age periods.											Total.
	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	
Pulmonary, Males	1	1	1	6	6	22	55	23	18	16	6	155
„ Females	—	2	—	4	7	22	39	18	6	3	2	103
Non-Pulmonary, Males	—	2	5	7	3	3	5	2	—	—	—	27
„ Females	—	4	6	4	6	4	7	—	1	—	—	33

The sources from which information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained are shown below :—

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns } from local Registrars	18	4
} transferable deaths from Registrar-General	8	1
Posthumous Notifications	5	1
"Transfers" from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	202	46
Other Sources, (Forms I and II)	25	8

TABLE IV.

SHOWING ATTACK AND DEATH-RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

YEAR.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Tuberculosis (All Forms).			
	Noti- fica- tions.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Noti- fica- tions.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Noti- fica- tions.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1912-16	Not		851	0.86	Not		269	0.27	Not		1120	1.13
1917-21	avail- able.		752	0.89	avail- able.		199	0.24	avail- able.		951	1.13
1922-26	1110	1.16	656	0.69	320	0.34	148	0.15	1430	1.50	804	0.84
1927-31	1110	1.00	710	0.64	382	0.34	141	0.13	1492	1.34	851	0.77
1932-36	1145	0.89	644	0.50	391	0.30	131	0.10	1536	1.19	775	0.60
1937	1157	0.84	603	0.44	369	0.27	123	0.09	1526	1.11	726	0.53
1938	1207	0.87	581	0.42	449	0.32	116	0.08	1656	1.19	697	0.50
1939	1072	0.77	627	0.45	295	0.21	99	0.07	1367	0.98	726	0.52
1940	1087	0.83	632	0.48	256	0.19	98	0.07	1343	1.02	730	0.56
1941	1281	1.02	619	0.49	372	0.30	146	0.12	1653	1.32	765	0.61

Whilst other factors in respect to the causation of the rise in the attack rate during the last year or two might be discovered, the continued increase in the death rate must be regarded as a warning note that the war conditions are making their inevitable influence felt amongst the tuberculosis population. If any proof were needed that the economic aspect of the tuberculosis household must ultimately be an integral part of any scheme for combating tuberculosis, the adverse effect of the stress and strain of war conditions on tuberculous people is obvious both in impeding a reasonable standard of health and promoting the spread of the disease.

The conditions which favour the tubercle bacilli, namely, insufficient nourishment, unhealthy home environment, unhealthy occupations, etc., are very difficult to control during the war, but it is to be hoped that increasing notice will be taken of the fact that, whatever the adequacy of the treatment scheme may be, it is almost equally important to assure good living conditions if well-expended money of treatment is not to be wasted.

This ideal may not be possible during the war, but it is obvious that every effort compatible with the war effort should be made to continue the extirpation of the disease.

TABLE V.
NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining at the 31st December, 1941, on the Registers of Notifications kept by District Medical Officers of Health in the County.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Cases.
	Males.	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
	4128	3547	7675	1726	1622	3348	11,023

Notification Register.

There is an increase of approximately 1,000 names on the registers kept by the District Medical Officers of Health as compared with the figure for 1940. There is no doubt that a number of notified tuberculosis persons who evacuated from the County during 1940 returned during 1941, and this fact should be borne in mind when considering the above-mentioned increase.

Dispensaries.

	1940.	1941.
Definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the beginning of the year	5,421	5,493
Definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the end of the year	5,493	5,866
New cases examined during the year ..	4,831	5,993
New cases diagnosed as definitely tuberculous	1,105	1,328
Dispensary Attendances	20,079	22,035
Home visits paid by Health Visitors ..	24,933	21,399

The above figures show the main items of interest of the work done at Dispensaries during the year.

It will be seen that most of the figures show an increase over the corresponding figure for 1940. The exception is the figure relating to Home Visits paid by Health Visitors. In this respect, however, it is necessary to point out that the figures given relate to patients seen in their homes and do not represent the actual visits paid to the homes. Frequently a Health Visitor has to go several times to one home before contacting the patient and owing to war conditions many fruitless visits are paid because patients have moved without the knowledge of the Health Visitor.

Artificial Pneumo-thorax Refill Clinics.

The two artificial pneumo-thorax refill clinics established at Walthamstow and Enfield, respectively, have continued to fulfil an extremely useful purpose. The advisability of having these clinics as near as possible to the patients' homes is obvious.

The increase in the number of patients receiving artificial pneumothorax treatment in Sanatoria has a repercussion in the number of such patients who need refills

after their return home. For comparative purposes it is stated that in 1937, there were 147 patients receiving refills as out-patients, whereas, in 1941 there were 350 patients.

Institutional Treatment.

During 1941, there was no lessening in the demand for beds for patients suffering from all types of the disease. An average number of 956 beds was occupied during the year, and for the first occasion on record there was a period when over 1,000 beds were being used. Of the beds occupied, 678 were provided at the three main County Sanatoria, namely, Black Notley, Broomfield and Harold Court, and 40 beds were kept occupied in the tuberculosis pavilions at the St. Margaret's (Public Assistance) Hospital. The Isolation Hospitals at Ilford, Chingford and Colchester allocated 96 beds to tuberculosis cases, and the remaining beds were taken at various institutions as and when possible.

Despite the additional beds occupied the needs of the waiting list were not met and patients still had to wait far too long before admission was possible. Past experience has shown that it is very difficult to forecast the required number of institutional beds to meet the County's needs as it has been generally proved that provided suitable accommodation is available the supply governs the demand.

To minimise the danger of spreading infection, particularly under war conditions, patients suffering from advanced Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been retained in institutions as long as practicable. In this connection special mention should be made of the Harold Court Sanatorium, which, after the opening of the Essex County Council Hospital at Broomfield, was adapted for the reception of women patients suffering from moderate and advanced Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During 1941 there were 1533 patients admitted to this sanatorium, most of whom were in the advanced stages of the disease. Of this number 63 died. There was no other known accommodation available for this type of case, and, therefore, the Council's decision to make Harold Court available proved invaluable. Much praise is due to the Matron and the nursing staff, who continued to provide the care and attention necessary for this difficult type of case. As and when circumstances permit it is hoped to be able to admit to this sanatorium patients in not quite so advanced stages of the disease, in order to avoid the sanatorium being "earmarked" as an institution entirely reserved for "hopeless" cases.

Reports from the Medical Superintendents of the Essex County Council Hospitals at Black Notley and Broomfield are given below :—

Essex County Council Hospital, Black Notley.

Medical Superintendent—Dr. M. C. Wilkinson.

1941 saw the completion of the E.M.S. Hospital, and its incorporation with the Sanatorium under the title of the Essex County Council Hospital at Black Notley.

This report will refer in detail only to the work of the Sanatorium but a general summary of the work of the E.M.S. Hospital may first be given. This consists essentially of nineteen hutment wards with the additional

of the necessary departments for treatment and the administrative offices. During 1941, 2,353 patients were treated in this part of the Hospital, the majority of whom were service patients. Close co-operation with the military authorities and their medical staff has been maintained throughout, and the Hospital is indebted to the Military Registrar, Major Snowden, M.C., for his help in all matters relating to military discipline and procedure.

The hospital has been designated as a fracture "A" hospital. The fracture unit has been supervised by Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S. Mr. H. A. H. Harris, F.R.C.S., is the visiting surgeon, who is assisted by Mr. I. N. Blusger, F.R.C.S. Rehabilitation forms a large part of the treatment of fractures, and this work has been carried out by a masseuse and an Army Sergeant-Instructor.

Another feature of the work has been the recognition of the hospital as a centre for the conduct of medical boards. These Boards have been held under the Presidency of Col. H. M. Maran, F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. The medical staff of the hospital have assisted as members of the medical board.

The general work of the hospital is medical and surgical. The medical work has been carried out by Dr. W. Burton Wood, F.R.C.P., assisted by Dr. A. Grant, M.D. The visiting surgeons are Mr. R. Reid, M.S., F.R.C.S., and Mr. H. A. H. Harris, F.R.C.S.

The hospital was fortunate in that the nursing staff was implemented for the E.M.S. work by members of the nursing staff of the Southend General Hospital, and also by members of the Civil Nursing Reserve, to whom a tribute should be paid for the spirit of co-operation displayed.

Finally, it should be noted that the addition of a modern general hospital to a Sanatorium has had repercussions which have been entirely favourable. In the early days before the E.M.S. Hospital was complete, the work there was frequently assisted and deficiencies filled by Sanatorium staff and equipment. On the other hand the many auxiliary services, such as the blood transfusion service, which have become available as a result of the establishment of an E.M.S. hospital, have been of considerable help to the Sanatorium work.

Treatment of Patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Three hundred and twenty-four patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted during the year 1941. In the early days of the war, some of the pulmonary tuberculosis beds had been cleared, but by the beginning of 1941 the treatment of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis had been resumed to its full extent. Owing to the length of the waiting list of these patients, the ward for women suffering from surgical tuberculosis was temporarily relinquished to accommodate them, the total number of beds for pulmonary tuberculosis being brought up to 180.

A special feature of the work during 1941 has been an increase in the number of patients treated by the operation of division of intrathoracic adhesions, which renders in many cases the artificial pneumothorax treatment more effective. 58 of these operations were carried out during 1941. During

the year, 168 in-patients were treated by artificial pneumothorax, 2,507 refills being given. The number of patients treated by the operation of phrenic avulsion was 19.

The number of confinements in the maternity unit increased considerably; 33 mothers were confined during 1941 as compared with 16 in 1940, 14 in 1939, and 13 in 1938. This work has proceeded with conspicuous success. It has been more difficult to arrange for the care of the babies by relations during the war, and in the majority of cases they have been retained at the hospital until the mothers' discharge, a proceeding which has proved pleasing to the mothers, and without harm to the babies.

The out-patient work increased during the war, and special use was made of the hospital car and ambulance in assisting patients to reach the hospital. The number of out-patient consultations for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis was 356; the number of out-patient artificial pneumothorax refills was 782.

The out-patient work has included the running of the Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Braintree and Witham districts. This work has been carried out by Dr. R. C. Cohen, M.D.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the year, Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S. was appointed as Consulting Surgeon for Surgical Tuberculosis to the Essex County Council.

The number of beds occupied by women and children suffering from surgical tuberculosis was 106. In November, 1941, one of the wards in the E.M.S. part of the hospital was opened, by arrangement with the Ministry of Health, for the reception of children suffering from tuberculous adenitis, the total number of beds for non-pulmonary tuberculosis being thus increased to 126.

Treatment of non-pulmonary tuberculous conditions has been conducted on the usual lines. The splint department has been implemented in equipment and in staff, so that it has been possible to provide surgical splints, not only for the sanatorium, but also for the County Orthopædic service, and for patients in the E.M.S. Hospital.

Laboratory.

A laboratory had been included in the E.M.S. building. It was found more convenient to combine the work of the Sanatorium and hospital in this laboratory. The staff and equipment have been increased to cater for the increased number of types of examinations required in the hospital. The work is under the supervision of Dr. F. Camps, M.D.

Dispensary.

A large dispensary with excellent stores was built in the E.M.S. part of the hospital. A central dispensary for Sanatorium and hospital was therefore established in it. A qualified pharmacist was appointed to be in charge.

Canteen.

A canteen for patients and staff under the direction of the Steward was started and has been very much appreciated.

Essex County Council Hospital, Broomfield.

Medical Superintendent—Dr. W. L. Yell.

This 300-bed hospital for men suffering from tuberculosis, was intended for the treatment of 50 surgical and 250 pulmonary patients in whom reasonable hope of arrest or marked improvement of the disease could be expected, and all modern equipment for investigation and treatment was provided. A new feature in Essex was the creation of a centre for major thoracic surgery in one of the Council's own hospitals. The success of such a unit depends not only on operative technique, but on careful investigation and selection of cases, and the training of a team for equally careful attention to detail of post-operative treatment in the case of the major plastic rib operation, which is generally carried out in three stages at intervals which vary from two to four weeks depending on clinical indications. The object of these operations is the closure of cavities not amenable to less radical treatment, and success means the conversion of a hopeless outlook into a relatively good one, so far as light occupations are concerned, and no less important, the rendering of an infectious patient non-infectious. Even partial success may confer great benefit in improving prognosis and reducing infectivity. From time to time women patients from the Black Notley Hospital are admitted for these operations.

The work for the year ending 31st December, 1941, may be summarised briefly as follows :—

Admissions	328	Discharges	218
Transfers to other Sanatoria	50	Deaths	48
Out-patient refills, including aspirations, washouts, etc.	467	In-patient refills including aspirations, washouts, etc.	3,507

Total X-ray Photographs — 2,185.

Operations. (a) Thoracic.

1. Thorocoplasty(stages)	30
2. Adhesion section	65
3. Rib resection	7
4. Bronchoscopy	6
5. Extra-intra-pleural pneumothorax	4
6. Phrenic crush	11

(b) General.

1. Glands	8
2. Fistula in ano	6
3. Amputations	2
4. Colostomy	7
5. Cystoscopy	14
6. Incision of abscess	4
7. Tonsillectomy	4
8. Appendiceectomy	4
9. Hæmorrhoids	1
10. Nephrectomy	1

Decrease in the number of beds elsewhere and other factors altering the balance of the pre-war tuberculosis scheme have necessitated the acceptance of a higher percentage of rather advanced cases than would be admitted normally, and their prolonged retention for segregation owing to adverse conditions in the metropolitan areas consequent on air raids, has made heavy demands on beds. Nevertheless, no patient responding to treatment who could be expected to receive further benefit not obtainable at home, has been discharged prematurely. It is not surprising therefore that all 300 beds have been occupied continuously and the waiting list has at times been disquietingly long.

Bedside industries have flourished. A hospital magazine has been produced monthly (printed elsewhere), but occupational therapy on the more ambitious lines contemplated pre-war, has not been developed.

It was inevitable that a tuberculosis hospital opening in wartime should have its share in the difficulty of recruiting nursing and domestic staff, and the need for employment of a large number of assistant nurses from co-operations is regrettable but diminishing, and the nucleus of permanent staff continues to grow. The average age of the subordinate male staff is much higher than it would be in peace time.

Thirty-four acres of land are being cultivated by the hospital, the remaining 447 acres being leased to tenant farmers.

The medical staff have been responsible for the district tuberculosis work in the boroughs and rural districts of Chelmsford and Maldon; the laboratory has carried out special examinations for the laboratories at Chelmsford and Essex, St. John's and Black Notley hospitals; out-patient refill and other clinics have been carried on and generally the hospital has acted as a consultative centre with its resident and visiting staff.

After-care.

The nine voluntary Tuberculosis Care Associations in the County continued their useful functions during the year. With the financial assistance given by the County Council and in spite of war conditions, each Care Association has maintained its funds and has been able to give considerable help to many patients. Nevertheless there remains much to be done in ensuring that patients discharged from Institutions with the disease in a quiescent stage have every opportunity for making permanent the good results of such institutional treatment. Patients who leave the Hospital or Sanatorium in a reasonably good state of health often return to unsuitable houses and unsuitable employment. The patient cannot be blamed for this if some assistance is not given to him to remedy the position.

There is no doubt that the After Care Associations within the limits of their ability have performed a most useful function in respect to propaganda and giving kindly and sympathetic assistance to a limited number of patients and their families. Nevertheless, the main value of their work has been to disclose how much still requires to be done by a sustained national effort to improve the prospects of the consumptive person and also to attain the ultimate desired results in the elimination of the disease from the community.

PART III.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes, full details of which have been given in previous reports were continued during the year. The area for which the County Council is the Welfare Authority remains the same as in the previous year. In that area the maternal mortality rate for the year 1941, according to figures supplied by the Registrar-General is 1.34 as compared with the rate of 1.96 for the Administrative County and 2.23 for England and Wales.

The number of births, notified and unnotified, in the County Council's Child Welfare Area are given below together with notifications of maternal deaths.

	No. of Births notified by—		No. of Births Unnotified.	No. of Notifications of Maternal Deaths.
	Midwives.	Drs. and Parents.		
Total	5027	1784	141	10

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES, ANTE-NATAL CLINICS, ETC. At the end of the year 1941, there were 31 Ante-natal Clinics, 114 Child Welfare Centres, 13 Toddlers Clinics, 12 Weighing Centres and 10 Women's Welfare Clinics in the County Child Welfare Area. During the year the following new Clinics were established :— Child Welfare Centre at Thundersley, Ante-natal Clinics at Loughton, Weeley and Saffron Walden, Weighing Centres at Highwood, High Roding, Chignal and Great Chesterford and a Women's Welfare Clinic at Dunmow.

Provision of Milk and Medicaments.

The Ministry of Food National Milk Scheme continued to operate during the year for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age. The Ministry's Scheme for the provision of National Dried Milk for infants under the age of one year was continued.

The Health Visitors and Voluntary Workers have assisted Local Food Officers in the storage and distribution of fruit juices and cod liver oil in accordance with the circular issued by the Ministry of Health, dated 5th November, 1941.

Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1939.

Copies of notifications made by medical practitioners were received from Medical Officers as indicated below :—

	Administrative County.		C.C. Child Welfare Area.	
	1940.	1941.	1940.	1941.
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	249	192	63	37

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

During the year 1941, 52 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified in the Administrative County. Eight of the notifications referred to patients living in the County Child Welfare Area, and the following particulars relating to these patients have been obtained :—

Treated		Vision Unimpaired.		Vision Impaired.		Total Blindness.		Deaths.
At Home.	In Hospital.	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.	
4	.. 4	8	.. 8	—	.. —	—	.. —	—

Treatment of Orthopaedic Patients.

School children requiring Orthopaedic Treatment are dealt with in the School Medical Officer's Report.

The Orthopaedic Scheme in connection with children under the age of five years has continued to work satisfactorily during the year. 19 patients received hospital in-patient treatment, 1,683 attendances were made at After-Treatment Centres and 405 examinations were carried out by the Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Obstetric Specialist.

Full details of the appointment of Mr. Alan Brews, as part-time Obstetric Specialist were given in the Annual Report for the year 1940, and particulars of his duties were set out in that report.

During the year 1941, Mr. Brews carried out most valuable services and greatly assisted the Assistant County Medical Officers and medical practitioners in the areas for which the County Council is the Local Supervising Authority and Maternity and Child Welfare Authority. The total number of patients examined were as follows :—

Clinic.	No. of patients examined.
Danbury Park Improvised Maternity Home	.. 80
St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford	.. 47
Chingford Combined Treatment Centre	.. 11
Brentwood (Clinic only held by arrangement)	.. 5
	—
Total	.. 143
	—

Mr. Brews also examined 88 other patients, making a total of 231 patients examined.

In addition he carried out the following 33 operations :—

Type of operation.	No.
Major operations, including 13 Caesarean Sections	.. 17
Minor operations, including 8 external versions	.. 16
	—
Total	.. 33
	—

Nursing Homes.

The number of Registered Homes at the end of the year was as follows :—

(a) Maternity Homes only	20
(b) Maternity and Nursing Homes	24
(c) Nursing Homes (including Convalescent Homes)	18

Routine inspections have been carried out at regular intervals during the year and all Homes were found to be satisfactory.

Child Life Protection.

At the end of the year there were 504 registered foster children in the care of 275 foster mothers.

During the year 1941, proceedings were instituted against a foster mother for wilful neglect of a child in her care and for exceeding the maximum number of children prescribed to be kept in the foster home. Fines were imposed and the subsequent appeal lodged by the foster mother against the convictions was dismissed.

Midwifery Service.

(a) GENERAL. The following table shows the number of midwives employed under the County Scheme at the end of the year 1941, and also the number of patients attended during the year.

	Midwifery.	Maternity.
17 County Council Midwives ..	760	129
23 Welfare Council Midwives ..	987	298

(b) PRACTISING MIDWIVES. At the end of the year there was a total of 303 practising midwives in the area for which the County Council is the Local Supervising Authority. The total number of live births and still births which occurred during the year 1941, in the Administrative County excluding Barking, Colchester, Dagenham, Ilford, Leyton and Walthamstow Boroughs was 10,597 and of these 6,171 (58.23 per cent) were attended by midwives in the capacity of midwife and 2,302 (21.7%) as maternity nurse.

2,666 records of Medical Aid having been called in by State Certified Midwives were received during the year.

Essex County Nursing Association.

In May, 1941, the Essex County Nursing Association made representations for increased grants under their existing agreement with the County Council. After due consideration by the County Accountant, however, the County Council agreed that during the period of the War, the existing arrangements should be suspended, but that the County Council would pay the deficit on the Association's accounts at the end of each year.

General.

(a) DOMESTIC SCIENCE. The arrangements whereby Mrs. B. G. Richardson, the Domestic Science Teacher, gives lectures at Child Welfare Centres particularly in regard to War-Time Economy Cooking have been continued.

(b) CLOTHING COUPONS. In July, 1941, by Circular No. 2437, the Ministry of Health requested Welfare Authorities to undertake the issuing of supplementary clothing coupons to expectant mothers and up to the end of the year 4,518 expectant mothers were issued with 50 coupons each. This has since been increased to 60 coupons each.

Improved Maternity Homes and Residential Nurseries.

In previous reports full particulars have been given in regard to Improved Maternity Homes and Residential Nurseries.

(a) IMPROVED MATERNITY HOMES.

(i) *Writtle Park.* (30 beds).

This Home has continued to function for the admission of evacuated expectant mothers, and in October, 1941, the Ministry of Health agreed to any surplus beds being utilised for the admission of County Council Child Welfare patients. During the year a total number of 325 patients was admitted.

(ii) *Danbury Park.* (20 beds).

The arrangements made between the County Council and Mrs. Wigan, whereby residents of Essex can be admitted to this Home, have been continued and during the year 266 County Council patients were admitted, and in addition 100 patients were admitted from other areas.

(b) EVACUATED NURSERY PARTIES.

(i) *St. Paul's Residential Nursery, Walden Place, Saffron Walden.*

(12 children).

St. Luke's Residential Nursery, Newton Hall, Dunmow. (45 children).

5a, High Street, Saffron Walden. (10 children).

These Nurseries have continued to operate satisfactorily during the year, the children from 5a, High Street, Saffron Walden, attending the Nursery School at the Friends' Meeting House, Saffron Walden.

(ii) *Farmadine Residential Nursery, Saffron Walden.*

Carina Residential Nursery, Walden Grove, Saffron Walden.

The owners of these premises offered a portion of their houses in order to accommodate Nursery Parties, thereby affording accommodation for 122 children at each house. These Nurseries were opened in October and September, 1941, respectively.

(c) NURSERY UNITS.

On 28th October, 1941, the Ministry of Health issued a circular requesting Welfare Authorities in reception areas to investigate the question of the organisation of small Nursery Units for unaccompanied evacuated children in private dwelling houses. The Ministry of Health intimated that wherever

the householders themselves were unable to take charge of a group of unaccompanied children the Ministry were prepared to supply nursery equipment and afford the necessary assistance of helpers. Under this circular Nursery Units were established as follows :—

	Date Established.	No. of children accommodated.
Miss A. Goodwille, 1, Oakroyd Road, Dunmow.	December, 1941	4
Mrs. Capper, Cottesmore, Roydon, Ware	April, 1942	4

(d) WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

As indicated in the report for the year 1940, investigations have been made in regard to the establishment of part-time and whole-time Nurseries, and the following particulars relate to War-time Nurseries already opened :—

	Accommodation.	Opened.
Loughton, 35, Algers Road (part-time)	10 children between 3 and 5 years of age	March, 1942.
Langdon Hills, Women's Insti- tute Hut, High Road (part-time)	25 children aged 2—5 years	17th June, 1942.
Hornchurch, 75, North Street.. (whole-time)	30 children (10 under.. 2 years of age 20 between 2 and 5 years of age)	1st July, 1942.
Witham, "Brookcote," Chipping Hill. (whole-time)	40 children (8 under.. 2 years of age 32 between 2 and 5 years of age).	14th September, 1942.

In addition schemes have been or are being submitted to the Ministry of Health for the establishment of further War-time Nurseries as follows :—

- Rainham, Rainham Hall. (whole-time).
- Waltham Abbey, erection of pre-fabricated hut at rear of The Cedars,
Sewardstone Road. (whole-time).
- Chingford, 136—138 Chingford Mount Road. (whole-time).
- Braintree, erection of pre-fabricated hut on site at East Street, (whole-
time).

COMBINED MEDICAL SERVICE.

In July, 1941, Dr. G. B. Murray, Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer for the Borough of Chingford, resigned his appointment in order to take up military service, and in August, 1941, the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. W. D. Hyde.

PART IV.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Hospital Services.

Institutions under the control of the Public Assistance Committee continue to play their part in the Emergency Hospital Scheme, and they are referred to in the remarks contained under the heading of "Provision of Hospital Service" (see page 14).

Domiciliary Medical Services.

There are no matters of importance to refer to in connection with the Free Choice of Doctor Scheme and the District Medical Services, but it may be indicated that these have generally worked smoothly during the year, taking into consideration the difficulties caused by the general shortage of Medical Practitioners.

TABLE VII.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ATTACK RATES.

53 WEEKS ENDED 3RD JANUARY, 1942.

(Figures obtained from the Weekly Notification Returns).

	SCARLET FEVER.	DIPHTHERIA.	MEASLES.	WHOOPING COUGH.	ENTERIC FEVER.	PUERPERAL PYREXIA.	ERYSI- PEL.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PNEU- MONIA.	ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	VARIOUS.	CEREBRO- SPINAL FEVER.	DYSEN- TERY.	TOTAL.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
URBAN.															
BARKING B.	94	32	1308	660	1	8	14	5	86	—	2	1	22	—	2233
BENFLEET	28	8	431	162	—	—	5	—	30	—	—	1	8	—	673
BILLERICAY	65	62	1000	194	—	—	8	—	15	—	—	43	7	—	1394
BRAINTREE AND BOCKING	30	18	180	6	—	—	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	240
BRENTWOOD	78	100	1054	430	—	2	8	—	31	5	1	1	8	76	1794
BRIGHTLINGHAM	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	17
BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH	1	—	271	42	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	316
CANVEY ISLAND	14	9	36	22	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	64
CHELMSFORD B.	21	8	543	134	3	2	11	4	31	—	—	1	3	—	755
CHELMSFORD B.	14	9	543	134	3	2	11	4	31	—	—	1	3	—	755
CHIGWELL	32	4	310	198	—	2	6	—	57	—	—	—	7	—	616
CHINGFORD B.	1	—	6	29	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	43
CLACTON	120	34	488	190	14	17	12	5	128	—	—	3	15	298	1324
COLCHESTER B.	176	46	2070	479	5	20	27	7	117	—	—	10	21	—	2978
DAGENHAM B.	7	14	209	68	3	6	6	—	19	—	1	4	1	16	354
EFFING	3	—	2	—	2	1	1	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	18
ELSTON AND WALTON	1	4	229	28	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	266
HALSTED	4	1	90	125	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	—	233
HARWICH B.	113	36	1633	438	3	7	13	3	74	—	1	1	7	—	2329
HORNCHURCH	188	40	2420	1177	18	33	56	9	225	—	1	21	35	3	4226
ILFORD B.	66	46	481	338	4	13	27	3	80	2	—	1	13	—	1074
LEYTON B.	3	2	261	147	1	—	3	—	10	—	—	31	—	—	458
MALDON B.	15	1	298	87	—	2	6	—	15	—	—	—	1	—	425
RAYLEIGH	88	34	1023	308	6	13	15	4	39	1	3	—	18	4	1556
ROMFORD B.	6	1	87	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	105
SAYFORD WALDEN B.	166	42	1406	117	3	5	17	3	64	1	—	2	18	3	1847
THOROUGH	35	2	90	56	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	189
WALTHAM HOLY CROSS	119	27	1087	454	1	40	30	3	141	—	1	4	21	—	1928
WALTHAMSTON B.	85	22	588	280	9	3	10	—	41	—	—	—	8	—	1047
WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD B.	2	—	111	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	116
WEST MERSEA	2	—	171	50	—	—	3	1	6	—	—	—	1	20	355
WITRAM	3	1	48	25	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	83
WIVENHOE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1578	595	18593	6435	79	181	291	49	1255	9	14	128	225	420	29852
RURAL.															
BRAINTREE	29	3	221	32	2	3	1	—	6	1	—	—	2	—	390
CHELMSFORD	43	15	355	131	1	4	10	—	19	—	—	—	6	—	584
DUNMOW	44	5	462	238	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	755
EFFING	19	4	505	270	—	—	7	—	14	—	—	—	3	—	827
HALSTED	5	—	441	77	—	—	1	1	12	—	1	1	2	5	541
LEYDEN AND WINSTREE	45	1	296	128	1	2	1	—	32	—	—	2	2	—	610
MALDON	5	4	360	72	—	—	3	—	10	—	1	1	2	—	458
ONGAR	8	5	253	53	—	—	4	—	10	2	—	—	—	—	337
ROCHFORD	13	14	238	64	—	—	9	1	13	—	1	—	3	—	356
SAYFORD WALDEN	14	1	258	37	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	312
TENDRING	11	15	242	52	—	2	3	1	2	1	—	1	6	1	337
TOTAL	236	67	3631	1154	4	11	43	3	119	5	5	5	28	6	5317
TOTAL—BOROUGHES AND URBAN DISTRICTS	1578	595	18593	6435	79	181	291	49	1255	9	14	128	225	420	29852
TOTAL—RURAL DISTRICTS	236	67	3631	1154	4	11	43	3	119	5	5	5	28	6	5317
TOTAL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY	1814	662	22224	7589	83	192	334	52	1374	14	19	133	253	426	35169

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