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City and County of the City of Exeter.



ANNUAL REPORT

(abridged interim report)

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR 1941

EXETER:

BESLEY & COPP, LTD., COOMBE STREET,

1942

I have the honour to present to the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Exeter, an interim Annual Report for the year 1941.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this abridged report has been prepared on lines similar to those adopted in 1939 and 1940, but certain familiar statistics have been omitted, particularly those dealing with populations. Delay in publication undoubtedly detracts something from the value and interest of a report, and is due to a variety of reasons which are known to and appreciated by those concerned. In particular, the preoccupation of almost every member of the staff with some branch of Civil Defence is bound to diminish the rate of work. Moreover, public health activities have greatly increased during the war, and one is sometimes tempted to speculate whether the Central Departments are not attempting too much, and thereby diverting attention from the national war effort. Schemes which may be justified on their merits in times of peace may easily become mischievous stunts in a time of national peril. Too much importance is attached to euphonious catch-phrases, too many people are permitted to ride their individual hobby horses, there is far too much talk and not nearly enough action. Unless we win the war, all our schemes and all our plans will come to naught.

This report deals very briefly with the principal activities of the Department.

In 1940 the birth rate just exceeded the death rate, in 1941 the death rate is higher. The maternal mortality rate is the highest experienced for several years. Attention is drawn to the increased infantile mortality rate not only in Exeter but in the Country generally. This rate is usually regarded as a somewhat sensitive and reliable index of health conditions, and it may well be that the effects of war are beginning to make themselves felt on this susceptible section of the population. On the other hand, the City has had a good record in the matter of Infectious Disease, and the report of the School Medical Department showed that the health of our school children remains satisfactory. The immunisation of children against diphtheria has made excellent progress.

The work of the sanitary inspectors in the matter of Housing has naturally been on a restricted scale, but a great deal of valuable work has been done in connection with Food Inspection, especially the various substitute preparations which began to appear on the market.

Finally, I would like to record my warm appreciation of the work of the Staff who have accomplished a great deal, often under very trying conditions.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. B. PAGE.

CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

Public Health Committee.

MAYOR—

R. GLAVE SAUNDERS, ESQUIRE.

CHAIRMAN—

COUNCILLOR W. W. BEER.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—

ALDERMAN W. HEALE.

Alderman J. S. S. STEELE-
PERKINS, J.P.

Councillor W. T. BAKER.

Councillor C. R. BROWNE.

Councillor G. G. DAW.

Councillor G. C. HEYWOOD.

Councillor B. S. MILLER.

Councillor Mrs. E. E. POLLARD

Councillor Mrs. E. W. REED.

Councillor C. REW.

Councillor J. D. SEWARD.

Councillor R. G. SAUNDERS.

Councillor Mrs. E. E. TINKHAM

*Town Clerk—*C. J. NEWMAN, Esq.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

CHAIRMAN—

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. E. TINKHAM.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—

ALDERMAN J. S. S. STEELE-PERKINS, J.P.

Alderman F. H. TARR, J.P.

Councillor G. G. DAW.

Councillor J. W. ACKROYD.

Councillor L. A. GROSE.

Councillor W. W. BEER.

Councillor B. L. THOMAS.

Councillor W. E. G. WICKHAM.

*Non-Members of the
Council :*

Lady DAVY.

Mrs. DEPREE.

Mrs. MILLER.

Mrs. PICKARD.

Mrs. SMITH, J.P.

STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) Medical.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Officer to the Mental Deficiency Committee, and Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital and Honeylands Children's Sanatorium.

DR. G. B. PAGE.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

DR. R. P. BOYD.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.

DR. JESSIE SMITH.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.

DR. E. PATTERSON.

Venereal Disease Medical Officer.

*DR. T. M. PREECE.

Medical Officer, Ante-Natal Clinic.

*DR. BERTHA HINDE.

Dental Surgeon.

G. V. SMALLWOOD.

Assistant Dental Surgeons.

† C. A. REYNOLDS.

† T. L. FIDDICK.

† H. V. WEBSTER.

} Temporary.

†Duties mainly in connection with the Education Committee.

District Medical Officers under the Public Assistance Committee.

*No. 1 District.	DR. C. W. MARSHALL.
*No. 2 District.	DR. G. S. STEELE-PERKINS.
†*No. 3. District.	DR. J. R. BRADSHAW.
†*No. 4 Disrrict.	DR. J. C. HEAL.

Public Vaccinator.

*DR. S. J. P. GRAY.

(b) Others.*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Officer under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, etc.*

ARTHUR E. BONHAM, M.B.E.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector.

A. E. TROUNSON.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

T. COATES.
 G. E. BORLACE.
 A. C. LEWIS.
 †H. R. AMBROSE.

Public Analyst.

*T. TICKLE.

Vaccination Officer.

E. S. HOWELLS.

Superintendent Health Visitor.

MISS C. A. KNUCKEY.

Health Visitors.

MISS B. M. KNUCKEY.
 MISS M. M. FOY.
 MISS D. HICKSON.
 MISS G. LUNN, to 30.11.41.
 MISS A. H. EDDS.
 MISS D. KERRIDGE, to 31.3.41.
 MISS M. E. HARRIS, from 1.5.41.
 MRS. F. M. HOCKING. }
 MISS M. E. BLACK } Temporary.

Tuberculosis Dispensary Nurse.

MISS E. K. SHEPPARD.

Matron of Isolation Hospital.

MISS R. E. A. HUTTY, A.R.R.C.

Matron of Tuberculosis Children's Sanatorium.

MISS F. JONES.

Clerks.

E. S. HOWELLS (Chief Clerk).

C. A. MERRICK (Senior Assistant Clerk).

H. TUCKER (A.R.P. Clerk and Tuberculosis Dispensary).

†E. W. H. ELLCOMBE.

†R. W. STILES.

†R. J. BARKER (Tuberculosis Clerk).

†S. SNELL.

†C. G. SEAMARK.

I. ALFORD.

B. PESTER.

H. J. SYDENHAM.

W. H. WEST.

W. J. STAMP.

MRS. M. G. HARDING.

MISS B. J. HANKS.

MISS J. M. SCOTT.

MISS L. CHANNING

MRS. D. MARSDEN

MISS J. CHAPPLE.

} Temporary.

} Temporary { Maternity and
Child Welfare
Clerks.

* Denotes part-time officers.

† On Active Service.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate	12.8
Death Rate	13.4
Maternal Mortality Rate (sepsis 2.5, other 1.6)	4.1
Tuberculosis Mortality Rate	0.73
(pulmonary 0.57, non-pulmonary 0.16)	
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	68.04
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	62.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	157.1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	8
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	8

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the year ended 1941 were as follows :

England and Wales	59
126 Great Towns, including London (census populations exceeding 50,000—	71
148 Smaller Towns (census populations 25,000— 50,000)	56
London	68
Exeter	68.04

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate in Exeter for the past ten years.

Year.	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
England and Wales	65	64	59	57	59	58	53	50	55	59
Exeter	53.6	47.8	55.8	33.6	62.3	56.1	56.4	42.1	38.7	68.04

42 of the 79 deaths were due to congenital causes and prematurity, 42 being deaths under one month. (See also Section on Maternity and Child Welfare.)

HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Up to the out-break of War there was no change. Thereafter the principal hospitals became part of the Emergency Medical Scheme of the Ministry. See also M. & C. W. Section.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious diseases :—

Two motor ambulances.	}	Provided by the Council.
One utility motor van for discharging cases.		

(b) For non-infectious cases and accidents :—

One motor ambulance provided by the Police and one motor ambulance provided by St. John Ambulance Association. The Council contributes £100 per annum towards the latter. The provision is adequate for the ordinary needs of the City and surrounding district.

Civil Defence ambulance provision is not included.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Number on Register 1st January, 1941	.....	200
Since added	.....	15
Died, transferred, removed, etc.	.....	15
Number on Register, 31st December, 1941	.....	200

All of those certified were over 50 years of age.

Evacuation. At the end of the year there were 109 evacuated blind persons residing in the City. This figure relates to registered blind and does not include unregistered persons or dependents.

LABORATORY WORK.

All pathological and bacteriological work is carried out at the Laboratory of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, under the direction of Dr. W. A. Robb, with the exception of those examinations which are made at the Tuberculosis Dispensary. The usual routine examinations are carried out free, but swabs from diphtheria contacts are only undertaken without charge if the Medical Officer of Health has been first consulted.

Examinations made :—

For diphtheria :—

(a) Primary investigations, including contacts	1482
(b) Others	1961
For streptococci	207

For Enteric Fever :—

Widal	32
Blood Culture	9
Faeces culture	142
Urine culture	90

FOR V.D. DEPARTMENT :—

For detection of spirochetes	8
For detection of gonococci	828
For Wasserman reaction	398
Others	65

For T.B., excluding examinations at Tuberculosis Dispensary,
q.v. :—

Sputum	0
Others	2

Miscellaneous Examinations :—

Cerebro-spinal fluid	29
Others	13

HOUSING.

*(a) Statistics.*1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	178
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	199
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) of above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	55
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	45
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	1
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. *Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(1) No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	24
	(2) No. of families dwelling therein	27
	(3) No. of persons dwelling therein	131
(b)	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	17
(c)	(1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
	(2) No. of persons concerned in such cases	104
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1.	(a) No. of Council Houses found to be infested	28
	No. of Council houses dis-infested	28
	(b) No. of other houses found to be infested	31
	No. of other houses dis-infested	31

2. *Methods Employed.*

Where possession can be obtained, the whole of the interior is fumigated (after easing skirting boards, picture rails and in some instances floor boards) with flowers of sulphur, to which cayenne pepper is added in the proportion of 1 oz. of cayenne pepper to 10 lbs. of flowers of sulphur—the same being evenly mixed before ignition. The dose is repeated after the expiration of seven days.

Where fumigation cannot be carried out, the treatment is spraying with Solution "D," obtained from Messrs. R. Sumner & Co., Liverpool.

3. *The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses.*

In all cases where vermin is proved to exist, articles that cannot be treated with steam are carefully sprayed with solution as described under (2) above and are removed from the premises, while bedding, clothing, etc., is removed to the steam disinfector and afterwards returned to the new premises.

4. *The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority free of cost.*

5. In cases where it is found necessary to disinfect furniture, etc., before the removal of families from unfit houses to Council houses, the latter are visited by a Sanitary Inspector who makes tactful inquiries to ascertain if the measures taken were successful. Up to the present, their visits have been appreciated by the tenants.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

On the register there are 106 Dairies, Milkshops and Milk-stores (where cattle are not kept) for the sale of milk by retail. The slight reduction compared with last year is mainly due to the removal from the register of those traders who sold cream only.

For the production of milk for sale wholesale and/or retail there are 34 Dairies where cattle are kept.

The number of producers occupying farms situated outside the District who supply milk to Exeter by retail is approximately 32, and of those supplying wholesale to Exeter traders approximately 204.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licences for graded milks were issued as follows ;—

Tuberculin Tested :

Production only	.....	.....	—
Combined Production and Bottling	.....	.....	1
Dealers and Supplementary	.....	.....	18

Accredited :

Production only	.....	.....	*6
Combined Production and Bottling	1
Dealers	2

<i>Pasteurising Establishments</i>	4
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* One licence voluntarily surrendered 11th February, 1941.

SAMPLES EXAMINED.

Fifty-six samples were examined from producers and dealers licensed with the Exeter Authority and nine of these samples were examined for tuberculosis, also one sample which was taken from an unlicensed producer following complaints of early souring was examined for cleanliness.

Results.

From licensed producers and dealers.

Designation.	Unsatisfactory.	Within the Standard of Cleanliness.	Total.
Tuberculin Tested	6	10	16
T.T. Pasteurised	4	1	5
Accredited	8	11	19
Pasteurised	5	*11	16

* B.coli presumptive test was positive in four samples in dilutions 1/100, 1/1,000, 1/1,000 and 1/1,000 millilitre.

The sample from the unlicensed producer was very unsatisfactory.

Tuberculosis and Cleanliness.

In addition to the nine samples mentioned above, 27 were examined, and 21 of these were of milk produced in the County Area. Of these samples, 23 did not reach the standard of cleanliness required for graded milk. The samples were from Accredited as well as ordinary herds.

The organisms of tuberculosis were not found in any of the 36 samples examined.

ICE CREAM.

All premises registered under the Corporation Act, 1928, were visited. It was found that many of the smaller vendors had discontinued in consequence of the difficulty in obtaining materials. Close supervision was maintained over those remaining.

PUBLIC ABBATOIR AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The Abattoir remains under the control of the Ministry of Food and continues to serve the following districts in East Devon :—

City of Exeter	Ottery St. Mary
Exmouth	Chagford
Sidmouth	Dawlish
Crediton	Budleigh Salterton
St. Thomas R.D.	

Every animal and carcass passing through the Abattoirs was examined according to the procedure laid down in Memorandum 62—Foods—of the Ministry of Health. Full particulars as to numbers and percentages are shewn in the following tables.

Carcases inspected and those condemned at the Public Abattoir, including City Mental Hospital and St. Thomas Public Assistance Institution, during 1941 :—

	Beasts	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed, including dressed carcasses	8960	5920	41698	6216
Number inspected	8960	5920	41698	6216
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—				
Whole carcasses condemned	35	33	272	50
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1497	85	1791	816
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	17.10	1.99	4.94	3.93
Tuberculosis only :—				
Whole carcasses condemned	60	6	—	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	673	8	—	260
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.18	.002	—	4.28

The above includes the following condemned at the Local South-Western Wholesale Meat Supply Association Depots :

Parts carcasses and/or organs from Beef	5	1 sheep.
" " " "		Parts carcasses and/or organs from Pork
" " " "	25	9

WEIGHT OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS SEIZED OR SURRENDERED DURING 1941.

Description.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Whole carcasses including offals on account of Generalised Tuberculosis	18	5	3	22
Parts of carcasses and offals, on account of Localised Tuberculosis	14	1	1	21
Whole carcasses including offals on account of diseases and conditions other than Tuberculosis	17	19	2	6
Parts of carcasses and offals, on account of Local affections other than Tuberculosis	16	19	2	12
Imported Meat	—	10	1	26
Other Foods, including fish	12	16	1	22
Total weight of Meat and other Foods seized or surrendered during 1941	80	13	1	25

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

There were 166 formal and 76 informal samples examined, in addition to 4 "appeal to cow" samples, making a total of 246.

Of these, 36 formal and 2 informal samples were found to be adulterated or deficient, and with the exception of 1 sample of sausage meat, all were in respect of milk or vinegar.

Eighteen formal and 7 informal samples were considered to be falsely labelled, as follows :—

Egg Powder Substitutes	14
Lemon Substitutes	3
Milk Substitutes	3
Orange Substitutes	3
Onion Substitutes	1
Sugar Substitutes	1

Milk. 88 samples of new milk and 1 sample of skimmed milk, making a total of 89 samples, were examined. Of these 20 samples of new milk were adulterated or deficient, but the skimmed milk was genuine.

The percentage of adulterated or deficient samples was therefore 22.47 as against 13.08 in 1940.

In 9 of these unsatisfactory samples the deficiency or adulteration was 5 per cent, or less. This does not necessarily indicate that lack of feeding stuffs has adversely affected the quality, for the results generally, throughout the batch of samples were above the standards for fat and non-fatty solids.

Vinegar. Two samples of malt vinegar and 26 samples of non-brewed vinegar were examined; 16 of the latter were adulterated or deficient and, with the exception of 1 sample, the retailers who sold the unsatisfactory samples were supplied by the same manufacturers. The deficiencies were considerable, 1 sample containing only 2.24 grammes of acetic acid in 100 millilitres. Six summonses were served upon retailers for selling to the prejudice of the purchaser and the manufacturers were summoned also for giving false warranties. The latter were convicted and fined. The retailers were discharged on successfully pleading warranty.

Sausages. Seven samples of sausages and 1 of sausage meat were examined. The latter was slightly deficient, and the seller was cautioned.

Substitutes.

Early in the year it was discovered that various substitutes for eggs, milk, lemons, oranges, sugar, onions, etc., were on the market at what appeared to be very extortionate prices and bearing such labels as "every ounce equals 5 eggs," "the perfect substitute for lemons," etc. The worst examples appeared to be in connection with egg substitute powders, some of which were sold at about 5s. to 6s. per pound, and in one falsely labelled sample the price was not less than 12s. per pound. Some of these high-priced commodities, which claimed to be only egg substitute powders, and were in fact composed of flour, baking powder and dye, had to be considered as genuine, but vigorous legal action was taken and continued up to the time of the forewarning of the making of the Food Substitutes (Control) Order, in respect of those bearing a false label.

Twenty-six samples of egg substitute were examined comprising 12 different brands. Three of these brands were sold at reasonable prices and were *bona-fide* commodities.* One sample of egg mixture which contained some dried egg was certified genuine. Another brand of substitute which was falsely labelled, was considerably deficient of the egg content as stated on the label, and another brand was composed of wheaten and soya bean flour, gelatine, bicarbonate of soda and dye. The remainder were composed of wheaten flour, baking powder and dye.

Legal proceedings were instituted for contravention of Section 6 (False Label) in respect of four brands and this involved also numerous summonses for giving false warranties, attempts being made in each case to trace the offences to their source.

Two brands of Milk Powder Substitutes, priced 3s. and 1s. 8d. per pound respectively were examined. The former was composed mainly of flour and salt, and the latter of flour with approximately 1 per cent. of baking powder.

As regards the Lemon and Orange Substitutes there was generally an absence of Ascorbic Acid, and one brand of Lemon Substitute contained Tartaric instead of Citric Acid. When sweetening was present, saccharin was the agent used. One brand of Lemon Substitute which claimed to be equal to lemons, was certified genuine and contained Ascorbic as well as Citric Acid.

A falsely labelled sample of sugar substitute was deficient in sweetening power, and one of onion flavouring contained 0.01 per cent. of garlic.

In all cases of false labelling where summonses were not served, the sellers were cautioned and the commodities taken off sale.

With one exception the sweetening agent in sweetened flour, sweetened custard powder, etc., was saccharin which was not declared.

Bacteriological Examination of Canned Stewed Steak. Early in the year, consequent upon the decomposed condition of the contents of blown tins of a brand of stewed steak, bacteriological tests were made, and revealed on preliminary examination the presence of *B.coli* and *streptococcus faecalis*. Further examination failed to reveal the presence of organisms of the salmonella, dysentery or enteric groups.

1,032 tins were destroyed, weighing approximately 4,158 lbs.

Bacteriological Examination of Sausages, Brawn, etc.

A number of samples contained no pathogenic organisms or organisms indicating unsatisfactory methods of preparation.

Sausages. In 5 samples growth of *B.coli* was moderate or light and in 1 sample heavy. *B. proteus* was moderate in 3. A strong growth of streptococci occurred in 1 sample, and light or moderate growths in 2. A light growth of *staphylococcus albus* occurred in 1 sample and a few colonies in another.

Brawn. Of the 3 specimens, strong growths of *B.coli* were found in 2 and none in the third. There was a strong growth of *B. proteus* in 1. Streptococci, including faecal type, were found in 2 specimens, and 2 exhibited a few colonies of *staphylococcus albus*.

Luncheon Sausage. In the 3 specimens no *B.coli* was found. A few colonies of *B.proteus* were found in 1 specimen and a light growth in another. A light growth of *B. subtilis* was found in 1 specimen and another exhibited a few colonies. A fair growth of streptococci (faecal type) was found in 1. One specimen exhibited a fair growth of *staphylococcus albus* and there were light growths in 2.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Selling milk containing 21% added water.	Fined £3.
Selling milk 22% deficient in fat.	Fined £5.
Retailer for selling Egg Substitute Powder with false label. Distributor and Manufacturer for giving false warranties.	Retailer and Distributor dismissed. Manufacturers fined £5 and 10 guineas costs.
Retailer for selling Egg Substitute Powder with false label. Distributor for giving false warranty.	Retailer dismissed. Distributor fined £15 and 5 guineas costs.
Retailer for selling Egg Substitute Powder with false label. Distributor for giving false warranty.	Retailer dismissed. Distributor fined £5 and 5 guineas costs.
Retailer for selling Egg Substitute Powder with false label. Manufacturers for giving false warranty.	Retailer dismissed. Manufacturers fined £20 and 15 guineas costs.
Two retailers and one wholesaler for selling Egg Substitute Powder with false label, and four Distributors and one Manufacturer for giving false warranties.	Retailers, wholesaler and distributors dismissed. Manufacturer fined £20 and 25 guineas costs.
Six summonses for selling by retail, vinegar deficient in acetic acid. Manufacturers for giving 6 false warranties.	Retailers dismissed. Manufacturers fined £20 and 10 gns. costs.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD REGULATIONS.

Every sample of food taken was examined for the presence of preservatives; nothing illegal in this respect was discovered.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

With the exception of measles and whooping cough, there was a general fall in the incidence of infectious disease. In the case of measles there were 1,796 notifications, against 884 in 1940. There were eight deaths altogether. In the case of whooping cough there were 492 notifications, against 174 in 1940. There were two deaths. There was a welcome fall in the notifications for diphtheria (184 against 360) which is continuing. The incidence of scarlet fever remains stationary and the type mild on the whole.

Of the 16 notifications of enteric fever, five were found to be typhoid, eleven paratyphoid fever (B), and one case (fatal) was due to septic meningitis resulting from chronic otitis media. All the typhoids recovered; one of the paratyphoid cases died. The paratyphoid cases occurred in August and September and some of them were related to an outbreak in Bristol. This outbreak was traced to confectionery infected by a carrier. Indeed, confectionery seems to be the common vehicle of infection nowadays. Three of the five typhoid cases were due to eating watercress from a polluted stream in the Tiverton Rural District. Effective steps were taken to stop the collection and sale of watercress from this source. Attention has been called on many occasions in these reports to the danger of eating uncultivated watercress. Most of this cress sold locally comes from water which is polluted or liable to pollution. In this case the association of watercress with typhoid was proved, as the infecting organism happened to be an uncommon type (Type 91). It was not possible to discover how the stream where the cress grew came to be polluted. Valuable help was given by specialist officers of the Ministry of Health.

An outbreak of *pemphigus neonatorum* in a maternity home is mentioned in another part of this report.

Good progress has been made with the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria. At the time this report goes to press (Midsummer, 1942) rather more than 75 per cent. of the school children have been immunised and 46 per cent. of the pre-school children. A great effort is being made to immunise as many "under fives" as possible before the winter.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.													Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths.										Total			
	Under 1														65 & over													
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	Total				1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45		Total		
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	11	10	2	18	12	43	27	28	29	3	1				184	181	1	2	2	3	1	1	1				11	
Scarlet fever	1	2	9	3	8	66	35	18	26	2	2				172	165	1										1	
Enteric Fever					1	4	7	4	1				17	16				1	1							2		
Dysentery	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	19				1	1												
†Puerperal Pyrexia										224	29									1							1	
*Pneumonia	1	3			9	4	4	8	11	18	11	69	1						1	1							6	
Erysipelas					2		2	6	6	13	3	32	10								1							1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever				1	4	3	1	7	3	1	20	20	20				1	1	1	1							3	
Poliomyelitis					1	1							2	1														
*Whooping Cough	47	59	67	67	83	144	17	1	4	2	1	492	13	1													1	
*Measles	69	130	196	211	191	728	153	46	45	14	10	3 1796	11				1	1									2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4											4																

* Deaths from cases notified and not total number of deaths.

† Some of these cases were admitted to the Local General Hospital from the County Area for diagnosis and notified by the Hospital authorities.

VACCINATION.

No primary vaccinations were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health or his staff under the Smallpox Regulations, 1917.

The latest statistics are for the year 1940 and are as follows :—

Births registered	.....	.....	.....	.....	1309
Vaccinated	.....	.....	.....	.....	670
Insusceptible	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Statutory Declaration received	.....	.....	.....	.....	488
Died unvaccinated	.....	.....	.....	.....	49
Postponed	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Removed to other districts	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
Removed to places unknown	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Unaccounted for	.....	.....	.....	.....	10

It will be noted that 51.1 per cent of the infants were vaccinated, which is 5.8 per cent above that of the previous year.

The partially protected condition of the population cannot be considered satisfactory.

Cases of post-vaccinal encephalitis—Nil.

CANCER.

The following table shows deaths from cancer during the past ten years.

Year.....	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Deaths	116	108	121	127	124	117	121	127	144	151

The next table shews deaths from cancer during the past year according to age periods and sex.

0-1		1-2		2-5		5-15		15-45		45-65		65 & over		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5	7	29	35	24	49	60	91

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment were fully described in the report for 1936. There has been no change.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Annual Report for 1940 drew attention to the shortage of beds for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. During the year the block of 12 men's beds at the Isolation Hospital lent temporarily for fever cases has reverted to its original use for tuber-

culosis patients. Beds for male cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have also been available at the City Hospital. Since the close of the year the latter have ceased to be available, so that the position remains unsatisfactory. In order to be able to give treatment to all who need it, and for as long as necessary, 12 more beds, at least, are required—5 for women and 7 for men.

This position has arisen through the closing of the small Pinhoe Sanatorium on the advice of the Ministry of Health in 1933, following the 1930 survey, and the impossibility of finding satisfactory alternative accommodation in other institutions at the present time. Waiting list figures do not reflect accurately the situation because the position is met to a large extent by leaving at home chronic patients who would be better in hospital, and by curtailing the period of institutional treatment in other cases. This is not as it should be.

As a long term policy there is a considerable measure of agreement that a scheme for the whole of Devon should be set up. It will be impossible to carry out any plan of the kind during the War, therefore, it is necessary to do something of a temporary nature now to meet a situation which is likely to become aggravated as the War goes on.

The following figures show at a glance the main facts of the Tuberculosis statistics for the City during 1941 :—

Total cases on Register, 1st January	.....	560
Pulmonary	.....	380
Non-Pulmonary	.....	180
Total notifications received after deduction of 9 duplicates, but including 39 inward transfers	.....	155
Pulmonary	.....	111
Non-Pulmonary	.....	44
Deaths during the year	.....	60
Pulmonary	.....	47
Non-Pulmonary	.....	13
Outward transfers	.....	52
Pulmonary	.....	48
Non-Pulmonary	.....	4
Total cases on Register, 31st December	.....	699
Pulmonary	.....	394
Non-Pulmonary	.....	305

The following table shows notifications and deaths during the year arranged according to ages.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	2
5	1	2	6	5	—	—	2	—
10	1	3	4	3	1	—	—	—
15	6	5	3	3	2	2	—	—
20	4	9	1	4	1	2	1	1
25	11	9	—	2	3	9	1	1
35	6	3	1	—	2	4	1	1
45	5	4	—	—	7	4	—	—
55	6	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	—	2	—	3	—	2
Totals	42	37	15	22	23	24	6	7
	116				50			

Only 1 case was not notified before death. This was a non-pulmonary case in which the diagnosis was made shortly before death.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

Tuberculosis Wards, Whipton Hospital.

Remaining under treatment on 1st January 1941			Admitted during the year			Discharged during the year			Deaths during the year.			Remaining under treatment 31st Dec., 1941.		
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
7	12	19	24	21	45	15	14	29	3	11	14	13	8	21

Honeylands Children's Sanatorium, Whipton.

Remaining under treatment 1/1/41.			Admitted during the Year.			Discharged during the Year.										Remaining under treatment 31/12/41				
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	Males						Females				M	F	TOTAL		
						Improved	Quiescent	Not Tuberculosis	To C.I.H.	Mistaken Diagnosis	Total	Quiescent	Much Improved	To C.I.H.	Transferred	Not T.B.	Total			
12	8	20	8	4	12	2	4	1	—	1	8	4	—	1	—	1	6	12	6	18

Other Institutions.

Institution.	Condition for which treated.	Remaining under treatment on 1-1-41.			Admitted during Year.			Discharged during Year.			Deaths during the year.			Remaining under treatment on 31-12-41		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Exeter	Spine		1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3						1
	Hip		2	2				1		1				1		
	Knee		1	1				1		1						
	Arm and Leg		1			1	1									1
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Exeter	Neck Glands					3	3		3	3						
	Abdomen					1	1		1	1						
	Genito-urinary		1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2				1		
Total		4	1	5	2	8	10	4	7	11				2	2	

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The following particulars are given of cases under supervision at the Dispensary by the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY				TOTAL.			
	Adults.		Children		Adults.		Children		Adults.		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of NEW CASES diagnosed as Tuberculous during the year	36	27	1	1	3	7	6	11	39	34	7	12
and Transfers	16	14	1	—	—	2	—	—	16	16	1	—
as Returned	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Number of cases written off the Dispensary Register as :—												
Recovered	6	5	2	1	—	2	2	1	6	7	4	2
Dead (all causes)....	20	22	—	1	2	3	2	—	22	25	2	1
Removed to other areas	23	19	—	—	1	2	3	2	24	21	3	2
For other reasons	4	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	4	3	2	2
Number of Persons on Dispensary Register on December 31st :—												
Definitely Tuberculous	115	79	22	23	31	30	32	27	146	109	54	50

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

During the year 544 specimens of Sputum and 12 other specimens were examined at the Dispensary.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS.

During the year 413 X-ray examinations had been made (87 for screen only). Of this total 76 examinations were made on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

With the approval of the Ministry of Health, arrangements have been made between the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Devon County Council and the City Council of Exeter, for the treatment of these diseases at a special department of the Hospital.

The hours of attendance are as follows :—

Men	.....	Mondays, 3—5 p.m., and Fridays, 6—8 p.m.
Women	.....	Fridays, 3—5 p.m.

If in-patient treatment is necessary, special beds are available in the Hospital.

Unmarried female patients are admitted to St. Mary's Home, by arrangement with the authorities of the home, for in-patient treatment by the surgeon in charge of the clinic.

The following figures relate to the City only. Number of cases dealt with during the year at, or in connection with, the out-patient clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from : (figures for 1940 are printed in brackets)—

(a) Syphilis	.....	.....	16	(9)
(b) Chancroid	.....	.....	—	(—)
(c) Gonorrhoea	.....	.....	31	(36)
(d) Conditions other than Venereal	.....	.....	78	(66)

Total attendance of cases during the year at out-patient clinic, 1410 (3423).

Examination of pathological material :—

For detection of spirochetes	.....	8	(4)
For detection of gonococci	.....	828	(355)
For Wassermann and Meinicke re- action	.....	398	(316)
Other reactions	.....	65	(36)

The following figures apply to the entire department and are not given separately for the City and County :—

Number of cases who ceased to attend out-patient clinic :—		
Before completing a course of treatment	43	(29)
Number of cases transferred to other treatment centres or to care of private practitioners	225	(30)
Number of patients discharged from out-patient clinic after completion of treatment and observation	173	(128)
Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests of cure	4	(10)
Number of cases who, on 31st December, 1941, were under treatment or observation	112	(96)
	557	(293)

The total number of cases under treatment at the end of the year showed an increase of 16.

Attendances are not limited to clinic hours, but patients attend on other days and hours for interim treatment.

These arrangements are intimated to all doctors commencing practice in Exeter. Six medical practitioners were supplied with arseno-benzol compounds free, amounting to 59 doses in all.

• INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

On the 31st December, 1941, there were 70 foster children in the City and the number of registered foster mothers was 61.

The health visitors paid 303 visits to foster mothers during the year. The figures for the previous year were 68, 62 and 414 respectively. Necessary action was taken whenever conditions were found to be unsatisfactory, and everything possible was done to encourage foster mothers to attend the child welfare centres regularly with their children when these were of appropriate age.

No legal proceedings were taken.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The arrangements for Child Welfare Centres, Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics and associated activities have remained the same as in 1940 and have proved adequate.

At the end of 1940 there were in the City 3,845 official evacuee mothers together with 6,895 children under school age. There were also a large number of unofficial refugees. During the year under review there was considerable movement of population both in and out of the City, amounting on balance to a steady drift home or elsewhere of both evacuees and refugees. At the end of 1941 it was estimated that the number of mothers and young children in the City as official evacuees did not exceed 2,811.

All the Welfare Centres and the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Centre record increased work.

The work of the Maternity Home was seriously disturbed by an outbreak of *pemphigus neonatorum*. Notes of this are given under Section VIII below.

The staff of health visitors who also act as School Nurses remains the same as last year, viz. a superintendent, six permanent officers and two temporary ones. The London County Council lent two school nurses, for school medical duties only.

I.—CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Centre.	Average No. of Infants on Books.	Average No. of Attendances of Children.	Average No. of Attendances of expectant Mothers
Central District	173	59.0	1.7
Western District	362	77.7	1.3
Northern District	300	69.9	0.7
Eastern District	396	69.9	0.9

Altogether 1,449 children under school age attended the centres making 13,911 attendances. The figures for the previous year were 1,497 and 13,852. The attendances of the various age groups were as follows :—

Centre.	Under 1.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	Total.
Central	1681	699	543	104	101	3128
Western	2018	775	442	348	285	3868
Northern	1933	617	300	304	285	3439
Eastern	1787	520	495	391	283	3476
Total	7149	2611	1780	1147	954	13911

I.—MUNICIPAL ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CENTRE

No. of sessions held	101
No. of mothers attending	380
Total attendances	1139
Of new cases :—	
Ante-Natal	304
For diagnosis	3
Post-Natal	12
Referred by :—	
Doctors at Welfare Centres	8
Health Visitors	1
Midwives	1
Private practitioners	5
Miscellaneous (e.g., by office staff in cases already sanctioned by the Committee for the Maternity Home, by other mothers attending the Clinic)	304
Referred for treatment :—	
Dental treatment	58
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	26
Birth Control Clinic	—
Eye Infirmary	2
Dispensary	2
V.D. Clinic	6

III.—MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

Summary of work carried out by the Exeter Maternity and District Nursing Association on behalf of the City Council during the year.

	Total.
No. of cases attended as midwives	203
No. of visits as midwives	5343
No. of cases attended as Maternity Nurses	108
No. of visits to cases as Maternity Nurses	1892
Total number of cases seen at the Clinics	480
Attendances at the Clinics	1782
Examined by Doctor	418
Visits to patients' homes	1471
Total number of cases seen at the Post-Natal Clinics	25
Total number of attendances	112
Examined by Doctor	25
Total number of Medical Aid Forms, for Mother or Baby	70
Total number of Medical Aid Forms, for Mother or Baby, ante-natal	14
Total number of cases referred to Hospital	36
Total number of cases referred to Hospital, ante-natal	3
No. of cases dealt with under lying-in-charity	25

During the year 505 mothers attended the Association's Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics making 1,894 attendances. Of this total 443 attendances were to see the Association's medical officers and 1,452 to see nurse-midwives.

The Association also undertakes nursing of the sick poor on behalf of the Public Health Committee. During the year, 1,560 nursing visits were made at the instance of various medical officers employed by the Council.

IV. PROVISION OF MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

As reported last year, the Government National Milk Scheme came into being on 1st August, 1940, and thereafter the Council ceased to distribute liquid milk. The Council has continued to supply dried milks modified for infant feeding under its previous arrangements and on medical certificate. At the same time the income scale under the National Milk Scheme was adopted for all kinds of milk. This is,

Free of cost when the total income of both parents, or of the surviving parent, from all sources, does not exceed :—

Two parents	One parent
40/- per week.	27/6 per week.

To these sums are added 6/- per week in respect of each non-earning dependant.

The Ministry's scheme for the distribution of fruit juices and vitamin containing preparations came into being on 8th December, 1941. These preparations are available at all four Welfare Centres, as well as at the Milk Office and the Branch Food Office in St. Thomas.

The favourable infantile mortality rate of 1940 (38.7, against 55 for England and Wales) has not been repeated. Indeed, the rate of 68.04 for Exeter is easily the highest recorded during the past ten years. As usual, about half the infant deaths are reported to be due to congenital causes and prematurity, namely 42 out of 79. Of the remainder, 20 were due to bronchitis and pneumonia. The rate for the "great towns" is 71 and for the "smaller towns" 56. These figures reflect the unfavourable influence of war conditions upon pregnancy and infant life. The figures also suggest that the so-called "great towns," that is towns with populations exceeding 50,000, are unsuitable as reception areas in any national evacuation scheme, in spite of their undoubtedly superior facilities and amenities. Great efforts have been made by the Government to provide for maternity in small towns and rural areas, but it is not an easy matter to persuade the city-bred mother to take advantage of these and there are often insuperable domestic difficulties as well. The infantile mortality rate is inclined to fluctuate from year to year, but the sharp upward rise now apparent cannot be viewed with

complacency. Every possible effort must be made to keep the machinery of Child Welfare running effectively. It is generally agreed that the school child shows no deterioration in health. On the contrary, many evacuated to the provinces show obvious improvement. So far as can be ascertained the older pre-school children have not suffered, but the vital statistics of the youngest and most susceptible members of the population reveal the fact that unfavourable influences are at work. Finally, there is one other point. Illegitimacy always increases in war-time. Illegitimate infants always suffer a higher mortality than legitimate, a rate likely to rise very sharply as illegitimacy increases. In 1940 the rate for illegitimate infants exceeded only slightly that for legitimate, in 1941 the illegitimate rate is more than double that for legitimate infants.

V.—BIRTHS.

1,149 notifications of live births were received during the year, 98.4 of the notifications were made by midwives and 1.6 by medical practitioners or relatives.

In 199 instances the midwives summoned medical help, in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board, while 55 other notifications in connection with still births, artificial feeding, etc., were received.

The conditions for which the midwives summoned medical aid were as follows :—

Premature labour	8
Ruptured perineum	59
Prolonged labour	24
Abnormal presentation	8
Ante-partum haemorrhage	10
Post-partum haemorrhage	4
Adherent placenta	2
Stillbirth	—
Albuminuria	7
Miscarriage	2
Rise of temperature	17
Unsatisfactory condition of mother	27
Unsatisfactory condition of baby	31
Patient's wish	—

VI.—STILLBIRTHS.

The number of stillbirths during the year was 35. Of these 7 were attended by doctors and 18 by midwives.

These may be classified as follows :—

	Macerated, i.e., died at some time prior to birth.	Non- Macerated.
Difficult labour and abnormal presentations	3	7
Malformation of Infant	—	3
Toxaemia of pregnancy and albuminuria	5	1
Ante-Partum Haemorrhage	—	1
Ill-health of, or accident to mother	6	1
No cause assigned	6	2
Totals	20	15

VII.—HOME VISITS UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS.

During the year, the health visitors paid 955 first visits and 4,297 subsequent visits to children under the age of 12 months and 6,085 visits to children between the ages of 12 months and 5 years.

The health visitors staff the various centres and clinics and are also school nurses under the Education Committee.

VIII. MATERNITY HOME AND SERVICES.

At Mowbray House, Heavitree, 18 beds, together with 2 observation beds are provided. The part-time medical officer in charge is Dr. M. Y. Paget. Doctors' cases are, of course, attended by their own medical practitioner. The Home is primarily intended for those mothers who cannot conveniently remain at home during childbirth or afford to go to a private maternity home. Complicated and difficult cases are admitted by arrangement to the maternity unit of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

The year's work was seriously interrupted by an outbreak of *pemphigus neonatorum* which necessitated the opening of a temporary emergency maternity unit at the City Hospital.

Admissions were as follows, the figures in brackets being those for 1940 :—

Patients admitted to Mowbray House	145	(231)
Patients admitted to City Hospital	158	(nil)
Patients admitted to Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	162	(114)
Total	465	(345)

The term "pemphigus," which means a blister, is unsatisfactory, as it is used in connection with several unrelated conditions affecting persons at different ages. The term "pemphigus neonatorum," or "pemphigus of the new-born," should be restricted to an acute infectious condition of new-born infants with typical skin manifestations and usually, if not invariably, due to some variety of pathogenic staphylococcus. Infection may be from another case, from the mother or from a nurse or visitor.

The first case came to notice on 23rd January in an infant which had been transferred to the City Hospital two days previously. Another case occurred on 29th January when investigation revealed two additional slight cases. The Home was closed for forty-eight hours to admissions and steps taken to thoroughly disinfect and cleanse the nursery, labour ward and all rooms concerned.

In spite of this, eight more cases occurred during February and the early part of March. On the advice of medical officers of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Health the Home was closed to admissions on 22nd February and a new emergency maternity unit opened at the City Hospital on 23rd February. A further case occurred in this unit and consequently a fresh unit with new staff was opened also at the City Hospital on 12th March.

In spite of every precaution four more cases occurred on various dates during April and May.

It was possible to re-open Mowbray House on 26th May, but as a single case occurred on 3rd July, the Ministry's medical officers advised closure again and this was carried out on 7th July. Patients were again admitted to the unit at the City Hospital and there was no further trouble until the unit finally closed down on 15th November. Mowbray House re-opened on the same date.

In the meantime, the Royal Devon and Exeter Maternity Unit had a single case, but closure from 27th to 31st October, with thorough disinfection and change of staff, sufficed to prevent further trouble.

One further case occurred at Mowbray House on 28th December, and during the current year (1942) two cases occurred on widely separated dates. These latter cases were dealt with on different lines, as it was felt that the serious disturbance caused by

transfer to temporary premises was not justified by the results—at any rate where sporadic cases were concerned.

On each occasion of closure it was necessary to circularise all booked cases and offer alternative accommodation. Very few patients cancelled their bookings. Some were able to make private arrangements or secure the services of the Exeter Maternity and District Nursing Association at home.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. J. T. Davidson, County Medical Officer of Health, Somerset, for placing his excellent emergency maternity accommodation at our disposal. Actually, however, only two patients availed themselves of this.

This disease appears to have been unknown in local obstetrical circles for at least a generation. The original case was probably infected by its mother, who was a refugee. The infection of the second unit at the City Hospital was probably due to a midwife acting as a carrier. The causal organism is very resistant. As pathogenic staphylococci are common inhabitants of the nose, it is advised that typing should be carried out before it is assumed that any particular person is a carrier.

Closure of a Home is a drastic and expensive remedy, doubtless justified when any considerable outbreak occurs. The occasional case, in our experience, may be dealt with effectively by prompt isolation and removal. Staff should be warned to report instantly any suspicious spots, inflammation round the nail bed (*onychia*), or conjunctivitis, as well as any unsatisfactory condition of the stump of the cord. The disease commonly manifests itself in one of these ways, when prompt action may save a great deal of trouble. It is also desirable to investigate nurses' technique from time to time and to see that all rules are strictly observed, particularly those referring to the health of the staff.

Eighteen cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital. One of these died from the disease and one died from another cause after recovery from pemphigus. The original case was also fatal. Treatment with Bonney's blue pigment locally and sulphathiozole internally proved satisfactory.

It is understood that the disease has occurred in a number of places throughout the country since the outbreak of war.

IX.—BIRTH CONTROL.

A Birth Control Clinic is carried on by the Exeter and District Women's Welfare Association. Cases suitable in the sense of the Ministry of Health's Memorandum 153/MCW are referred by the Local Authority and granted financial assistance.

Since 1930 a total of 136 cases have been referred. Of these, 10 failed to attend, 6 have left the City, 6 have died, 26 are known to have become pregnant and 25 have been taken off the books for non-attendance. This statement does not include others who decline to make use of the Clinic's services.

X.—DENTAL TREATMENT.

Arrangements have been made, with the approval of the Ministry and with the consent of the Education Committee, for the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers by the School Dental Surgeons.

Summary of the work done during the year 1941 :—

No. of patients seen	.....	.....	.....	154
No. of visits paid by patients	.....	.....	.....	531
No. of administrations of gas	.....	.....	.....	93
No. of teeth extracted under gas	.....	.....	.....	442
No. of teeth extracted otherwise	.....	.....	.....	9
No. of dentures fitted	.....	.....	.....	86
No. of teeth replaced	.....	.....	.....	801
Other operations	.....	.....	.....	54

XI.—ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

During the year 37 children from the Infant Welfare Centres received treatment for the following conditions :—

Congenital deformities	.....	.....	.....	12
Injuries at birth	.....	.....	.....	1
Rickets and sequelae	.....	.....	.....	13
Polio-myelitis	.....	.....	.....	2
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	9

XII.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Year.	Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Re-moved from district	Deaths	Total
	Noti-fied	Treated.							
		At Home	Hos-pital						
1932	11	8	3	11	—	—	—	—	11
1933	7	5	2	7	—	—	—	—	7
1934	6	2	4	5	—	—	—	1	6
1935	7	4	3	6	—	—	1	—	7
1936	7	6	1	7	—	—	—	—	7
1937	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1938	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	3
1939	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1940	4	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	4
1941	4	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	4

It is many years since a case of this disease resulted in injury to vision. There are special facilities for treatment at the West of England Eye Infirmary and there is good co-ordination between this Institution and the V.D. Clinic at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Most of the cases reported by midwives under the Board's rules are examples of conjunctivitis due to other causes.

EXETER ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Accommodation and ambulance arrangements remain the same.

In addition to the City, the hospital serves the following local authorities by contracts with the City Council :—

St. Thomas Rural District Council.

Dawlish U.D.C.

Exmouth U.D.C.

Budleigh Salterton U.D.C.

Ottery St. Mary U.D.C.

Sidmouth U.D.C.

Seaton U.D.C.

Axminster U.D.C. and R.D.C.

Honiton T.C. and R.D.C.

Crediton U.D.C. and R.D.C.

Okehampton T.C. and R.D.C.

and for the purpose of Circular 2153 (Typhus Fever), Tiverton U.D.C. and Tiverton R.D.C.

Owing to war conditions a number of patients have been admitted during the year from various parts of the county in addition to the above.

At the beginning of the year 82 fever patients remained under treatment, 30 of these being from the County. During the year 712 patients were admitted, 260 from the County and 452 City. At the end of the year 47 patients remained under treatment—17 County and 30 City.

Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are dealt with under a separate section of this Report.

Disease.	Remain- ing.	Ad- mitted.	Discharged.		Deaths.	Remain- ing at end of year.
			Diag- nosis con- firmed.	Diag- nosis not con- firmed.		
Scarlet Fever	29	299	287	11	1	29
Diphtheria	48	251	244	29	15	11
Vincent's Angina	—	6	6	—	—	—
Mumps	—	7	5	1	—	1
Enteric Fever	1	32	25	3	2	3
Dysentery	1	3	4	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	12	11	—	1	1
Measles	—	16	14	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	—	14	9	3	1	1
Chickenpox	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pemphigus Neona- torum	—	18	15	—	2	1
Poliomyelitis	—	5	3	2	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	45	29	15	3	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—
Scabies	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	82	712	655	64	28	47

NOTES.

Scarlet Fever. 21 cases were complicated by another disease, namely, 1 mumps, 12 measles, 1 erysipelas and pyaemia, 2 chickenpox, 2 rubella, 2 diphtheria and 1 whooping cough. 2 cases were re-admitted on account of late complications. There were 3 examples of "surgical scarlet fever," 1 case followed burns, and the other two both followed appendix operations. The single fatal case occurred in a child aged nine months and was complicated by broncho-pneumonia.

In 11 cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. The correct diagnoses were as follows: measles 2, rubella 2, chickenpox 1, erythema following staphylococcus aureus infection 1, scabies 1, typhoid fever 1, common cold 2, pulmonary tuberculosis 1.

Diphtheria. 7 cases were complicated by another disease, namely, mumps 2, whooping-cough 1, scarlet fever 3, chickenpox 1. 7 admissions were examples of laryngeal diphtheria and 40 were cases of nasal diphtheria. In addition, 2 had a positive aural discharge, 16 were throat carriers and 5 nasal

carriers. One nasal case was complicated by diphtheritic conjunctivitis and another by non-specific keratitis.

Of the 15 deaths, 3 were cases of laryngeal diphtheria, 1 was due to tuberculous broncho-pneumonia and in another case the diphtheritic nature of the disease was not confirmed, death being due to broncho-pneumonia. The remaining 10 deaths were due to faucial diphtheria and were invariably late cases.

In 29 cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. These were diagnosed as catarrhal laryngitis 1, tonsillitis 19, Vincent's angina 5, otitis media (non-diphtheritic) 1, scarlet fever 1, and "no appreciable disease" 2.

Enteric Fever. Of the 32 cases admitted 7 were cases of typhoid fever and there was also 1 typhoid carrier sent in for investigation. There were 21 cases of paratyphoid B, 1 of which was fatal. In 3 cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. These were diagnosed as influenza 1, food poisoning 1, and septic meningitis following chronic middle ear disease 1. The last-mentioned proved fatal.

Dysentery. These were cases of Sonnè infection.

Erysipelas. The fatal case was sent in with this diagnosis but was in fact a case of acute suppurative parotitis complicated by septic pneumonia.

Measles. 1 case was complicated by diphtheritic infection of the nose and conjunctivitis.

Whooping Cough. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 3 cases, namely, 1 broncho-pneumonia and 2 cases of common cold. One death was due to this disease complicated by measles and broncho-pneumonia.

Pemphigus Neonatorum. See under Maternity and Child Welfare.

Poliomyelitis. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 2 cases, namely, 1 case of aseptic meningitis and 1 case of osteomyelitis of head of right humerus.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. Of 29 cases admitted the diagnosis was not confirmed in 15. These were diagnosed as follows:—typhoid fever 1, lumbago 1, influenza 2, meningismus 6, pneumococcal meningitis (recovered) 1, bronchitis following measles 1, acute nephritis 1, "no appreciable disease" 2.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

By agreement with the County Council, it has been arranged that any smallpox cases arising shall be treated at the County Council's Smallpox Hospital at Upton Pyne.

