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BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM
(KENT).

REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Borough

OF

Gillingham, Kent,

For the

Year ending 31st December, 1924.

BY

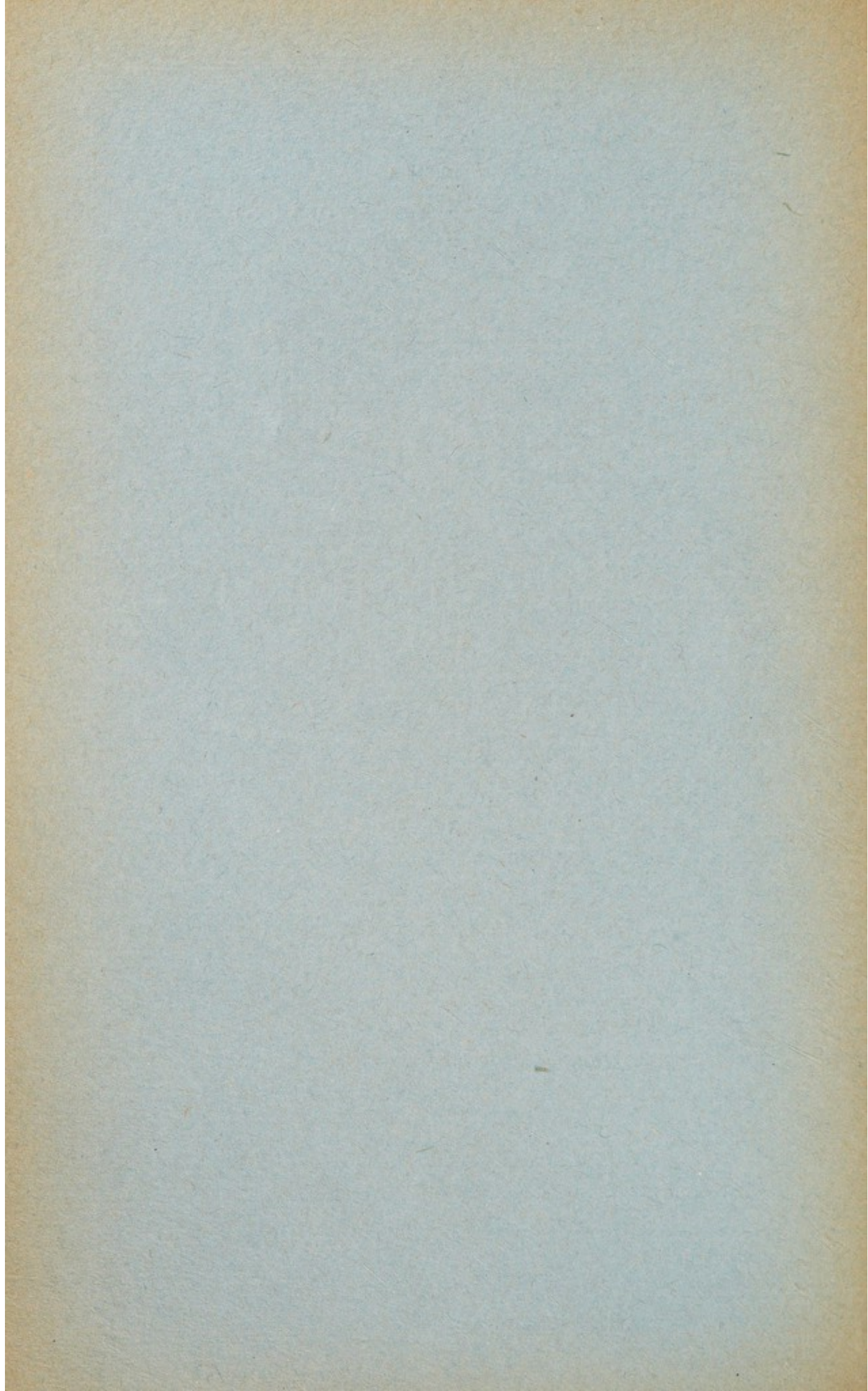
W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,
Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital,
Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre,
School Medical Officer.

GILLINGHAM:

A. GIBBS, 427, CANTERBURY STREET, GILLINGHAM, KENT.

1925.



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1925.

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Health Committee, 1923-1924.

Composed of all the Members of the Council.

Chairman : ALDERMAN A. M. DAVENPORT.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1923-1924.

Composed of all the Members of the Council, and the following
co-opted Members :—

MR. F. A. CHAPPELL.	MRS. RISBOROUGH.
MR. S. HORE, J.P.	MRS. FOAD.
MR. H. GIBBS.	MRS. J. ROGERS.
MR. W. H. THORNTON, J.P.	MRS. HURWITZ.
MRS. A. E. FARROW.	MISS E. DAVIES.
	MRS. D. KENYON.

Chairman : ALDERMAN A. M. DAVENPORT.

Closing Orders Sub-Committee, 1923-1924.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.	COUNCILLOR R. D. EDDEN.
ALDERMAN A. M. DAVENPORT.	COUNCILLOR T. NYE.
ALDERMAN H. HEPWORTH.	COUNCILLOR S. L. REDFORD.
COUNCILLOR G. A. BLACKWELL.	COUNCILLOR G. C. SWAIN.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital, Medical Officer Child Welfare Centre :

W. A. MUIR, M.D.(Glas.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

DAVID L. BALL, Cert. Royal San. Inst.,
Bronze Medallist and Prizeman, City and Guilds, London.

Sanitary Inspectors :

JAMES ARNOLD.

L. E. CROUCHER, A.R.S.I., Jan.-Aug., 1924.

*G. H. RIDGWAY, C.R.S.I., Nov.-Dec., 1924.

Veterinary Surgeon (part-time) :

ELMER EBBETTS, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors :

MRS. A. LEACH (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitors' Cert.).

MISS M. W. MELLOR (*half-time*), (C.M.B. Cert., S.I. Cert.), Jan.-Aug., 1924).

†MISS R. HOPKINS (C.M.B. Cert.), Sept.-Dec., 1924.

Matron of Isolation Hospital :

†MISS F. I. TAYLOR (C.M.B. Cert.).

Clerks :

A. E. R. SOUTH (C.R.S.I.).

H. F. C. TAYLOR.

* Also Inspector under the Shops Act.

† General Trained Nurse.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1924.

Total Area in Acres (excluding Foreshore and Tidal Water)	4,988
Do. (including Foreshore and Tidal Water)	7,291
Population (Registrar General, June, 1924)	56,230
Density of Population per acre (1921 Census)	10.9
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921 Census)	11,343
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921 Census)	12,486
Number of Births Registered	1,014
Birth Rate (Registrar General) per 1,000 of population	16.7
Number of Deaths registered	414
Death Rate (Registrar General) per 1,000 of population	10.8
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births.. .. .	52
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 of population .. .. .	.7
Total Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 of population	.9
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 of population	1.2
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 of population .. .. .	.1
Rateable Value (1923-24)	£202,496
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (District Fund)	
1923-24	£750

In 1924-1925 the total Rates were 13s. 10d. in the £ (excluding Water Rate and charges), compared with 14s. 2d. in 1923-1924.

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief (1924-25)	274
Amount paid in outdoor relief (1924-25)	£3,466
Number of Gillingham persons admitted to Medway Hospital (1924-1925)	211

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GARDINER STREET,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

8th April, 1925.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Gillingham, Kent.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my third Annual Report on the health of the Borough as required by the Ministry of Health.

The general death-rate for the year was 10.8 as against 10.2 in 1923. The increase was caused chiefly by influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia.

The infantile mortality rate was 52 in 1924 and 46.6 in 1923. Pneumonia and bronchitis were again mainly responsible for this increase. The birth-rate again shows a fall. In 1924 it reached the low level of 16.7.

The work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department continues to expand. The Infant Welfare Centre, open twice weekly, has now an average daily attendance of 76. As pointed out in the body of the Report the Medical Officer of Health has time to consult only once weekly but with the present numbers attending, two consultations a week are imperative. In the event of the present Isolation Hospital being closed down I would probably be able to give the necessary extra time to the work of the Centre, but otherwise arrangements would require to be made for additional medical help.

During the year particular attention has been paid to places where food is prepared and stored with the object of ensuring cleanliness. Milk-shops especially have been carefully supervised. An outstanding feature of 1924 has been the fall in the number of infectious cases. The figures for scarlet fever and diphtheria, 93 and 13 respectively, are phenomenal and the lowest on record.

It gives me much pleasure to thank the members of the Committee for their continuous support and their careful consideration of recommendations for improving the health of the citizens of the Borough. I have also to acknowledge the help and co-operation of my colleagues in other departments, and my indebtedness to the members of the Public Health Staff without whose help it would be impossible to carry on. The co-operation of your Senior Sanitary Inspector has always been most valuable and most willing.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. MUIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health the following summary of statistics for 1924 is inserted.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	919	482	437	} Birth-rate 16.7
	{ Illegitimate	23	8	15	
Deaths	.....	521	261	260	Death-rate 10.8
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth					{ from sepsis..... 1
					{ „ other causes 2
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births.....					52.01
Legitimate, 47.8. Illegitimate, 217.3					
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					1

POPULATION.

The following are the figures for the last four years :—

Year	Total Pop.
1921 (Census)	54,300
1922 (Estimated)	54,750
1923 (Estimated)	55,200
1924 (Estimated)	56,230

The estimated populations are based by the Registrar General on the 1921 Census after allowance for natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths and for migration as indicated by the Parliamentary Register, etc.

The natural increase of population during the last four years, that is the excess of births over deaths, has been as shown :—

Year.	Natural Increase of Population.
1921	623
1922	574
1923	585
1924	421

For calculating the birth rate the Registrar General gives the population as 56,230, and for death rates as 48,130. These figures have been used throughout the Report for calculating the rates in the Borough.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered was 1,014. After correction for inward and outward transfers the net number is 942, and the Birth Rate for the year **16.7 per 1,000** of the population.

The births were distributed as follows :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	482	437	919
Illegitimate	8	15	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	490	452	942
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The illegitimate births were 2.5 per cent. of the total births, compared with 2.2 per cent. in 1923, and 2.8 per cent. in 1922.

The Ward Distribution was as follows :—

Ward.	Births.	Birth-rate.
Brompton	92	11.4
Medway	130	16.3
East	171	17.6
North	274	23.2
South	184	17.8
West	90	14.4
	Total	941 (R.G. 942) 16.7

The Birth Rate for 1924 is contrasted with that of previous years and with the figures for London and for England and Wales in the appended table :—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population.

Year.	Gillingham.	London.	England & Wales.
1920	28.4	26.5	25.4
1921	23.3	22.3	22.4
1922	20.2	21.0	20.6
1923	19.4	20.2	19.7
1924	16.7	18.7	18.8

It will be noted that the birth rate continues to fall.

DEATHS.

The net number of deaths in Gillingham, after deducting deaths of those who were not "residents" and adding deaths of "residents" whose death occurred outside the Borough, chiefly in the Medway Infirmary and in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, is 521.

This number represents a Death Rate of 10.8 per 1,000 of the population.

The death rate for 1924 is contrasted with that for previous years in the following table :—

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year.	Gillingham.	London.	England & Wales.
1919	11.0	13.6	13.7
1920	11.7	12.4	12.4
1921	11.8	12.4	12.1
1922	11.0	13.4	12.9
1923	10.2	11.2	11.6
1924	10.8	12.1	12.2

Ward Distribution of Deaths :—

Ward.	Population.	No. of Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 population.
Brompton	8,066	40	4.9
Medway	7,937	70	8.8
East	9,671	99	10.2
North	11,794	123	10.4
South	10,321	125	12.1
West	6,237	62	9.9

Accurate deductions as to which is the healthiest part of the Borough cannot be made from these figures, as no correction has been made for age and sex distribution. It must also be pointed out that a low birth rate generally means a lower death rate ; the Brompton ward has the lowest birth rate of all the wards.

The following tables are self-explanatory :—

Year	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Population	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130	145130
Deaths	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014
Rate per 1,000	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

GILLINGHAM DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1924 and previous years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGIS- TERED IN THE DISTRICT. Number.	TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.			of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		Number.	Rate.
1915	45058	1080	1069	23.7	611	17	23	101	95.0	605	13.4
1916	45058	1213	1213	26.9	625	23	30	87	71.7	632	14.0
1917	45646	1052	1052	23.0	575	21	33	86	81.7	587	12.8
1918	43154	1037	1037	21.4	715	21	32	66	63.6	726	16.8
1919	47914	1135	1135	25.0	531	14	15	70	61.5	532	11.0
1920	45233	1483	1483	28.4	520	11	22	70	47.2	531	11.7
1921 Census	54038	—	1260	23.3	637	56	11	82	65.0	581	11.8
1922	{ a54750 b48630	1197	1109	20.2	467	47	118	70	61.0	538	11.0
1923	{ a55200 b47620	1118	1072	19.4	405	46	126	52	48.5	485	10.1
1924	{ a56230 b48130	1014	942	16.7	414	40	145	49	52.0	†519	‡10.7

a Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Birth-rate.
b Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Death-rate.
 † Figure given by Registrar-General 521.
 ‡ Figure given by Registrar-General 10.8.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1924.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and Gillingham have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1924, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1923. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diphtheria and Enteric under Two Years.	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
																Diarrhoea and Enteric under Two Years.	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.49	0.44	7.3	75	92.3	6.6	1.1	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London .. .	19.4	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.12	0.08	0.45	0.40	9.2	80	92.5	6.9	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	18.9	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.50	0.36	6.2	71	93.3	5.5	1.2	
London	18.7	12.1	0.01	—	0.29	0.03	0.11	0.12	0.36	0.44	8.4	69	91.3	8.6	0.1	
Gillingham (estimated net population 48,130)	16.7	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.33	0.43	1.06	52	89.6	7.4	2.8	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The subjoined table is provided by the Registrar General :—
Causes of Death amongst Civilians in Gillingham Municipal Borough, 1924.

CAUSE OF DEATH.						M.	F.
ALL CAUSES						261	260
1.	Enteric Fever	..	...	..	..
2.	Small-pox	..	..	..	..
3.	Measles	..	..	..	..
4.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..		2
6.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..		2
7.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	8	8
8.	Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	..	..
9.	Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	..	..		1
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	17	20
11.	Other Tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	..	1	8
12.	Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	..	30	28
13.	Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..
14.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	2	1
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	12	14
16.	Heart disease	..	..	..	..	32	26
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	..	..	..	..	7	4
18.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	24	32
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	21	14
20.	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	4	3
21.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	..	..	..	2	
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..		1
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	..	..	..	..	1	3
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..		2
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis	..	..	..	..	6	7
26.	Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..		1
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	..	..	..	..		3
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	..	..	..	..	17	9
29.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	5	
30.	Other deaths from violence	..	..	..	..	12	4
31.	Other defined diseases	..	..	..	..	59	67
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	1	
Special Causes (included above) :							
	Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..
	Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :							
	Total	..	..	..	..	30	19
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	3
Population :							
	For Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	56,230	
	For Death Rate	..	..	..	..	48,130	

It will be noted that 58 deaths were due to Cancer, 56 to Bronchitis, 46 to Tuberculosis, and 35 to Pneumonia.

CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

The number of deaths due to cancer or malignant disease each year since 1918 is shown in the following table :—

Year.	M.	F.	Total.	Death-rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1918			49	1.1	—
1919			50	1.1	—
1920			35	—	—
1921			69	1.4	—
1922			52	1.1	9.7
1923	26	27	53	1.1	10.8
1924	30	28	58	1.2	11.1

It is to be observed that during 1924 approximately 11 per cent. of all deaths were caused by cancer.

There is no evidence of decline in the death rate from cancer. The cause of this much dreaded disease is still unknown, but persistent and painstaking research is being carried on throughout the country under the auspices of the British Empire Campaign Fund. Meantime it is up to Local Authorities to impart knowledge of the early signs and symptoms of cancer to the population in general; this is being done in Gillingham by the distribution of pamphlets as detailed in last year's Report. The populace having this information will more readily consult a medical man and so obtain immediate surgical treatment if considered necessary.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Bronchitis caused 56 deaths, pneumonia 35, and "other respiratory conditions" 7, a total of 98, compared with 62 in the previous year. Bronchitis was largely responsible for this increase.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 230 cases of infectious disease were notified, compared with 379 in 1923 and 434 in 1922. Decreases in cases of scarlet fever and of diphtheria explain the fall in numbers.

Table showing the Distribution in Age Groups of the Cases notified during 1924, the number of cases removed to Hospital, and the total number of deaths in the Borough from these diseases.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At Ages—Years.									
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 & upwards.		
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera (D) Plague (P) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	13	—	4	6	—	3	—	13	—	—
Erysipelas	7	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	93	—	24	63	4	2	4	61	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	70	—	—	1	16	34	14	46	—	37
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	31	—	—	4	2	5	2	6	—	9
Pneumonia	6	—	5	17	3	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	230	—	35	91	29	50	23	129	—	48

GILLINGHAM BOROUGH.

Table showing the seasonal incidence of the different infectious diseases.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Malaria.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
January	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
February	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
March	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
April	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
July	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
August	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	6	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	16	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
November	17	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
December	21	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	93	13	7	1	1	3	3	1	—	6	1

SCARLET FEVER.

Ninety-three cases were notified, compared with 143 in the previous year. This is the lowest figure reached during the last ten years. 65.5 per cent. were treated in Hospital, the remainder at home. There were no deaths. The policy adopted has been as far as practicable to remove to Hospital only patients acutely ill and those who could not be reasonably isolated at home. In home cases the notifying doctor continued to attend the patient, and the Sanitary Inspectors called at intervals to ensure that isolation of the patient was being maintained and that the directions given at the first visit with regard to disinfection of the mother's or other attendant's hands were being carried out. That the 32 home cases were treated without the occurrence of even one secondary case favours the policy of selection adopted.

Table showing notifications, number of deaths, etc., from Scarlet Fever during 1915—1924 :—

Year.	Population.	Number Notified.	Deaths Registered.	Treated in Hospital.	Percentage Removed to Hospital.	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Mortality per 1,000.
1915	45058	139	—	92	66	—	—
1916	45058	98	—	67	68	—	—
1917	45646	115	3	89	77	—	.06
1918	46008	178	1	124	69	—	.02
1919	47914	149	1	121	81	—	.02
1920	47914	129	—	86	66	—	—
1921	54038	139	—	108	77	—	—
1922	54750	151	1	118	78	—	.01
1923	47620*	143	1	106	74	3	.02
1924	48130*	93	—	61	65.5	1.9	—

* Excluding Non-Civilians.

DIPHTHERIA.

The phenomenally low number of 13 cases were notified during the year, involving 13 houses; this is the lowest number on record. In the last six months of the year only 2 cases occurred.

There were two deaths from diphtheria, one of which was laryngeal in type. All the patients were removed to Hospital. As in the previous year, contacts of school age were swabbed at the School Clinic before being allowed to return to school.

Table showing notifications, cases isolated, number of deaths, etc., from Diphtheria during 1915—1924 :—

Year.	Population.	Number Notified.	Deaths Registered.	Treated in Hospital.	Percentage Removed to Hospital.	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Mortality per 1,000.
1915	45058	94	12	53	56	—	.2
1916	45058	43	3	29	67	—	.06
1917	45646	38	1	26	68	—	.02
1918	46008	35	3	28	80	—	.06
1919	47914	49	3	41	83	—	.06
1920	47914	116	14	85	73	—	.2
1921	54038	159	14	116	72	—	.2
1922	54750	126	9	110	87	—	.16
1923	47620*	88	6	80	90.9	1.8	.12
1924	48130*	13	2	13	100	.27	.04

* Excluding Non-Civilians.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Three cases were notified, as against 2 in the previous year. They all fell into the 15-25 years age group. Two of the cases were connected with a small outbreak in Chatham during June and July. The source of infection in the third case was not traced.

SMALLPOX.

During 1924 the number of cases throughout England and Wales was 3,784. The following notification figures for England and Wales are given in detail for comparative purposes :—

Year.	Cases.	Year.	Cases.
1911	289	1918	63
1912	121	1919	311
1913	113	1920	280
1914	65	1921	336
1915	93	1922	973
1916	159	1923	2,504
1917	7	1924	3,784
	<hr/> 847		<hr/> 8,251

During last year the disease prevailed chiefly in the Midlands and North of England. Derbyshire, Notts., Northumberland, Cumberland, the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire. The counties of Gloucester and Leicester were also involved. The majority of the cases were mild in type, the deaths numbering 13. It is gratifying that there was no outbreak in Kent. With regard to the future type of the disease, it is impossible to make any prophecy, but it cannot be assumed that all cases will conform to the present mild type.

VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Officer for the district has been good enough to supply me with the following return for the year 1924 :—

Number of Births	1,034
Certificates of Successful Vaccination	707
Certificates of Exemption (Statutory Declaration)	360
Removals from District	23
*Not found	6

* Includes those left district and whose new address is unknown.

The percentage of known successful vaccinations was therefore 68.3, compared with 64.2 and 58 in 1923 and 1922 respectively.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases were notified. In the previous year there were 2.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Three cases were notified. In previous years the numbers were 0, 2, 1, and 1 respectively.

One of the cases, a miscarriage at the third month of pregnancy, proved fatal, the certified cause of death being "puerperal endometritis and pulmonary embolism." She died in Hospital. The other two cases were treated at home.

It is generally admitted that notification of this disease is incomplete, partly because the term "puerperal fever" is indefinite and also because no medical man is anxious to admit that he has such a case in his practice.

The Council supplies anti-streptococcal serum and arranges for disinfection of mattresses, etc., but makes no provision for hospital treatment or home nursing.

ERYSIPELAS.

Seven cases were notified, compared with 11 in the previous year; six of the 7 patients were over 25 years of age.

PNEUMONIA.

All cases of acute primary pneumonia and of influenzal pneumonia are notifiable. As only 6 cases (including one of influenzal pneumonia) were notified during the year, and 10 deaths occurred, it is clear that the majority of practitioners did not notify the cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One case notified during the year died in the Isolation Hospital. The patient was a woman aged 50.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA (SLEEPING SICKNESS).

One girl in the 5-15 age group was notified from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. She has apparently made a perfect recovery.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

One child in the 1-5 age group was notified, compared with 2 in the previous year.

MALARIA.

One man was notified, but the attack was a recurrence from an infection received abroad.

TRENCH FEVER and DYSENTERY.

No cases notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles, whooping-cough and chicken-pox are non-notifiable infectious diseases. Information with regard to their occurrence

is received from parents, teachers, school nurses, attendance officers. Obviously the figures given below are an incomplete record.

	1924.	1923.
Measles	366	97
Whooping Cough	40	106
Chicken Pox	115	159

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA or INFECTIVE ENTERITIS.

This disease, absent during 1924, is favoured by a hot dry summer. During July, August and September the number of diarrhœa cases increased amongst infants but there was no suggestion of an epidemic. These months had an abnormally high rainfall. Only one case proved fatal, compared with 10 in the previous year.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza caused 16 deaths in 1924 as compared with 6 in 1923. Eleven of the 16 deaths occurred during the epidemic in the months of January and February.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 70 cases (82) of tuberculosis of the lungs were notified representing an incidence rate of 1.4 per 1,000 of the population. Notifications of surgical tuberculosis numbered 31 (33) giving an incidence rate of 2 per 1,000 for all forms of tuberculosis compared with 2.3 in 1923.

The sources of notifications were as follows :—

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LUNGS.

Notified by private practitioners	41
Notified from Sanatoria and Hospitals	19
Notified by Tuberculosis Officer	9
Notified from Port of London	1
	—
	70

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

Notified by private practitioners	16
Notified by Hospitals and Sanatoria	13
Notified by Tuberculosis Officer	2
	—
	31

Non-Pulmonary or Surgical cases were classified as follows :—

	No.
Cervical Glands	22
Bones and Joints	3
Peritoneum	1
Meninges	1
Other forms	4
	—
Total	31
	—

The following table, compiled from local records, gives details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1924.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	1
5	—	1	8	6	—	—	—	2
10	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	1
15	4	4	1	—	—	2	—	1
20	3	5	1	—	4	1	—	—
25	6	14	—	4	5	4	—	2
35	8	6	—	1	3	4	1	4
45	11	2	—	—	4	4	—	—
55	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
	36	34	15	16	17	18	1	11
	70		31		35		12	

During 1924, according to the Registrar General, 37 deaths were caused by tuberculosis of the lungs, and 9 by surgical tuberculosis, representing a death rate of .7 and .2 respectively per 1,000 of the population or a total of .9 per 1,000.

The subjoined table shows that this is the lowest rate ever recorded.

Year.	Deaths.			Death Rates per 1,000 of population.		
	All Forms.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	All Forms.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1916	73	63	10	1.5	1.3	.2
1917	72	53	19	1.5	1.1	.4
1918	61	54	7	1.25	1.1	.15
1919	59	48	11	1.2	1.0	.2
1920	54	40	14	1.12	.83	.29
1921	61	50	11	1.12	.92	.2
1922	75	66	9	1.5	1.3	.2
1923	59	42	17	1.2	.8	.4
1924	47	35	12	.9	.7	.2

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

All cases of tuberculosis require to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health as soon as the medical man in attendance becomes aware of the condition.

Of 47 deaths from tuberculosis in 1924 assignable to Gillingham, in 17 the case was not notified during the patient's life-time but only 11 of these deaths actually took place in the Borough. This figure of 11 gives a ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths of 23.4 per cent.

The following table indicates that cases are tending to be notified at an earlier stage of the disease, but during the year 1924 in over 9 per cent, death occurred within three months of notification :—

Period between Notification and Death.	Number.	1924.	1923.	1922.
		Percentage.		
Notified within 7 days of death	1	1.4		
One to four weeks of death	3	4.2		
One to three months of death	3	4.2		
		—		
Total	..	9.8	13.7%	17%

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Kent County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary in Nelson Road is open on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. and on Fridays from 2 to 3 and 5 to 6 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. Roper) has kindly supplied me with the following figures referring to Gillingham cases :—

Number of new cases	..	..	..	..	..	149
Total number of attendances (old and new)				..	..	1,080
Number sent to Institutions	..	..	..	..	..	40
Number receiving Tuberculin	..	..	..	..	..	—

DIAGNOSIS—New cases (excluding children of school age)

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	44
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	6
Other diseases	..	..	..	..	..	2
Apparently healthy	..	..	..	..	..	35
Under observation	..	..	..	..	..	—

88

DIAGNOSIS—New cases (children of school age only)

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	9
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	7
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	4
Apparently healthy	..	..	..	..	..	37
Under observation	..	..	..	..	..	3

61

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1924 :—

County Sanatorium, Lenham	23
Keycol Hill Sanatorium, Sittingbourne	5
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington	5
Frimley Sanatorium	1
Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards	1
Sevenoaks Hip Hospital, Sevenoaks	1
Maltings Farm Sanatorium, Nayland	1
Cranbrook Convalescent Home	3
	—
	40
	—

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Kent County Council Clinic is held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, as follows :—

For men : Tuesday and Thursday, 5.30 to 7 p.m.

For women : Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m.

Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dr. Cotman, Medical Officer of the Clinic, kindly furnished me with details of cases from Gillingham :—

Total cases received during 1924 : 53 (42).

(42 Males and 11 Females.)

Diagnosis.	Males.	Females.	
Gonorrhœa	28	5	} 53
Syphilis and Gonorrhœa	2	—	
Syphilis	10	6	
Non-Venereal	2	—	

Discharged cured, 10

Ceased to attend before cure was complete, 4.

The total attendances were 730 compared with 692 in the previous year. It will be noted that there was an increase in the number of new cases and of attendances when compared with the previous year.

In the following table are classified deaths registered as due to (1) Syphilis, (2) Locomotor Ataxy and General Paralysis of the Insane (both caused by Syphilis), and (3) Aortic Aneurysm, sometimes due to Syphilis.

	All ages.	0-1	25-45	45-65	65 Up.	Inward Transfers (included in prev. column).			
						All ages.	0-1	25-45	45-65
Syphilis (Cong.)	3	2	1	—	—	2	1	1	—
Locomotor Ataxy	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1
Paralysis of the Insane	3	—	2	—	1	2	—	2	—
Aortic Aneurysm	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

1. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General Nursing. The Gillingham Local Nursing Association has three nurses working in the town. The Association is financed by Voluntary Subscribers and by contributions from patients and Local Societies. The nurses pay approximately 6,000 visits annually.

(b) Infectious Diseases. No provision has been made for the actual nursing of cases of infectious disease in the homes of the people but all cases of measles and whooping cough are visited by the Health Visitors. The services of the District Nurses are not available.

2. MIDWIVES.

The number of resident registered midwives is seventeen, all of whom are certificated. Others resident in Chatham also practise in Gillingham. Four of the seventeen are attached to the Royal Naval Maternity Home.

The Council does not employ or subsidise any midwives.

3. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, United Methodist Chapel, Arden Street, Gillingham. Premises used consist of three rooms, waiting, weighing, consulting, etc. The Council pays a small sum annually to cover cost of gas, light, etc.

Days of attendance are Mondays and Thursdays, at 2.30 p.m.

(b) School Clinics, Gardiner Street, Gillingham. Four rooms provided by the Local Authority.

Minor Ailments.—Daily (Fridays excepted), at 9 a.m.

Friday and Tuesday, at 5 p.m.

Dental.—Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Friday at 9.30 a.m.

(c) Arrangements have been made with the Trustees of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester for the operative treatment of adenoids and tonsils, for refraction examinations, and for the X-ray treatment of ringworm.

(d) Tuberculosis Dispensary at Nelson Road, Gillingham. Open Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., and Friday, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Provided by Kent County Council.

(e) Venereal Disease Clinic at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. Administered by Kent County Council.

4. HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) General Hospital (St. Bartholomew's, Rochester), with 125 beds. As the population of Gillingham, Chatham, and Rochester alone amounts to 129,000 approximately the number of beds is obviously insufficient for the needs of the locality.

(b) Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham, with 400 beds. This includes eight maternity beds. The majority of mothers in the Borough refuse to be confined in any institution connected with the Poor Law.

(c) Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, Barnsole Road, Gillingham, opened in 1922, has 24 beds. The Local Authority does not make any grant towards the expenses of the Home.

(d) Isolation Hospital, Canterbury Street, Gillingham, has approximately 39 beds for the isolation of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever. Provided by the Local Authority.

(e) Smallpox Hospital, Wigmore, Gillingham with 16 beds. Provided by the Local Authority.

(f) Tuberculosis cases are sent by the County Council to different Sanatoria throughout the County—Lenham Sanatorium, Keycol Hill Sanatorium, Sittingbourne, Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington, Church Army Sanatorium, Farnham, Surrey. Non-pulmonary—Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, Victoria Home, Margate, Cranbrook Convalescent Home, Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

There are 36 tuberculosis beds at the Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham.

(g) There is no Children's Hospital in the District, but children's beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and at the Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham.

5. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

(a) Medway Workhouse.

(b) Diocesan Home (10 beds), Chatham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For non-infectious, accident and emergency cases the Council during the year purchased a 20 H.P. Austin Ambulance to replace the Ford motor which had been in use for some years.

(b) For infectious cases a half-ton Ford motor ambulance is stationed at the Isolation Hospital. It has been in use since August 1923.

LABORATORY WORK.

All specimens are examined free of charge in the Kent County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

The following examinations were made during the year:—

Swabs for B. Diphtheriæ.	Number.	Number Positive.	Percentage Positive.*
From Isolation Hospital	46 (255)	6 (82)	13 (32)
From School Clinic	30 (162)	3 (15)	10 (9.2)
From Private Practitioners	61 (104)	5 (20)	8.1 (19.2)
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus :			
From Tuberculous Officer	63 (92)	20 (30)	31.7 (34.8)
From Private Practitioners	55 (77)	15 (25)	27.2 (32.6)
Blood for Widal's Test	8 (12)	2 —	6
Stools for B. Typhosus	2 (—)	0 —	—
Hair for Ringworm Parasite	13 (19)	11 (14)	—
Diphtheria Organisms for Virulence	1 (10)	1 (8)	—

Outfits for taking and forwarding specimens are supplied direct to practitioners by Dr. Greenwood, County M.O.H., Sessions House, Maidstone, and in addition the following are obtainable at the local Public Health Department any week-day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 9 to 1).

DIPHTHERIA SWAB OUTFITS :

- Outfit for sending sputum.
- Outfit for sending blood for Widal's test.
- Outfit for sending blood for Wasserman test.
- Outfit for sending specimens of fæces.

The following anti-sera can be obtained at the Health Department in Gardiner Street.

- Diphtheria antitoxin.
- Tetanus antitoxin (Prophylactic).
- Antistreptococcus Serum.

152,500 units of Diphtheria Antitoxin were supplied to practitioners during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As stated in previous reports the Isolation Hospital is out of date and urgently requires replacement. In January a meeting was held, at which members of the Gillingham Council and of the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board, considered the question of Gillingham patients being treated at St. William's Hospital, Rochester.

* Figures in brackets are last year's figures.

The terms submitted by the Joint Board were considered unsatisfactory by the Gillingham Council and the proposal of one hospital for the three towns was dropped. A suitable site for a new Gillingham Hospital on the north side of the Dover Road, having been found, negotiations were commenced between the Council, the owners, and the War Department, for the release of the clearance rights over this land. As the sum required was approximately £60 per acre, the cost of the site was correspondingly increased over the original estimate. Towards the end of the year the Joint Hospital Board was again approached with the object of obtaining better terms but no final decision was reached by the end of 1924.

There can be no doubt that from the financial point of view it is better to have *one* isolation hospital for an area with a population of approximately 130,000. There are times every year when an isolation hospital is slack but you cannot discharge your regular staff as an epidemic may have to be dealt with on short notice. Hence with two hospitals in one area you have two staffs marking time during some months of the year. On Christmas Day, 1924 there were 4 patients in the Gillingham Hospital and 4 in St. William's Hospital.

Furthermore, it is calculated that the site and erection of a new Hospital of 50 beds would cost approximately £30,000 (exclusive of road-making and sewers). The cost of the present Hospital for the year ending 31st March, 1924, was £2,952.

If suitable arrangements are come to with the Joint Hospital Board a large initial outlay of capital will be avoided, and if the annual average cost is slightly increased the patients will benefit accordingly by being isolated and treated in a hospital of modern type.

During the year 86 cases were admitted. There were no cases of double infection and no cross infection occurred.

The admissions for previous years are given for comparative purposes :—

Year.	Number of Cases admitted.		
1924	86
1923	198
1922	233
1921	226
1920	171
1919	164
1918	154
1917	121
1916	102
1915	148
1914	197
1913	179
1912	228

The diseases treated in the Hospital are scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis (if accommodation be available).

Disease.	In Hosp. 31st Dec. 1922.	Admis- sions.	Dis- charges.	Deaths.	Remain- ing 31st Dec. 1924.
Scarlet Fever (notified as Scarlet Fever)	4	57	54	0	7
Scarlet Fever (notified as Diphtheria) ..	—	4	4	—	—
Measles (notified as Scarlet Fever) ..	—	3	3	—	0
German Measles (notified as Scarlet Fever)	—	1	1	—	—
Diphtheria (notified as Diphtheria) ..	6	13	18	1	0
Tonsilitis (notified as Diphtheria) ..	1	4	4	1	—
Erythema (notified as Scarlet Fever) ..	—	1	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	2	2	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	1	—	1	—
	11	86	87	3	7

It will be noted that 13 of the admissions (15 per cent.) were incorrectly diagnosed.

Length of stay in Hospital of patients discharged in 1924, whether admitted in that year or previously :—

	Average length of stay.
Scarlet Fever	31.4 days.
Diphtheria	41.4 days.
Enteric Fever	45 days.

SCARLET FEVER. The majority of the 61 cases treated were mild in type. There were no deaths.

The following complications occurred in the patients discharged during the year :—

Otitis Media	No. 7	} 58 = total number of cases discharged.
Adenitis	10	
Rheumatism	1	
Nephritis with hæmaturia	1	
	19	

Return cases are those in which the infection may have been derived from a case discharged from the Hospital within an arbitrary period of four weeks.

Year 1924. No. of cases ..	Total.	Under 7 days.	Under 14 days.
	3	1	2

The percentage of return cases was therefore 5.

DIPHTHERIA. One infant aged two years succumbed after 36 hours in Hospital. He was suffering from laryngeal diphtheria and on admission was cyanotic and almost pulseless. Tracheotomy successfully performed afforded temporary relief. Of the remaining cases one was laryngeal and faucial, one nasal and faucial, and the others faucial only. The type of case was mild compared with that experienced in the previous year. No complications worthy of note occurred.

ENTERIC FEVER. Two cases were admitted during the year. One patient was very ill and showed the signs and symptoms of typical typhoid fever including severe intestinal hæmorrhage. The causal organism could not be detected in the stools. The blood tested on three occasions gave agglutination in 1 in 20 dilution with both *B. Typhosus* and *B. Paratyphosus B.*, but nil in higher dilutions. The other case was milder in type.

The Widal Reaction suggested a *B. Typhosus* infection. Both patients made a good recovery.

TONSILITIS. Two of these were typical cases of follicular tonsilitis, whilst of the remaining two one was a quinsy and the other an ulcerative tonsilitis followed by septicæmia which proved fatal.

During the year five members of the staff were "warded"; 3 suffered from acute tonsilitis, one from scarlet fever and one from metrorrhagia.

METHODS OF DISINFECTION.

As stated in last year's Report, fumigation of houses is carried out free of charge in connection with cases of pulmonary tuberculosis only. If occupiers are desirous of having their rooms so treated after other diseases a small charge is made. The method recommended is steam disinfection (at the Isolation Hospital) of mattresses, pillows, etc., and steeping in disinfectant solution of blankets, sheets, etc., in the home.

Fumigation after the occurrence of tuberculosis is carried on only because of shortage of staff at the steam disinfector. As the result of the year's experience, there is no evidence to show that the cessation of fumigation after cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria has produced any untoward results. Only 7 occupiers asked for their houses to be fumigated after the occurrence of these diseases.

The following articles were disinfected at the Isolation Hospital by steam or in the formalin chamber :

Mattresses	..	..	146	Articles of clothing	..	60
Pillows	..	..	196	Hearth Rugs	..	37
Bolsters	..	..	97	Books	..	48
Cushions	..	..	55	Sundries	..	86

The Council has no arrangements for disinfestation.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

By the Notification of Births Act, 1907 and 1915, all live births and still-births of seven months and over must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours. By the Registrations Act, 1836, all live births are registered with the Registrar of Births within six weeks.

	1924.	1923.	1922.
No. of Births Registered ..	1,014	1,118	1,197
No. of Births Notified ..	983 (96.9%)	1,087(97.2%)	1,125(94%)
Of the 983 Births notified during 1924			
Medical Practitioners notified	268 or 27.2 per cent.		
Midwives notified	709 or 72.1 per cent.		
Parents notified	6 or .6 per cent.		
	983		

304, or 29.9 per cent. took place in Maternity Homes in the Borough compared with 24.3 in 1923. 26 still births were notified.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES. There are 17 registered midwives resident in the Borough, all of whom are certificated; 4 of the 17 are attached to the Naval Maternity Home, and 1 to a private maternity home. Others resident in neighbouring towns also practise in Gillingham. Under Sec. 12 of the Midwives Act, 1912, the County Council is the authority responsible for the supervision of midwives, but there is no doubt this can be more efficiently done by the Borough Council, especially when it has an efficiently administered Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

During October a post-graduate course for midwives in Kent was held in Gillingham, under the auspices of the Kent County Council. Maternity Centres and Homes, Hospitals, etc., were visited and lectures given by recognised experts on many aspects of the work of midwives. The course proved very successful and was well attended.

ANTE-NATAL WORK. The maternal mortality for the whole country is about 4 deaths amongst mothers for every 1,000 live births. In addition, there is a high "damage rate" amongst mothers who do not succumb. 50% of infants dying under 1 year die during the first 4 weeks of life (neo-natal mortality).

Supervision of mothers during pregnancy at ante-natal clinics is now one of the well recognised methods of reducing these death rates. At present there are between 500 and 600 ante-natal clinics scattered throughout the country, but no steps have been taken to establish one in Gillingham. The desirability of so doing should be considered at an early date.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

This is open on Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2.30. The work carried on at the Centre is essentially educational in character and is a most important branch of preventive medicine.

The Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health, is able to consult only once weekly. The necessity for two consultations per week is now clamant, as the average daily attendance has risen to 76, and the number of annual attendances from 3,258 to 7,650 in two years. Mothers coming from a distance are naturally disappointed when they find no medical man present, and there are always a number of cases on the waiting list for medical consultation. It is to be hoped therefore, that in the near future arrangements will be made for two medical consultations per week to enable the work to be performed more completely.

Work at the Centre.	1924.	1923.	1922.
New cases (infants)	393	293	279
Expectant Mothers	30	17 (in 9 months)	—
Total Attendances	7,650	5,253	3,258
Average Daily Attendance	76.5	52	—
Percentage of Total Births attending	41.7	28	—
Cases referred to Hospital or Private Practitioners	20	8	—
Infants on Register 1st January, 1925	1,000	—	—

The 7,650 attendances were distributed as follows :—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
602	537	613	531	697	744	706	608	727	716	620	549

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER.

As in previous years milk has been supplied to those whose income fell below the scale approved by the Council. It was given to nursing mothers, to infants up to 12 months of age, and to expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy. 136 parents falling within the category of "necessitous" received a total of 2,196 lb. packets of dried milk, at a cost of £102 13s. 8d., compared with £93 in the previous year. The following table demonstrates that in 42 per cent. of the cases where free milk was provided the father was unemployed.

FREE MILK.

Husband unemployed	58	42.6%
Husband in work (large family or low wage or both)	61	44.8%
Husband sick	8	
Husband disabled (War)	4	
Husband dead	4	
Separated from Husband	1	
	<hr/>	
	136	

Average rent, 7s. 8d.

WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

During the greater part of 1923 the staff consisted of one whole-time and one part-time Health Visitor—a staff insufficient to overtake the work as pointed out in last year's Report. It is gratifying to be able to put on record that during 1924 the Council sanctioned the appointment of an additional nurse, so that since September last there have been two whole-time Health Visitors and two whole-time School Nurses.

The following is a summarised statement of the work of the Health Visitors :—

	1924.	1923.
First visits <i>re</i> registered births ..	877	975
Re-visits <i>re</i> registered births ..	2,328	2,119
Visits to children aged 1-5 years ..	523	492
Visits <i>re</i> milk inquiries	25	54
Visits to expectant mothers ..	41	21
Visits <i>re</i> still births	16	10
Visits <i>re</i> Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	8
Visits <i>re</i> Puerperal Fever	1	—
Visits <i>re</i> Acute Poliomyelitis ..	2	1
Visits <i>re</i> Diarrhoea	3	—
Totals	3,816	3,680

METHODS OF INFANT FEEDING

(UNDER NINE MONTHS OLD).

Breast feeding is possible for nearly every mother, is the best for the infant, and is cheaper than artificial feeding. These facts are continually being impressed on the mothers by the Health Visitors during their visits and also at the Centre. The first home visit is paid when the child is about 14 days old.

The figures given below are instructive :—

	Breast Fed.		Breast and Bottle.		Bottle.	
	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.
At first home visits No.			No.		No.	
by Health Visitors 615	83.4%	87.2%	39	5.2% 3.4%	83	11.2% 9.2%
At first visit to Centre ..	223	57%	57.6%	33	8.4%	15.3%
	57%	57.6%	33	8.4%	135	34.5% 26.9%

Very few infants are brought to the Centre under four weeks, the average age at the first visit being $2\frac{1}{2}$ months (infants over 9 months excluded).

For a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ months the Health Visitors kept careful records of methods of feeding in force at different age periods. The results are given in the following table:—

Age in Months.	% Breast Fed.	% Breast & Bottle Fed.	% Bottle Fed.
0-1	86.2	5.7	8.0
1-2	77.7	4.4	17.7
2-3	56.9	7.5	35.4
3-4	64.4	6.5	28.9
4-5	46.0	16.0	38.0
5-6	50.6	9.0	40.2
6-7	46.3	6.0	47.5
7-8	36.1	21.2	42.5
8-9	22.9	25.0	52.0
9-10	7.6	30.7	61.5

MATERNITY HOME.

The Naval Maternity Home, situated within the Borough has 24 beds. For civilian cases the usual charge is £4 4s. per week, but if recommended by the Medical Officer of Health this is reduced to £3 3s. or £2 12s. 6d.

These mothers are seen at the Child Welfare Centre on Thursday afternoons and are given an advice note to the Matron at the Home who makes the necessary arrangements.

The number referred during the year was 10.

Most mothers are unwilling to go to the Infirmary for their confinement. Only three Gillingham cases were admitted during the year, two of whom were single.

STILL BIRTHS.

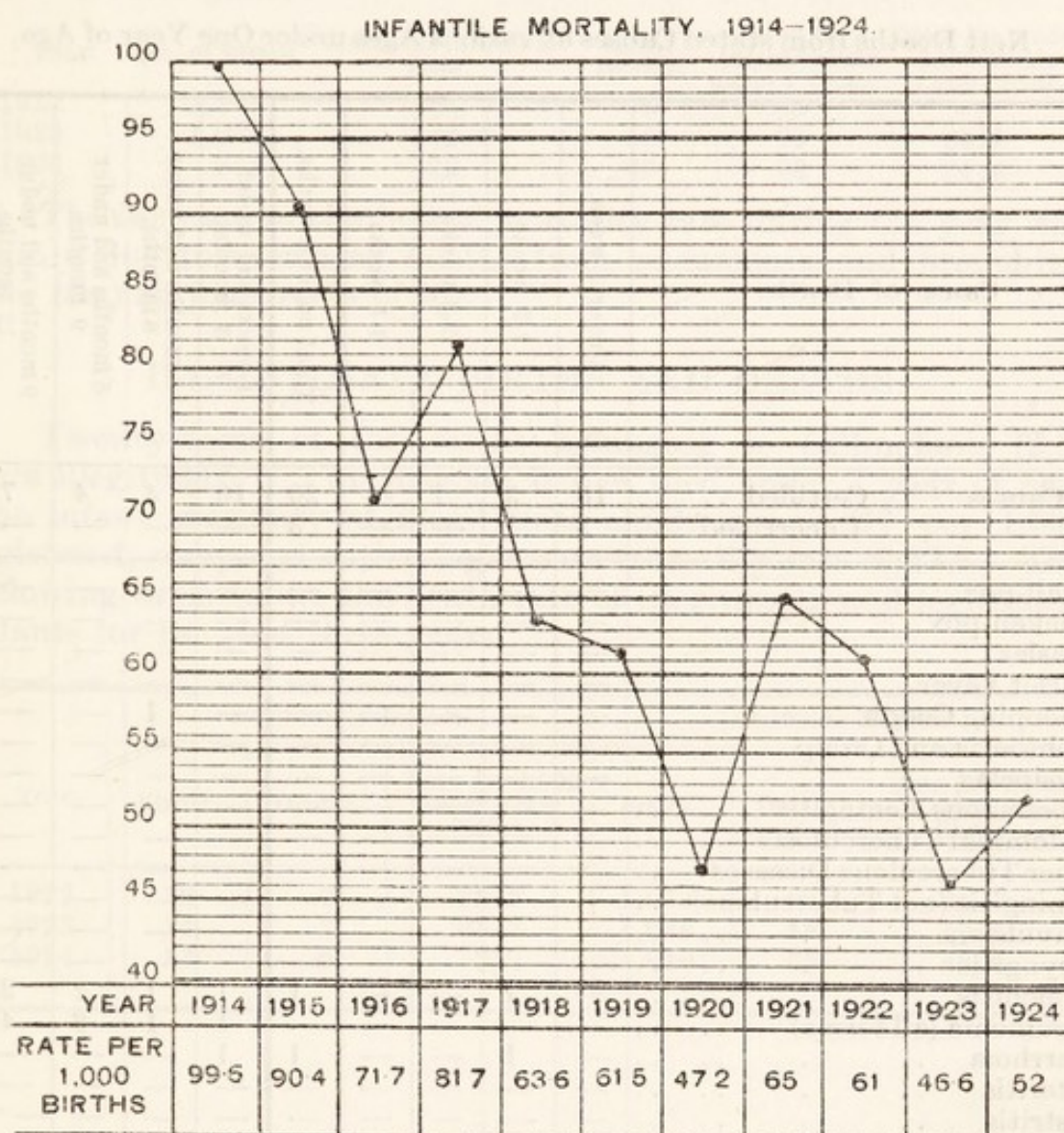
Twenty-six were notified during the year; it was possible to investigate the probable cause of 13 of these:—

Falls	..	..	..	..	..	2
Difficult labour	..	..	..	..	..	3
Breech presentation		..	..	..	..	3
Antepartum hæmorrhage			..	..	..	1
Prolonged labour		..	..	..	..	1
Large child	..	..	..	..	..	1
Shock	..	..	..	..	..	1
Unknown	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	13

INFANT MORTALITY.

The total births belonging to Gillingham as given by the Registrar General numbered 942, and the infants dying within the first year of life as 49. The infantile mortality rate, or rate of death per 1,000 births was therefore 52 compared with 46.6 in the previous

year. The comparative figures since 1914 are shown in the following diagram :—



The infant mortality rate of 52 compares favourably with that of England and Wales (75), of London (69), and of the 105 towns having a population over 50,000 (80).

The following table gives the rate in each ward of the Borough.

Ward.	No. of Births.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
Brompton ..	92	1	10.8
Medway ..	130	7	53.8
East ..	171	6	35.0
North ..	274	13	47.4
South ..	184	16	86.9
West ..	90	5	55.5
	941	48	51.0
Registrar General	942	49	52.0

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	16	3	1	—	20	10	4	4	7	45
	Uncertified	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Small-pox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Croup		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis		—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	7
Pneumonia (all forms)		—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	8
Diarrhoea		—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Enteritis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis		—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Rickets		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Injury at Birth		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations		3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Premature Birth		9	1	1	—	11	1	—	—	—	12
Atrophy, Debility, & Marasmus		1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	4
Other causes		3	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	6
		18	4	1	—	23	10	4	4	7	48

It will be noted that the principal cause of death was prematurity and that nearly 50 per cent. of infants dying under one year die during the first four weeks of life.

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate, the number of infant deaths and the number of deaths under four weeks during the last three years :—

Year.	No. of Births.	Infantile Mortality Rate.	Infant Deaths.	Total No. Infant deaths under 4 weeks.	Total No. under 4 weeks per 1,000 births.
1922	1,109	61	70	—	—
1923	1,072	46.6	50	26	24.2
1924	942	52	49	23	24.4

The increase in the infant mortality rate during the year was mainly due to increased deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis *after the first four weeks of life.*

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Twenty-three of the births belonging to Gillingham (2.5) were illegitimate; 5 illegitimate babies died under 1 year of age. The infant mortality of illegitimate children was 217 per 1,000 registered, compared with a legitimate mortality rate of 47.8. The following table shows the death-rate of illegitimate and legitimate infants for the past three years.

Year.	Illegitimate Infants.			Legitimate Infants.		
	Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Births.	Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births.
1922	32	2	62.5	1,077	66	61.2
1923	24	2	83.2	1,048	48	43.4
1924	23	5	217	919	45	47.8

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

The following table gives details of the number of places in the Borough where food is prepared or stored and the visits paid thereto during the year.

	No. in District.	No. of Visits during 1924.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	10	50	7	7
Dairies	23	189	1	1
Cowsheds	5	33	2	2
Milkshops	18	196	8	8
Slaughter Houses ..	10	967	7	7
Other Food Preparing Places	43	192	9	9

1. MILK SUPPLY. There were 41 milkshops and dairies on the Register on 31st December, 1924, compared with 54 in the previous year. The reduction is accounted for by the removal from the Register of a number of small general over-crowded shops considered unsuitable for the sale of milk; power to remove is given under Sec. 2 of the Milk and Dairies Act (Amendment), 1922.

All milkshops and dairies were carefully supervised (an average of 9 visits was paid during the year) to ensure improved conditions for the retail sale of milk.

Two applications for transfer of registration and 2 new applications for registration were refused, the premises being considered unsuitable.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, 3 licences (2 for one dairyman) were issued for the sale of "Grade A. (tuberculin tested)" milk.

The dairyman with two licences receives his milk bottled, the other bottles it on his own premises.

"Grade A. Milk" must be produced and treated under such conditions that on a sample being taken at any time before delivery to the consumer the milk shall be found to contain:

- (a) not more than 200,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre; and
- (b) no coliform bacillus in $\frac{1}{100}$ of a cubic centimetre.

All samples taken during the year have been found up to standard, and in one instance gave as low a count as 24,000 organisms per c.c.

No applications have been received for the sale of Pasteurised milk, but such milk is sold although not so designated.

During the year the Council sanctioned the provision of Grade A. Milk (T.T.) to the Isolation Hospital, thereby supplying to patients and staff a clean milk and indirectly encouraging the general campaign for clean food.

2. BAKEHOUSES. There are 10 bakehouses in the district, including 3 factory bakehouses. Two bakehouses are underground. Fifty inspections were made during the year, and 7 notices served in relation to want of cleanliness and the necessity for limewashing.

3. MEAT. (a) *Slaughterhouses*. There were 10 licensed slaughterhouses on the Register at 31st December, 1924. Thirty-one notifications were received respecting the slaughtering of cattle during special hours, i.e., after 9 p.m. during the winter months and on Sundays. 967 visits were paid to slaughterhouses and 7 notices served respecting uncleanliness.

(b) The following articles of food were surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for the food of man, the approximate weight being 3 tons, 6 cwts., compared with 4 tons odd in 1923 :—

Carcases of Beef	..	Tubercular	..	4
Hind Quarters	..	Ditto	..	2
Top Pieces	..	..	..	3
Various Joints	..	..	..	640 lbs.
Carcase of Sheep	..	..	..	1
Mutton, Joints	..	..	..	60 lbs.
Pigs	..	..	..	10
Kidney Nob	..	..	..	38 lbs.
Rabbits	..	..	..	42
Corned Beef	..	..	..	138 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	20 lbs.
Condensed Milk	..	..	..	247 tins.
Tinned Salmon	..	..	..	64 tins.
Tinned Tongue	..	..	..	4 tins.
Tinned Pears	..	..	..	12 tins.
Tinned Peaches	..	..	..	13 tins.
Tinned Pineapple	..	..	..	36 tins.
Tinned Apricots	..	..	..	4 tins.
Powdered Soups	..	..	..	9 tins.
Tomato Sauce	..	..	..	15 bottles.
Haddock	..	..	..	336 lbs.
Cod Fish	..	..	..	224 lbs.
Plaice	..	..	..	224 lbs.
Eggs	..	..	..	1442

It was not found necessary to seize any article of food.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

These regulations, dated December, 1924, came into force on 1st April, 1925, and contain many important provisions, among which may be mentioned the following :—

(1) " A person shall not slaughter an animal for sale for human consumption unless he has not less than three hours before the time of slaughtering delivered or caused to be delivered to the Local

Authority notice of the day and time and of the place on and at which slaughterings will take place."

With the present staff of inspectors it will not, of course, be practicable to inspect all animals slaughtered in the ten slaughter-houses in the district but the section quoted will enable the meat supply to be more thoroughly inspected.

(2) "The occupier of every shop shall take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to guard against the contamination of the meat therein by flies and shall cause the meat to be so placed as to prevent mud, filth or other contaminating substance being splashed or blow thereon."

This provision is most valuable and long overdue. It will enable steps to be taken to abolish the exposure outside shops of butcher meat, and of ham and bacon, and so give the purchaser the benefit of cleaner meat. In some of the narrow streets of the Borough it is no uncommon occurrence at the present time to see meat, ham, fruit, literally plastered with lumps of mud splashed up by passing traffic.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

These are administered by the County police.

During 1924, 103 samples were taken by the Inspector and analysed by the County Analyst.

The nature and number of samples were as given :—

Scotch Whisky	9	Ammoniated Tincture of	
Brandy	3	Quinine	1
Gin	1	Spirit of Nitrous Ether	1
Rum	1	Mercurial Ointment	1
Irish Whisky	6	Crushed Linseed	1
Preserved Pears	1	Cod Liver Oil	1
Mustard	1	Citric Acid	1
Ground Rice	1	Camphorated Oil	1
Condensed Milk	2	Strawberry Jam	1
Margarine	11	S.R. Flour	2
Butter	16	Cocoa Essence	1
Lard	4	Cocoa	1
Jam	1	New Milk	28
Coffee	1	Baking Powder	1
Olive Oil	1	Lucca Oil	1
Cream of Tartar	1	Sugar	1

103

Five samples, or 4.8 per cent. were below standard.

Proceedings were taken against one vendor in respect of milk containing at least 12.1 per cent. of added water. He was fined £5 and £1 costs, and a similar amount for wilfully impeding the Inspector in the course of his duties under the Food and Drugs Acts.

Other 2 samples of milk and 1 of gin and 1 of whisky were below standard. The vendors of these were cautioned.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The information given in this part of the Report has been prepared by your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE, WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

In addition to the water carriage system of sewage there are in the rural area :—

	No.
(a) Cesspools	203
Water Closets discharging into Cesspools ..	364
(b) Privies and Pail Closets	26

Cesspools are emptied and cleansed by the Council's workmen by a hand pump.

	No.
Cesspools emptied	378
Cesspools filled in	3
New Cesspools constructed	11

} During 1924.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These number 10. The inspectors made 1,663 supervising visits compared with 1,046 in the previous year.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

These are undertaken by the Surveyor's Department. Bins are emptied once weekly, but from a health standpoint an additional collection is desirable during the summer months, when many householders have no domestic fire in which to burn putrefactive material.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

No. of bodies received during 1924	29
No. of post-mortem examinations made	13

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none in the Borough.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is the responsible official for the administration of this Act.

During the year 57 complaints were received. The occupiers were advised as to the best methods for ridding their premises of rats.

"Rat Week" was held during the week commencing 3rd November. Notices were published in the local papers and warning notices issued to farmers, etc., as to their liability. Large quantities of rat poison were distributed during the week.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

No samples were taken, but 9 inspections were made to premises.

NUISANCES, Etc.

During the year 305 complaints of nuisances were received and investigated.

DRAINAGE.

Drains repaired (being 31.7 per cent. of drains tested)	..	..	117
Subsidiary drains cleared by Health Department	..	..	1,482
Drains cleared by owners	..	..	137
Subsidiary drains or sewers cleared by Works Department	..	..	7
Inspection Chambers constructed by Works Department	..	..	9
Inspection Chambers repaired by Works Department	..	..	6
Inspection covers and frames fitted by Works Department	..	..	19
Vent Shafts repaired by Works Department	..	..	16

DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired and made water tight	..	..	149
Eaves guttering and down water pipes provided or repaired	..	..	168
External walls protected from dampness	..	..	58
Ventilation provided under floors	..	..	4
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	..	..	7

GENERAL.

Accumulation of refuse in yards removed	..	..	64
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floors	..	..	31
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	..	..	103
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	..	..	16
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired	..	..	304
Back additions underpinned or repaired	..	..	76
Filthy houses cleansed by tenants	..	..	28
Removal of animals	..	..	15
Rooms re-papered and ceilings distempered	..	..	701
Smoke nuisances abated	..	..	39
Overcrowding	..	..	12

SINKS AND BATHS.

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	..	..	38
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	..	..	79

WATER CLOSETS.

New L.C.C. Pans fitted	..	..	32
Water closets rebuilt	..	..	6
New Water Closets built in 9 in. brickwork	..	..	4
Water closets in place of privies and connected to cesspools	..	..	5
Water closets in place of earth closet and connected to cesspool	..	..	1
Water closets in place of privies and connected to main sewer	..	..	3
Water closets connected to main sewer in place of cesspools	..	..	2
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	..	..	91
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired	..	..	127
Water closet pans cleansed by tenants	..	..	23
Ventilation provided to water closets	18

WATER SUPPLY.

Pipes repaired	49
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YARDS.

Drained and paved with cement concrete	103
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PREMISES, ETC., VISITED DURING 1924.

	No. of Visits.
Milk Shops	196
Dairies	189
Cowsheds	33
Bakehouses	50
Slaughterhouses	967
Factories and Workshops	237
Workplaces	63
Outworkers under Factory Acts	243
Number of Houses inspected (including Closing Orders)	412
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	34
Enquiries <i>re</i> Notified Infectious Diseases	106
Houses (filthy or verminous)	28
Drains tested	369
Inspections under the Rat and Mice Destruction Act	57
Visits under Shops Act	299
Refreshment Houses, or premises where food is prepared	192
School lavatories	428
Public Lavatories	1,663
Contacts <i>re</i> Plague	3
Contacts <i>re</i> Small Pox	11
Contacts <i>re</i> Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2
Houses fumigated	75

PRELIMINARY AND STATUTORY NOTICES.

During the year the following Notices have been served :—

Preliminary Notices for the abatement of various nuisances under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875	467
Final Notices concerning various nuisances under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875	163
Preliminary Notices to provide a sufficient W.C. to each house under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875	8
Final Notices under the same section	1
Statutory Notices respecting the removal of manure or other offensive matter under Section 49 of the Public Health Act, 1875	64

PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED.

1920	493
1921	373
1922	400
1923	592
1924	475

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED (SECTION 94, P.H.A., 1875).

1920	231 (46.8 per cent. of Preliminary Notices).
1921	200 (53.6 " ").
1922	159 (39.7 " ").
1923	267 (45.1 " ").
1924	163 (34.9 " ").

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

The occupiers of the following houses were summoned for failing to comply with Notices under Section 17, Sub-Section 4 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 :—

17 Front, 19 Front, 21 Front, 21 Back, 23 Front and 23 Back Manor Street, Old Brompton.

RESULT. Occupiers given 90 days in which to leave premises. The ejection orders have been repeatedly postponed at the request of the Council, and the premises remain occupied (March, 1925).

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ..	78	4	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	159	15	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	63	10	—
Total	300	29	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*				
Want of Cleanliness	11	11	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	10	10	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient.. .. .	2	2	—
	unsuitable or defective.. .. .	5	5	2
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	29	29	4	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

HOUSING.

The shortage of houses in the Borough continues and prevents the demolition of property unfit for human habitation as the tenants are unable to find alternative accommodation. During the last two years ejection orders made on tenants of houses in Manor Street and Mansion Court, Old Brompton, have been repeatedly postponed at the request of the Council. The prospect of alternative accommodation continues remote. During the year private enterprise was responsible for the erection of 119 houses, compared with 55 in the previous year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the Borough.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Total number on Register 31st December, 1924	..	..	..	14
Number on Register 31st December, 1923	..	..	..	7
Number of visits during the year	..	..	..	45

All rooms of houses on the Register have been measured for cubic capacity and cards affixed to doors stating the number of occupants allowed to each room in conformity with the bye-laws.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE (RESTRICTION) ACT (1920).

No applications for certificates were received during the year.

The following table is required by the Ministry of Health :—

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	119
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1923.								
(i) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(ii) By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84

(1) *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	412
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	..	..	..	112
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	29

(2) *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	289
--	-----

(3) *Action under Statutory Powers.*

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	412
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices :—	
(a) by Owners	198*
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Closing Orders	2

SHOPS ACTS.

One of the Sanitary Inspectors is also Inspector under the Shops Acts.

Visits to Shops during 1924	299
Number of Shops on Register, 31st December, 1924	678
Letters sent to Tradesmen respecting Infringements of the Act	21
Verbal intimations respecting infringements	9
Obstruction Notices served	10

* This number includes 35 nuisances investigated in 1923 and remedied in 1924.

LICENCES.

Your Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible for the work detailed below :—

Licences were granted for the following :

Motor Omnibuses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111
Charabancs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Taxis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Drivers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	305
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Carbide of Calcium	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Game	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

The following fees were received respecting the above :

								£	s.	d.
Motor Omnibuses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	15	0
Charabancs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	5	0
Taxis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	8	0
Drivers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	5	0
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	0
Calcium Carbide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		11	3
Game	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		10	0
								<hr/>		
								£69	19	3
								<hr/>		

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

	Date of Operation or Confirmation.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ..	15th April, 1901.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (except Parts IV. and V.)	1st May, 1891.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts II., III., V., VI., VII., X., and certain Sections of Part IV.)	12th December, 1908.
Notification of Births Act, 1907	26th May, 1914.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

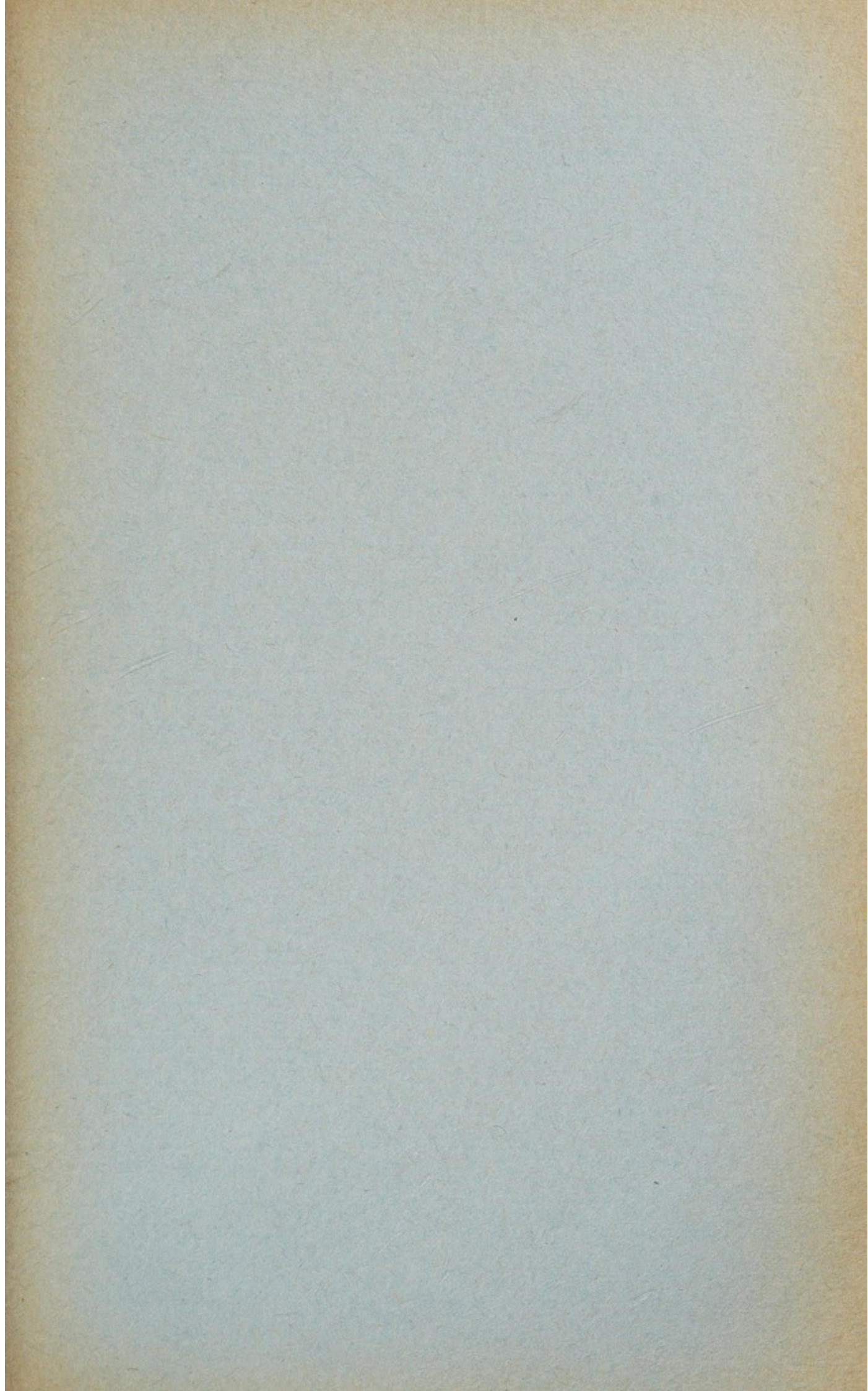
Building Bye-laws	12th March, 1902.
Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structure ..	26th June, 1902.
For the Good Rule and Government of the Borough of Gillingham (Prevention of Nuisances)	4th April, 1905.
Employment of Children	1st April, 1910.
Nuisances	1st April, 1912.
Offensive Trades	27th November, 1912.
Milk Traders (under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885)	1st May, 1914.
Removal of House Refuse	1st April, 1912, and 16th April, 1915.
Ashpits in connection with Buildings	16th April, 1915.
Notice of Intended Slaughtering	18th May, 1915.
Slaughterhouses	27th August, 1919.
Hackney Carriages	16th January, 1920.

RAINFALL FOR 1924.

(As measured at Gillingham Park.)

The figures were kindly supplied by the Borough Surveyor.

January	2.47 inches.	July	2.62 inches.
February	0.84 „	August	2.78 „
March	0.96 „	September	2.87 „
April	2.74 „	October	3.77 „
May	2.72 „	November	3.42 „
June	2.22 „	December	3.11 „
Total Rainfall for year 1924		30.52 inches.	
Total Rainfall for year 1923		25.1 „	
Total Rainfall for year 1922		23.48 „	



all.