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BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM
Kent



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
School Medical Officer

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1940

BY

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

Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Centre
School Medical Officer

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

August, 1941

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1940 in an abbreviated form. It is, however, desirable to maintain a record of vital statistics and incidence of disease.

The death rate was 15 per 1,000 compared with 10.8 in the previous year, but 55 deaths were due to "violent causes" other than road traffic accidents.

The infant mortality rate was 47 per 1,000 live births; the figure for the whole of England and Wales being 55. The tuberculosis death rate shows an increase. The incidence of scarlet fever was the lowest on record, and that of diphtheria much below the average.

Many of the activities of the department have of necessity been curtailed, but the maternity and child welfare section continues to function actively. A.R.P. duties which are performed by the majority of the staff involve many hours of over-time. I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Dunlop and the staff generally for the invaluable help and assistance which they have given me during a difficult and strenuous year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

*W. A. Muir, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health:

*Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Anaesthetist (part time):

S. Bather, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Military Service, May, 1940).

Dental Surgeon (part time): (Maternity and Child Welfare)

F. J. Bloor, L.D.S. (Eng.) (Military Service, 21/6/40).

R. N. Merrett, L.D.S., 25/6/40.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

*David L. Ball, C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

*G. H. Ridgway, C.R.S.I.

*W. G. McDonald, Cert. S.I.B. (Military Service 18/10/40).

*R. C. Langley, Cert. S.I.B.

*†F. Pickering, Cert. S.I.B.

Health Visitors:

*§Mrs. A. Leach (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

*†§Miss R. Hopkins (C.M.B. Cert.).

*†||Miss N. Legg (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

*†||Miss E. M. Ross (C.M.B. Cert.).

*†§Miss M. Hughes (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

*†§Miss H. Parry (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.).

Municipal Midwives:

Miss W. Brandreth, C.M.B., S.R.N., Health Visitor's Cert.
(Transferred from School Medical Service, 24/6/40.)

Miss I. Drury, C.M.B., S.R.N.

Miss E. Harding, C.M.B., S.R.N. (Resigned 16/8/40).

Miss W. D. A. Maisey, C.M.B. S.R.N.

Mrs. M. G. Salter, C.M.B.

Miss G. I. Stone, C.M.B. (Transferred to Maternity Home in
Reception Area).

Miss A. Willey, C.M.B.

Chief Clerk:

F. Eric Young.

Clerks:

S. Pett (Military Service, 29/2/40).

V. P. Johnson (Resigned June, 1940).

Miss G. Palmer,

Miss E. Bryant (Temporary).

Miss D. Balcomb (Transferred from School Medical Service
June, 1940).

Miss D. Dumbrell (Temporary—Commenced March, 1940).

Ambulance Driver and Mortuary Attendant:

John Sparks (Military Service, September, 1939).

R. Spenceley (September, 1939).

* Indicates officials to whose salaries contribution is made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

† Indicates general trained nurse.

‡ Also Inspector under Shop Acts.

§ Two-thirds time given to Maternity and Child Welfare, one-third to School Medical work.

|| Half-time given to School Medical work, half to Maternity and Child Welfare.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA IN ACRES (land, inland water and foreshore) ...	11,201	(Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year 1940)
CIVILIAN POPULATION ...	51,240	(Census, 1931).
TOTAL POPULATION ...	60,983	
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1940, according to Rate Books)		
	17,942	
RATEABLE VALUE (April, 1941)		
	£371,615	
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (1940-41) .		
	£1,430	

In 1940-41 the total Rates were 14/6 in the £ (excluding water rate and charges).

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of

Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st

March, 1941 416

Amount paid in Outdoor Relief, year ended 31st

March, 1941 £11,569/18/8

Number of Gillingham persons admitted to the

County Hospital, Chatham, during the year

ended 31st March, 1941 556

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

	Total.	Male.	Female.		
Live Births	Legitimate	893	445	448	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 18.17
	Illegitimate	38	20	18	
	Totals ...	931	465	466	

Still Births	Legitimate	24	11	13	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:— 27.2
	Illegitimate	2	—	2	
	Totals ...	26	11	15	

DEATHS:

All causes	771	431	340	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated aver- age population: 15.0

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal cause	1	1.1
	—	—
Total	1	1.1
	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	47
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .	105
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	101
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4

Deaths in Public Institutions.

Three hundred and twenty-one deaths or 42 per cent. of the total took place in institutions :—

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester	59
County Hospital, Chatham	180
County Mental Hospital, Barming Heath	8
Other County Hospitals	24
Keycol Hill Hospital	6
Other Institutions	44
	—
	321
	—

Natural Increase of Population.

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1940 was 160, and for the previous years as follows :—

Year.	Natural Increase of Population.
1935	230
1936	252
1937	294
1938	373
1939	324
1940	160

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

Year.	Cancer Death Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1923-1932	1.3	12.2
1933	1.6	15.7
1934	1.4	13.3
1935	1.9	16.6
1936	1.3	12.7
1937	1.4	12.6
1938	1.6	16.8
1939	1.4	13.0
1940	1.9	13.1

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

NURSING IN THE HOME

HEALTH CLINICS AND TREATMENT
CENTRES

HOSPITALS

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT FOR UN-
MARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGI-
MATE CHILDREN

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

MIDWIVES

} See
previous
reports.

The number of registered midwives at 31st December was 12, of whom 5 are members of the Corporation Staff.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications of infectious diseases numbered 191.

There were 28 cases of scarlet fever and 28 of diphtheria.

Smallpox.

No cases were notified.

Vaccination.

The percentage of infants known to be successfully vaccinated was 42. The percentage of statutory declarations was 42.7.

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the following figures:—

1. Number of cases on Birth Lists received during 1940, but actually registered between 1st December, 1939, and 30th November, 1940

2.	Number of Vaccination Certificates received between 1st January, 1940, and 31st December, 1940	...	...	...	...	...	360
3.	Number of Statutory Declarations received between 1st January, 1940, and 31st December, 1940	...	...	...	...	...	367
4.	Number of Postponement Certificates received between 1st January, 1940, and 31st December, 1940 :—						
	(a) Health of Child	...	...	...	...	...	15
	(b) Condition of house or prevalence of Infectious Disease in District	...	...	...	...	...	—
5.	Number of Certificates of Insusceptibility received between 1st January, 1940, and 31st December, 1940	...	...	...	...	...	8
6.	Number of cases removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	98
7.	Number of cases not traced	...	...	...	...	...	42

Scarlet Fever

Notifications numbered 28, equal to an attack rate of 0.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of houses in which

One case occurred	...	...	...	...	24
Two cases occurred	...	...	...	...	2
Number of " return cases "	...	...	...	...	1

Table showing notifications, deaths, etc., from Scarlet Fever during 1936-1940 :—

Periods	Population	Number Notified	Deaths Registered	Treated in Hospital	Percentage Removed to Hospital	Attack Rate per 1,000 of population	Mortality per 1,000
1936	64,790	99	—	54	56	1.5	0.00
1937	69,320	211	1	122	58	3.0	0.01
1938	70,600	263	—	136	51	3.7	0.00
1939	68,060*	184	—	110	60	2.7	0.00
1940	51,240*	28	—	13	46	0.5	0.00

* Excluding non-civilians.

Diphtheria.

30 cases were notified but 2 were found to be suffering from tonsillitis. This represents an attack rate of 0.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of houses in which

One case occurred	...	...	...	...	...	12
Two cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	3
Three cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	2
Four cases occurred	...	...	...	...	...	1

One case proved fatal; none was immunised against the disease.

Anti-toxin is available at the Health Department during office hours. When the office is closed it may be obtained at 39 and 41 Green Street.

Table showing notifications, cases isolated, number of deaths, etc., from Diphtheria during 1936-1940 :—

Period	Population	Number Notified	Deaths Registered	Treated in Hospital	Percentage Removed to Hospital	Attack Rate per 1,000 of population	Mortality per 1,000 of population
1936	64,790	17	2	17	100	0.26	0.03
1937	69,320	42	1	32	78	0.60	0.01
1938	70,600	157	4	137	87	2.22	0.06
1939	68,060*	86	1	72	84	1.3	0.01
1940	51,240*	28	1	23	82	0.5	0.02

* Excluding non-civilians.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 260 children were immunised, of whom 158 were under 5 years of age.

T.A.F. administered in 3 doses at fortnightly intervals. The first 2 doses were 1 c.c. and the 3rd 1.5 c.c. Children under 5 years were treated with two injections of A.P.T. (0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c.).

The following table summarises the work of the Clinic since its inception in April 1935.

DIPHtheria IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

Clinic	Year	Number of 1st Schick Tests	Results		Number of Inoculations			Total Attendances
			Pos.	Neg.	1st	2nd	3rd	
Rainham	1935*	—	—	—	112	109	100	321
	1936	4	1	3	196	187	187	578
	1937	2	—	2	163	164	149	482
	1938	—	—	—	295	298	294	1,087
	1939	—	—	—	97	96	73	266
	1940	—	—	—	31	24	2	57
	TOTAL	6	1	5	894	878	805	2,791
Gillingham	1935*	5	3	2	339	310	275	1,016
	1936	27	11	11	472	461	471	1,457
	1937	25	18	9	551	543	549	1,707
	1938	—	—	—	718	693	658	2,069
	1939	3	—	3	571	575	346	1,500
	1940	4	1	3	129	127	56	328
	TOTAL	64	33	28	2780	2709	2355	8,077

* Part of the year. The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria was inaugurated in April, 1935.

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED CASES.

YEAR	Under 5 years of age			5—12 years of age			Over 12 years of age			GRAND TOTAL
	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	Gillingham	Rainham	Total	
1935 ...	72	28	100	158	73	231	39	5	44	375
1936 ...	140	47	187	301	130	431	36	4	40	658
1937 ...	168	49	217	365	99	464	16	1	17	698
1938 ...	235	88	323	411	197	608	12	9	21	952
1939 ...	261	44	305	353	55	408	12	2	14	727
1940 ...	114	44	158	66	10	76	26	—	26	260
TOTALS	990	300	1290	1654	564	2218	141	21	162	3670

During 1940, the number of children who failed to attend for a complete course of injections was 6

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Fifteen patients were notified, but 9 were found not to be suffering from C.S.F. Two cases proved fatal.

Erysipelas.

Eleven cases were notified.

Pneumonia.

Notifications numbered 33, compared with 41 in the previous year:—

Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	28

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The following cases were notified:—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	71
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	10

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases were notified.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Admissions to Keycol Hospital numbered 42, compared with 210 in the previous year.

The following Table gives details:—

Keycol Hill Hospital, Sittingbourne.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.
Number of patients admitted...	13	23	5
Deaths	—	1	1
Discharged	11	22	4
In Hospital on the 31st December, 1939	2	—	—
Average number of days per patient in Hospital ...	37	42	25

Disinfections.

Houses disinfected by formalin-spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 73.

The following articles were removed for disinfection in the steam disinfectator or formalin chamber :—

Mattresses	...	...	...	...	253
Palliasses	...	...	...	...	148
Pillows	...	...	...	...	211
Cushions	...	...	...	...	154
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	129
Hearthrugs	...	...	...	...	117
Clothing	...	...	...	...	131
Carpets	...	...	...	...	121
Books	...	...	...	...	109
Eiderdowns	...	...	...	...	262
Sundries	...	...	...	...	73
TOTAL					1,708

The following service articles were steam disinfected :—

Army blankets	...	...	...	...	7,054	} 7,200
A.R.P. blankets	...	...	...	...	154	
Army pillows	...	...	...	...	240	
Army palliasses	...	...	...	...	803	
A.R.P. mattresses	...	...	...	...	14	

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of new cases :—

		Pulmonary.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Non- Pulmonary.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1936	...	46	0.7	13	0.20
1937	...	48	0.7	19	0.27
1938	...	54	0.76	13	0.17
1939	...	43	0.57	26	0.35
1940	...	65	1.27	10	0.19

Eleven cases were not notified before death, and 11 were notified at a late stage of the disease.

Period elapsing between
notification and death

One to seven days	...	...	...	...	3
One to four weeks	...	...	...	...	3
One to three months	...	...	...	...	5

The ratio of not notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was as 1 is to 5.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Under these regulations the Medical Officer of Health is required to keep an up-to-date register of all notified cases. For this purpose the register is revised quarterly.

	Pulmonary.	Non- Pulmonary.	Total.
Number on Register at 1st of January			
1940	184	91	275
Number on Register at 31st December			
1940	160	96	256

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1940

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 "	—	1	—	4	—	—	2	1
15—25 "	6	7	1	1	4	3	2	1
25—35 "	8	9	1	1	7	5	1	—
35—45 "	3	9	—	—	1	3	—	1
45—55 "	8	3	—	—	2	3	—	—
55—65 "	5	2	—	—	6	2	1	—
65 and upwards	3	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
Total ...	33	32	4	6	23	18	6	3

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

According to the Registrar-General, total deaths numbered 50 compared with 34 in the previous year.

The following Table is inserted for purposes of comparison :—

Year	Deaths			Death Rates per 1,000 of Population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1936	52	44	8	0.80	0.68	0.12
1937	48	40	8	0.70	0.58	0.12
1938	41	35	6	0.58	0.49	0.08
1939	34	30	4	0.50	0.44	0.05
1940	50	41	9	0.97	0.80	0.17

Particulars of patients from the Gillingham District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1940 :-

Number of New Cases

Male (including children)	...	...	122
Female " "	...	...	44
		Total	<u>166</u>

Total number of Attendances (old and new)

Male (including children)	475
Female " "	359
	Total <u>834</u>

Venereal Diseases.

I am indebted to Dr. Nicol, medical officer in charge of the County Council V.D. Clinic in Rochester, for the subjoined figures.

New Patients—Gillingham :

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis 	8	5	13
Soft sore 	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea 	19	6	25
Non-Venereal	23	12	35
	—	—	—
	50	23	73
	—	—	—

Total No. of new patients from all areas served ... 304

Average No. of Gillingham patients under daily treatment or observation during 1940	57	29	86
---	----	----	----

Discharges (All Districts served).

DISCHARGED CURED.

Syphilis 	28	16	44
Soft sore 	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea 	78	16	94
Non-Venereal	133	27	160

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE :

Syphilis	...	...	6	8	14
Gonorrhoea	...	...	11	3	14

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT :

Syphilis	...	...	6	14	20
Gonorrhoea	...	...	12	4	16

Total attendances of Gillingham patients 2,072

Total attendances all areas served 8,419

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**Public Health Act, 1936.**

Births require to be notified to the Local Authority within 36 hours. The number received was 819, which represents 99 per cent. of those registered.

Ninety-nine per cent. were notified by midwives; the remainder by doctors or parents. After correction for inward and outward transfers the number properly belonging to the Borough is 931, compared with 1,032 in the previous year.

Of the total births notified, 42.68 per cent. took place in institutions.

Twin births numbered 9.

Home Visiting.

The town is divided into six areas, each with its own health visitor who is responsible for visits under the Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Medical Services.

Home visits under the former numbered 10,986.

The following is a summary of home visits:—

	1940.	1939.
Visits to expectant mothers	200	125
First visits to living infants	825	959
Re-visits under 1 year	2,863	2,874
Visits 1 to 5 years	5,145	5,226
Visits <i>re</i> Milk Order	28	16
Visits <i>re</i> Ophthalmia Neonatorum	22	5
Visits <i>re</i> Measles	6	1
	—	—
Total carried forward	9,089	9,206

	Brought forward	...	9,089	9,206
Visits <i>re</i> Whooping Cough	...	...	5	106
Visits <i>re</i> Chicken Pox	...	...	2	35
Visits <i>re</i> Boarded-Out Children	...	...	61	86
Other Visits	...	...	1,829	1,372
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	TOTALS	...	10,986	10,805
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.

Children under 5 years are examined at the child welfare centres and, if requiring operation, referred to a private doctor or to hospital. The numbered referred was 4.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Sixteen children affected with defective vision (including 11 with squint) were examined at the ophthalmic clinic by Dr. Dunlop, and glasses prescribed for 10. Attendances numbered 28.

Dental Defects.

A clinic is held weekly for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the work during the year:—

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	45
Number of expectant mothers treated	...	...	...	135
Number of nursing mothers treated	...	...	...	18
Number of children treated	...	...	...	82
Total attendances of expectant mothers	...	...	...	319
Total attendances of nursing mothers	...	...	...	41
Total attendances of children	...	...	...	101
Extractions	{	Permanent—Expectant mothers	...	747
		Permanent—Nursing mothers	...	153
		Temporary	...	372
Fillings	{	Expectant mothers	...	109
		Nursing mothers	...	7
		Children	...	2

Administrations of Anaesthetics	{	Expectant mothers	165
		Nursing mothers	27
		Children	95
Other Operations	{	Expectant mothers	7
		Nursing mothers	1
		Children	—
Payments	{	Expectant mothers	£15 14s. 3d.
		Nursing mothers	£2 4s. od.
		Children	£6 12s. 9d.
TOTAL ...			£24 11s. od.

Dentures supplied :—

Full upper and lower	22
Full upper and part lower	1
Full upper	2
Part upper and lower	3
Part upper	3
Part lower	1
Gross cost	£120 8s. 6d.
Amount recovered from patients ...	£65 19s. 6d.
Net cost to Corporation	£54 9s. od.

Patients are required to contribute in accordance with an income scale approved by the Corporation.

Child Welfare Centres.

The Balmoral Gardens Centre is open each afternoon, Monday to Thursday inclusive, and the Rainham Centre every Tuesday at 2 p.m. Total attendances numbered 14,047, of which 3,292 were in respect of children aged 1 to 5 years.

Attendances.

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham Centre
1936	15,758	2,557
1937	17,096	3,067
1938	17,871	3,336
1939	14,822	4,112
1940	10,592	3,455

The following Table gives details of each Centre during the year:—

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham Centre
Children under 1 year on register for first time	534	174
Children 1 to 5 years on register for first time	136	51
Average attendance per session	51	65
Total children on register, December, 1940 ...	1,740	501
Children referred for treatment to hospital or private doctor	68	3
Umbilical Hernia strapped	67	16

SUPPLY OF MILK TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

For many years dried milk has been provided by the Corporation at cost price or free in necessitous cases.

In September the Ministry of Food introduced a national scheme for providing one pint of liquid milk (or dried milk for children under 12 months) daily at 2d. a pint, or free if the joint income of the parents fell below 40/0 per week, plus 6/0 for each non-earning dependant.

Arrangements were made for dried milk to be distributed at the Welfare Centres, and the Corporation agreed to purchase national dried milk to supplement the 1 pint per day (allowed by the Ministry of Food) for those cases where this quantity was insufficient.

The Corporation also continued to stock humanised dried milk for infants unable to take the full cream national milk.

Since July, 1941, the Ministry of Food has supplied half cream dried milk.

Number of packets of dried milk supplied during 1940:—

	Rainham.	Gillingham.	Total.
(a) Free	547	1,765	2,312
(b) Sold	1,310	6,220	7,530
TOTALS	1,857	7,985	9,842

National dried milk distributed for the Milk Officer at the Welfare Centres during 1940:—

Free	...	...	...	274
Sold	...	...	...	605
TOTAL				879

National dried milk supplied by the Corporation:—

Free	...	...	...	95
Sold	...	...	...	286
TOTAL				381

Total issues of national dried milk:—

Free	...	...	...	369
Sold	...	...	...	891
TOTAL				1,260

Cost of dried milk supplied free by the Corporation:—

			£	s.	d.
Various dried milks	...	...	131	0	7
National dried milk	...	...	5	10	10
			£136 11 5		

Clinics for Expectant Mothers.

A special clinic is held every Friday morning at the Balmoral Gardens Centre, and bi-monthly at the Rainham Centre.

The number of expectant mothers attending for the first time was 372, compared with 403 in the previous year.

Summary.

	Balmoral Gardens Centre	Rainham Centre
Expectant mothers	324	48
Attendances by expectant mothers ...	779	104
Expectant mothers referred for treatment to private practitioners or hospitals	16	4
Post-natal cases	6	3
Attendances by post-natal cases ...	51	8
Post-natal cases referred for treatment	4	—
Found not pregnant	18	1
Cases referred to Maternity Homes ...	19	2
Average attendance per session ...	17	7

The attendances, etc., were as follows:—

	Balmoral Gardens Centre	Rainham Centre	Total 1940	Total 1939
New cases, post-natal included	330	51	381	426
Attendances	830	112	942	1,174

Ante-natal and Post-natal Examinations by Private Practitioners.

Three hundred and thirty-four individual mothers received examination during the year.

The following is a summary of the examinations made:—

Number of first ante-natal examinations ...	256
Number of second ante-natal examinations ...	171
Number of post-natal examinations	96
	—
TOTAL ...	523
	—

Nursing Homes.

One home was on the register at the end of the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, with a total accommodation of 4 beds.

Institutional Midwifery.

Twenty-one civilians were admitted to the Navy Maternity Home and 71 to the County Hospital, Chatham.

Supervision of Midwives.

The Corporation is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Act, 1902-1936. Fifteen midwives gave notice of their intention to practice during the year.

The following return was made to the Ministry of Health :—

	Domicil'y Midwives	Midwives in Inst'ns	Totals
I. Total number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :—			
(a) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority	5	—	5*
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—	—	6	6
(c) In private practice	1	—	1
TOTALS	6	6	12

* An additional Municipal Midwife was transferred to Surrey to look after expectant mothers evacuated from Gillingham.

	Domicil'y Cases	Cases in Inst'ns	Totals
2. Number of cases in the area of the Local Supervising Authority attended during the year by midwives :—			
(a) Employed by the Council :—			
As Midwives	315	—	315
As Maternity Nurses...	115	—	115
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—			
As Midwives	—	180	180
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	167	167
(c) In private practice—			
As Midwives	55	—	55
As Maternity Nurses ...	1	—	1
TOTALS			
As Midwives	370	180	550
As Maternity Nurses ...	116	167	383

3. Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (i) of the Midwives Act, 1918, by a midwife :—

(i) engaged in domiciliary practice	113
(ii) in institutional practice	96
TOTAL	209

4. Number of domiciliary births during the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority 490

Records of Sending for Medical Help.

Year	Notifications Received			Percentage of Births in which Medical help was called
	On behalf of Mother	On behalf of Child	Total	
1936	154	31	185	16%
1937	216	30	246	22%
1938	276	58	334	27%
1939	252	37	289	27%
1940	176	34	210	26%

The following notifications were also received from midwives :—

Discontinuance of breast-feeding	...	...	...	...	12
Death of child	...	...	...	...	2
Still-births	...	...	...	...	5
					—
			TOTAL	...	19
					—

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Number notified	...	...	...	...	2
Removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	>1

Midwives Act (1918 Section 14).

The Ministry prescribes the scale of fees to be paid by Local Supervising Authorities to medical practitioners called in by midwives.

One hundred and thirty-seven accounts amounting to a total of £210/2/8 were paid by the Corporation.

In accordance with the Corporation's scale of income, £64/16/7 was due to be paid by patients, but the sum received by the end of the year was £61/13/5.

Whole fees due to be paid by patient	...	74
Part fees due to be paid by patient	...	31
Whole fees due to be paid by Corporation...		32

Home Helps.

These were employed on 5 occasions.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost to Corporation	38 5 0
Amount to be recovered	14 3 9
Amount recovered at 31st December	7 2 3

Consultants for Midwifery Patients.

A consultant was called in on one occasion.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost to Corporation	2 2 0
Amount due to be received from patient	2 2 0
Amount received by 31st December	2 2 0

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The health visitors who are appointed infant life protection visitors made 61 visits.

Summary.

Number of foster-mothers (December, 1940) ...	26
Foster children (December, 1940)	29
Visits by nurses	61
Total number of children removed from the register during the year	17
Returned to parents	7
Over age	10

Infant Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year numbered 41, which represents an infant mortality rate of **47 per 1,000** births, compared with 32 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The rate for London was 50, and for England and Wales 55 per 1,000 live births.

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	
	Gillingham	England and Wales
1936	38	59
1937	53	58
1938	44	53
1939	32	50
1940	47	55

Maternal Mortality.

There was 1 death associated with pregnancy.

The following Table shows the maternal mortality rate during the period 1932-1940:—

Year	Rate per 1,000 births
1932	2.1
1933	3.1
1934	1.0
1935	1.0
1936	2.1
1937	0.9
1938	2.8
1939	3.8
1940	1.1

Birth Control Clinic.

This is conducted monthly by Dr. Dunlop.

Number of sessions	...	...	...	...	10
New cases	...	...	...	...	4
Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	7
Number advised	...	...	...	...	7

Ophthalmia Neonatorum (Purulent Inflammation of Eyes in the New-born).

Number notified	...	...	...	...	2
Treated in hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Vision unimpaired	...	...	...	...	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The subjoined Table shews the premises on the registers and the number of inspections made.

	On Register 31st Dec.	No. of visits during 1940	No. of Notices	No. of defects remedied
Bakehouses	20	51	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	46	315	—	—
Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	133			
Cowsheds	13			
Slaughterhouses	8	167	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	30	72	—	—
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises	95	134	—	—
Restaurants	13	34	—	—

Milk Supply.

Of those given in the foregoing Table, 14 purveyors have registered premises situated outside the Borough.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued during 1940 :—

Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk.

Dealer's licence to retail	I
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Dealer's licence to retail	I
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Pasteurised Milk.

Supplementary licence to retail	I
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

MILK SAMPLES.**Tuberculin Tested Milk.**

Number of samples	I
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Number satisfactory	I
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Pasteurised Milk.

Number of samples	3
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

All reached the required standard.

Inspection of Cows.

The number in milk at the end of the year was approximately
120

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Particulars of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

Articles	No. of Samples
Milk	123
Pearl Barley	1
Cheese	1
Cocoa	1
Coffee	1
Vinegar	2
Butter	2
Bread and Butter	4
Beef Sausages	12
Lard	1
Ginger Beer	1
Tea	1
Jam	4
Pepper	2
Tinned Peas	2
Ground Almonds	1
Pork Sausages	8
Brawn	1
Glycerine	1
TOTAL	169

Prosecutions.

- (1) Selling bread and margarine as bread and butter 10/0 fine.
- (2) Selling adulterated milk. Section 3 of Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ... £5—14 days to pay.
- (3) Sections 3 and 78 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938
 Fined £1 for selling margarine for butter and £1 for obstructing the Inspector; £1/16/0 compensation for damage; £1/5/0 costs—
 A total of £5/1/0.
- (4) Selling milk not of the quality demanded by the purchaser. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act £5/5/0 fine.
- (5) Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Selling milk not of the quality demanded by the purchaser £8/8/0 fine.
 £2/2/0 advocate's fee
- (6) Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Selling milk not of the quality demanded by the purchaser £3/3/0.
- (7) Selling adulterated milk. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 £5/5/0 fine and
 £1/1/0 advocate's fee

Unsound Food.

Amount of food condemned was 1 ton 8 cwts 4 lbs including 10 carcasses or parts of carcasses which were tuberculous.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned :—

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	32	19	8	178	204
Number inspected	32	19	8	178	204
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	9.03	—	—	—	2.45
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	2	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.25	15.79	—	—	2.45

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

In accordance with Section 3 of this Act the number of persons licensed to slaughter was 32. Licenses remain in force for three years.

Potted and Preserved Meat Premises.

At 31st December, premises registered numbered 95.

Ice Cream Shops.

At the end of the year the number on the register was 139 compared with 125 in the previous year.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number on register is 30. Visits numbered 72.

HOUSING.

Action under the Housing Acts, 1930-36, may be summarised as follows:—

Years	Dwelling-houses Demolished	Persons Displaced	Dwelling-houses Made Fit
1931-1940 ...	78	312	36

In addition, 60 undertakings not to let for human habitation have been accepted by the Corporation; 24 houses were demolished as the result of informal action, and 36 made fit. Parts of 6 houses were closed.

Repairs in most instances were enforced under the Public Health Act.

NEW HOUSES.

At 31st December there were approximately 19,872 houses in the Borough. The number erected during the year was 14.

Summary of Years 1921-1940.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for these figures:—

Total	By Local Authority	Privately	Total
1921 ...	119	7	126
1922 ...	53	19	72
1923 ...	—	55	55
1924 ...	—	119 (33 without subsidy)	119
1925 ...	—	172 (5 ,, ,,)	172
1926 ...	—	203 (19 ,, ,,)	203
1927 ...	96	209 (10 ,, ,,)	315
1928 ...	112	157 (24 ,, ,,)	293
1929 ...	133	168 (31 ,, ,,)	332
1930 ...	—	134 (,, ,,)	134
1931 ...	102	231 (,, ,,)	333
1932 ...	—	265 (,, ,,)	265
1933 ...	17	282 (,, ,,)	299
1934 ...	115	368 (,, ,,)	483
1935 ...	—	303 (,, ,,)	303
1936 ...	—	292 (,, ,,)	292
1937 ...	8	367 (,, ,,)	375
1938 ...	40	448 (,, ,,)	488
1939 ...	—	325 (,, ,,)	325
1940 ...	—	14 (,, ,,)	14

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

Forty-seven houses were subjected to a full routine examination, details entered on "housing cards," and notices served where defects were found.

HOUSING SUMMARY.

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)	1,175
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3,482
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	47
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	175
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(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	524
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	205
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—	
Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	354
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	326
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses where owner gave undertaking not to let for human habitation	Nil
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	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Results of Bacteriological Examinations of Samples.

CHATHAM & DISTRICT WATER COMPANY.

Twelve samples were taken at monthly intervals. All proved satisfactory except two, in which the count at 22°C. was high. This was probably due to local faults, i.e., dirty taps.

RAINHAM WATER COMPANY.

Of 40 samples, 7 proved unsatisfactory on account of high counts at 22°C., but B. Coli was consistently absent in 100 cc. Since chlorination was introduced (July, 1940) all samples have been up to the required standard.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Forty houses in Rainham were connected to the main sewerage system, of which 10 were new buildings.

Forty-two conservancy systems were converted.

The present position is as follows:—

Total houses connected to sewer during 1940	42 (Includes 40 in Rainham)
House connected to sewers (whole Borough)	15,970
" " " " (Rainham) ...	2,912
Number (approximate) of Cesspools ...	488
" " " " Privies	10
" " " " Earth closets ...	11
" " " " Pail closets ...	55

Cesspools or Privies were emptied on 254 occasions. Drains cleared numbered 1,137.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This portion of the report has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. D. Ball, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES, Etc., VISITED DURING 1940.

	No. of Visits
Milk shops and dairies and retailers of bottled sterilised milk	315
Cowsheds	53
Bakehouses	51
Slaughterhouses	167
Factories	296
Workshops and workplaces	103
Outworkers' premises	1
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	19
Re notified infectious diseases	131
Houses (filthy or verminous)	284
Refreshments houses, or premises where food is prepared	341
School lavatories	108
Shops under Shops Acts	2,770
Public lavatories	1,399
Drains tested	36

NUISANCES ABATED.

Complaints received	185
WATER CLOSETS :	
New L.C.C. pans and traps fitted	27
Water closets re-built	2
New water closets constructed	1
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	119
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired	95
Water closet pans cleansed by tenants	3
Ventilation provided to water closets	1
WATER SUPPLY :	
Pipes repaired	49
YARDS :	
Drained and paved with cement concrete	18
SINKS AND BATHS :	
Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	10
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	37

DRAINAGE :

Drains repaired	26
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department ...	1,126
Drains cleared by owners	11
Subsidiary sewers cleared and repaired by Works Department	1
Inspection chambers repaired by owners	2
Inspection chambers repaired by Works Department	1
Inspection chamber covers and frames fitted by Works Department	5
Vent shafts repaired by Works Department	2

DAMPNESS :

Roofs repaired and made watertight	201
Eaves guttering and down water pipes provided or repaired	122
External walls protected from dampness	188
Damp-proof courses inserted under walls	25
Ventilation provided under floors	4
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	22

GENERAL :

Disused cesspools filled in	6
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	9
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floor ...	12
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	96
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	1
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired ...	310
Rooms re-papered and ceilings repaired and dis- tempered	470
Smoke nuisance abated	9

PRELIMINARY AND ABATEMENT NOTICES.

During the year the following notices were served:—

Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances	567
Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances (Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936) ...	232
Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to drain a building)	10

Section 39a of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	49
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Reconstruction of defective W.C. accommodation) ...	2
Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective closet accommodation)	3
Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Leaking cesspools)	16
Section 56 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Pave or drain Court, Yard or Passage)	2
Section 79 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to remove noxious matter)	6
Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, Section 72, respecting choked or defective drains	37

Provision of Sanitary Dustbins.

Section 100 of the Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, requires the service of notices upon owners to provide regulation sanitary dustbins.

The following figures show the position at 31st December, 1940 :—

	Total to 31st Dec., 1940
Number of notices served	3,408
Number of notices complied with	3,346

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 240 factories on the register ; 399 inspections were made. Outworkers' premises numbered 110.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested was:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	24
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	65
					—
			TOTAL	...	89
					—
Number of Houses sprayed	...	...	...	...	82
Number of Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Houses sprayed and fumigated	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of rooms fumigated or sprayed	...	...	...	...	369
Furniture and bedding removed and disinfested	...	...	...	...	2

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The Inspector appointed under the Act investigated 147 complaints.

Shops Acts and Shops (Early Closing) Order.

One of the Sanitary Inspectors is also Shops Inspector and gives approximately one-third of his time to duties concerned with the Shops Acts.

Visits to shops numbered 2,770.

LICENCES.

Licenses were granted for the following:—

Petroleum	...	...	...	...	70
Calcium Carbide	...	...	...	...	1

MORTUARY.

Sixty bodies were received and 19 post-mortems performed.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Table showing seasonal incidence of Infectious Diseases
(Local Records).

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
January ...	6	4	8	-	-	-	-	2	1
February ...	3	5	6	3	1	-	-	27	2
March ...	2	3	3	1	-	-	1	20	1
April ...	3	2	2	2	-	-	2	4	3
May ...	3	-	3	2	-	-	1	4	2
June ...	2	2	1	-	-	2	-	2	-
July ...	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
August ...	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
September ...	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
October ...	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	-
November ...	3	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
December ...	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	6	1
TOTALS ...	28	28	33	11	2	2	6	71	10

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates, Analysis of Morality, Maternal Death-Rates, and Case-Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1940.

(Provisional Figures)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 smaller Towns. (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	County of London	Gillingham
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
BIRTHS					
Live	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	18.2
Still	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.51
DEATHS					
All Causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	15.0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.02
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18	0.17
NOTIFICATIONS					
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.12
Whooping Cough	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22	0.19
Measles	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78	1.39
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82	0.55
Diphtheria	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61	0.55
Enteric Fever	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06	—
Erysipelas	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.21
Pneumonia	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87	0.64
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	55	61	54	50	47
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8	4.6
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live & Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY					
Puerperal Infection (excluding abortion) ...	0.52	Not available			1.11
Others	1.64				0.00
Total	2.16				1.11
NOTIFICATIONS					
Puerperal Pyrexia	11.96	13.90	9.73	3.34 13.30*	2.22

* Including Puerperal Fever

**Causes of Deaths amongst Civilians, Live Births and Still Births
as provided by the Registrar-General:—**

CAUSES OF DEATH						Male	Fem'le	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	23	18	41
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6	3	9
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
14.	Cancer of Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	6	6
15.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	12	8	20
16.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	10	10
17.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	38	23	61
18.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	5	9	14
19.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	29	28	57
20.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	85	72	157
21.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	14	5	19
22.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	31	17	48
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	24	13	37
24.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	14	4	18
25.	Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
26.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
27.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
28.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	13	10	23
29.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	13	11	24
30.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	11	6	17
33.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
34.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
35.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
36.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	31	24	55
37.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	48	49	97
ALL CAUSES						431	340	771
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—								
Legitimate						26	11	37
Illegitimate						1	3	4
Total						27	14	41
Births			For Infant Mortality, etc.			For Birth Rate		
			M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS:—								
Legitimate			408	429	837	445	448	893
Illegitimate			20	18	38	20	18	38
Total			428	447	875	465	466	931
STILL BIRTHS:—								
Legitimate			9	13	22	11	13	24
Illegitimate			—	2	2	—	2	2
Total			9	15	24	11	15	26

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1936-40.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District	Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Net		of Non-Residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number				Rate	Number		Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number	Rate
1936 ..	*64,790	1,109	*932	14.4	43	242	*35	38.0	*680	10.5
1937 ..	*69,320	1,286	*1,064	15.4	48	312	*56	53.0	*770	11.6
1938 ..	*70,600	1,249	*1,033	14.6	47	264	*45	44.0	*660	9.72
1939 ..	^a 74,070 ^b 68,060	1,061	*1,032	13.9	63	310	*32	32.0	*708	10.8
1940 ..	*51,240	819	*931	18.2	95	344	*41	47.0	*771	15.0

^a Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Birth Rate.

^b Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Death Rate.

* Figure given by Registrar-General.

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM
KENT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Annual Report
OF THE
School Medical Officer
W. A. MUIR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1940

STAFF

School Medical Officer :

W. A. Muir, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer :

Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

C. M. Bell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part time)

Military Service, September 1939

Dental Surgeon

W. S. Stevens, L.D.S., Resigned 24/2/40

F. J. Bloor, L.D.S. (part time) 24/10/39—21/6/40

R. N. Merrett, L.D.S. (part time) 25/6/40

Dental Anaesthetist :

S. Bather, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P

Military Service, May 1940

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids :

*A. G. Woodforde, Esq., M.B.

Nurses :

Miss W. Brandreth, (whole time)

24/6/40 transferred to Midwifery Service

Miss N. Legg (half time)

Miss E. M. Ross (half time)

Mrs. A. Leach (one-third time)

Miss R. Hopkins (one-third time)

Miss M. Hughes (one-third time)

Miss H. Parry (one-third time)

Clerks :

C. Francis

(Died 18th August, 1940)

R. W. Wright

(Military Service June, 1940)

Dental Attendant and Clerk :

VACANT

* Hon. Staff, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

February, 1941

To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit the annual report on the work of the school medical department for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

As the number of children attending school has fallen from 8000 to about 1450 the work of the local medical services has obviously been seriously interrupted. Facilities are, however, available for inspections and treatment, all clinics being held as in times of peace. The dental clinic is now held on three half days only. Details of staff reductions will be found in the report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. Muir,
School Medical Officer.

SUMMARY

Approx. attendance December, 1940	...	...	2446
"Routine" cases examined	...	...	971
Total medical examinations	...	...	1521
Visits to schools by nurses	...	...	207
Visits to homes by nurses	...	...	879
Inspections by school dentist	...	...	1175
Treated by school dentist	...	...	449
Percentage of average attendance found verminous			7.1
Percentage of average attendance excluded for verminous conditions	...	...	1.7
Total attendances at various clinics (dental excluded)			3,273

STAFF

Alterations are as follows :—

The part-time School Medical Officer and the part-time Dental Anæsthetist are on military service.

The whole-time School Dentist resigned for health reasons, and a part-time officer was appointed.

One whole-time School Nurse is acting temporarily as a municipal midwife.

The chief clerk died in August, and the junior has been on military service since June.

In the latter half of the year clerical duties were performed by the chief clerk in the Health Department. A junior was appointed in January, 1941.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Routine inspections of the Board of Education's three age groups were carried out.

- (1) On entry to school.
- (2) 8-9 years.
- (3) 12 years.

971 children were examined.

NUTRITION

In accordance with the Board's requirements children examined at routine inspections are classified as "excellent," "normal," "slightly sub-normal," or "bad." The figures for the past 6 years are as follows :—

	Excellent %	Normal %	Slightly Sub-normal %	Bad %
1935	13.2	84.7	2.0	0.1
1936	10.5	87.8	1.7	—
1937	12.3	85.3	2.4	—
1938	13.0	85.3	1.7	2 cases
1939	15.9	82.2	1.9	—
1940	17.92	79.20	2.88	—

Heights and weights were as follows :—

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

Age	No. examined	BOYS	
		Average Height in inches	Average Weight in lbs.
5—6 years ...	8	43½	45¼
6—7 „ ...	43	45	43½
8—9 „ ...	243	50	58½
12—13 „ ...	64	58½	85½
13—14 „ ...	24	59¾	93¼
		GIRLS	
5—6 years ...	9	42¾	40¾
6—7 „ ...	42	45	45½
8—9 „ ...	236	49¾	56¼
12—13 „ ...	155	59¼	85¾
13—14 „ ...	44	60	89½

These figures compare favourably with previous years.

NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS

Dr. Dunlop, the Assistant School Medical Officer reports that during the past year nutritional surveys of school children have not been wholly satisfactory. Since attendance at school is not compulsory the children who are most in need of supervision do not attend, and about these it is consequently difficult to get information.

The surveys are carried out in all schools once each term. Any child found suffering from malnutrition is kept under observation, or if seriously under normal is referred to the school clinic for more frequent surveys. Of the children attending school at present the number suffering from any great degree of malnutrition due to insufficiency of diet is very small—about 1%. In the latter part of the year a greater proportion of children appeared unable to derive the maximum value from school education. This is probably due to disturbance and alteration of rest routine, attributable directly to air raid warnings, families sleeping in one room, lack of fresh air and the communication to the child of the tension and anxiety of the parents in existing circumstances.

She has found the recommendations for diet in practically all cases carried out, but that it is impossible to get any alterations made for the better rest of the child. Until this is done she feels sure the general health of the school child will not improve.

PROVISION OF MILK

Irregular school attendance, closure of schools, and shortage of milk supplies were responsible for the cessation of this scheme from time to time. The following figures were supplied by the Education Secretary :—

Milk supplied during 1940	5,779 bottles (1-3rd pint)
Maximum children to whom milk was supplied during any one week	69
No. on list at end of Christmas term	29
No. buying milk during last week in December	540

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following summary gives the number of patients excluded during the years 1929-39 (Private schools included).

			Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases
1929	...	...	160	144
1930	...	...	93	24
1931	...	...	55	11
1932	...	...	102	7
1933	...	...	122	14
1934	...	...	62	38
1935	...	...	62	14
1936	...	...	69	5
1937	...	...	151	28
1938	...	...	182	118
1939	...	...	121	49
1940	...	...	7	11

MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, CHICKEN-POX, MUMPS

The following table illustrates the well-recognised occurrence of bi-annual epidemics of measles.

	Year	1937	1938	1939	1940
Measles	3	773	10	72
German measles	...	11	18	13	8
Whooping cough	...	170	128	208	13
Chicken-pox	...	531	173	563	17
Mumps	593	29	9	—

FOLLOWING-UP BY NURSES

The nurses paid 879 (1,692) home visits, of which 68 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases.

Summary of School Medical Work

	1938	1939	1940
(1) Total visits to schools	377	287	207
(2) Attendances at routine medical inspections	140	75	39
(3) Attendances at clinics	517	444	520
(4) Visits to home re			
(a) Defective children ...	1,431	832	811
(b) Infectious diseases ...	1,405	860	68
(5) Examinations of head and bodies re cleanliness	23,337	16,206	8,740
(6) Notices sent re nits (children not excluded from school) ...	218	216	130
(7) Notices sent re nits and vermin (children excluded from school)	319	139	57

MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Balmoral Gardens Minor Ailment Clinic is open daily at 9 a.m. except during holidays, and the Rainham Centre three times a week. Total attendances numbering 1,863 were made by 431 children.

ATTENDANCES AT TREATMENT CLINICS

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1940	Total 1939
Ringworm	81	9	90	56
Ear defects	73	59	132	427
Impetigo	301	23	324	435
Eczema	3	22	25	36
Scabies	76	112	188	35
Alopecia	2	—	2	3
External eye disease	29	24	53	800
Other conditions	699	350	1049	2607
Total	1,264	599	1,863	4,399

Children suffering from the following conditions made 1,117 attendances for inspection :—

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1940	Total 1939
Catarrh, sore throats, colds, etc. ...	2	—	2	87
Vermin of head or body, nits, etc.	487	—	487	326
Ringworm	17	—	17	27
Impetigo	18	—	18	36
Scabies	163	—	163	43
Eczema	2	—	2	5
Other skin diseases	25	2	27	150
Defective vision, "sore eyes," etc.	23	3	26	165
Nose and throat diseases	48	5	53	497
Tubercular and pretubercular conditions	4	—	4	23
Chorea	1	—	1	24
Epilepsy	—	—	—	5
Ear disease	10	—	10	104
Heart disease	5	—	5	19
Rheumatism	2	—	2	6
Deformities	6	—	6	16
Convalescents from infectious diseases	12	—	12	260
Other diseases or defects ...	252	30	282	1027
	—	—	—	—
Total	1,077	40	1,117	2,820
	—	—	—	—

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS

23 children received operative treatment at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester ; the parents of 12 of these were subscribers.

18 children received operative treatment elsewhere, the majority at the Kent County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital, Maidstone.

Children are inspected by the school dentist prior to operation.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

Dr. Dunlop is in charge of the eye clinic. 165 children made 293 attendances ; glasses were prescribed in 108 cases and obtained in 98 (91%).

Errors of Refraction.

Hypermetropic astigmatism	...	...	40 = 40.8%
Myopic astigmatism	...	...	12 = 12.2%
Mixed astigmatism	...	...	7 = 7.1%
Hypermetropia	...	...	13 = 13.3%
Myopia	...	...	26 = 26.5%
			—
Total	...	98	—

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus :—

Sessions held	...	...	50
Individual children attended	...	...	165
Total attendances	...	...	293
Glasses prescribed	...	...	108
Glasses not required or no change necessary	...	...	37
Referred to hospital	...	...	1

PARENTS' PAYMENTS FOR TREATMENT

Parents pay small sums towards the cost of treatment except when they are necessitous.

	Parents' payments			Net Cost to Committee		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Operations for throat and nose defects	2	12	6	12	6	
Provision of spectacles	13	5	0	1	15	0
X-ray treatment of ringworm		5	0	-	-	-
Dental treatment	40	11	0	-	-	-
Total	£56	13	6			

MENTAL DEFECTIVES

The following annual report was received from Miss Nugent, the Secretary of the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare :—

“ The total number of children of school age under the supervision of the Association on 1st January, 1940, was forty-two. During the year two new cases have been received from the School Medical Officer, making a total of forty-four.

“ The details of these are as follows :—

1. *Disposals.*

Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Friendly Supervision	6
Removed out of area	1
Admitted to Home for Boys, Swanley	1

2. *Supervised for Education Committee under 16 years of age.*

Attending Elementary School	20
Attending no School	9
At Residential Special School	3
Total number of children under the supervision of the Association on the 31st December, 1940	37

Reports.

“ During the year about thirty-two reports have been rendered, including First Reports, Special Reports, Annual Reports on Routine cases, and Special 16 Year Reports on children where continued supervision is considered to be necessary and notification to the County Mental Deficiency Committee is recommended.

Visits.

“ Members of the staff have paid approximately eighty-eight visits to the homes of the various children, and school enquiries have also been made.

“ Visits have been paid to some of the homes by members of the Local Case Committee.

“ Although children have been evacuated to Wales with their respective schools, visits are continued by the Association to the parents, who expressed a wish to be able to discuss the progress made by their children, and in some instances such visits have persuaded the parents to allow the child to remain in a safe area instead of insisting on their return to Gillingham. Unusual appreciation of visits has been shown by parents since the beginning of the war. They appear to rely more and more upon the visitor, and seem more willing to co-operate in any way suggested for the help of their children.

After Care.

“ The Association keeps in touch with those children under and over the age of 16 years who are not attending school, and is often able to assist the parents with advice as to suitable employment, and in connection with other problems concerning their children.

“ Two of the boys transferred to the County Mental Deficiency Committee for Friendly Supervision are in employment ; one is unemployed owing to indifferent health ; another has appeared before the Juvenile Court, and is awaiting admission to Leybourne Grange Colony.

“ One girl is being trained by her mother in housework, and the other, who is seven years of age, is at home and unlikely to become employable.

“ Four of the children under the age of 16, but attending no school, are in employment ; two have been included in the Home Teaching scheme, and two are at home and unlikely to obtain employment, except of a very simple nature.

Home Teaching Scheme.

“ This scheme was proving most beneficial to the children who were included and was greatly appreciated by their parents. Some of the children received individual attention, and others were instructed in groups. When air raids became so frequent the mothers and the children used to repair to the dug-outs or shelters and often the Home Teacher had lost journeys. The parents were therefore approached regarding their desire for the continuance of the lessons, and the majority requested that until conditions became calmer these should cease. It is hoped to recommence the teaching again early in the New Year.

“ Seven children were included in this scheme, and next year it is hoped that three more will be added to the list.

“ Although the Occupation Centre has been closed since the outbreak of war, and no Christmas parties were possible, all those who attended in happier days were, by the kindness of friends, given a Christmas present, which was greatly appreciated.

Local Case Committee.

“ Meetings of the Committee have been postponed for a time owing to the danger from air raids, but the members who are still in Gillingham continue to keep in touch with those children in whom they are interested.

Appreciation.

“ The Association wishes to thank the Medical Officer of Health and the Secretary of the Education Committee for their willing co-operation, also the members of the Local Case Committee, Teachers and all those who have assisted and shown interest in the work of caring for children who are so often in need of help and advice.”

UNCLEANLINESS

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 4. Total examinations numbered 8,740 and 174 individual children were found unclean.

The following percentages are interesting :—

Year	Percentage of average attendance found verminous	Percentage of average attendance excluded
1927	12.6	5.3
1928	11.4	4.7
1929	8.9	3.2
1930	9.4	3.1
1931	10.1	4.4
1932	9.5	4.1
1933	10.5	4.5
1934	7.9	3.1
1935	7.7	3.2
1936	6.6	2.9
1937	7.1	3.2
1938	6.4	3.2
1939	4.6	1.3
1940	7.1	1.7

The percentage figures for 1940 must be treated with reserve, as the "average attendance" on which the calculation is made is a variable and indefinite figure ; school attendance being voluntary the number of pupils varies from week to week.

SCABIES

There was a marked increase in the number of cases of Scabies treated—52 against 15 in the previous year.

Board of Education
STATISTICAL TABLES

**TABLE I—MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN
ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

A.—Routine Medical Inspections

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	...	...	...	...	133
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	524
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	314
		Total	...	...	971
Number of other Routine Inspections					—
GRAND TOTAL					971

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... 550

TABLE II

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year
in the Routine Age Groups up to 31st August, 1939

AGE GROUPS.	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	133	16	12.03	114	85.71	3	2.26	—	—
Second Age-group	524	91	17.37	414	79.01	19	3.62	—	—
Third Age-group	314	67	21.34	241	76.75	6	1.91	—	—
Other Routine inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	971	174	17.92	769	79.20	28	2.88	—	—

TABLE III.
Treatment Tables

Group I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.).

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)
Skin :			
Ringworm-Scalp			
(i). X-Ray Treatment. If none, indicate by dash.	1	—	1
(ii). Other Treatment ...	—	—	—
Ringworm-Body	9	—	9
Scabies	52	—	52
Impetigo	59	—	59
Other skin diseases	26	1	27
Minor Eye Defects (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II).	43	4	47
Minor Ear Defects	23	—	23
Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	123	3	126
Total	336	8	344

Table III. (Continued).

Group II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

	No. of defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
Errors of Refraction (including squint).	165	4	169
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—	—	—
Total	165	4	169
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	108	3	111
(b) Obtained	98	3	101

Table III. (Continued).

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				
Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total. (3)		
23	25	48	19	67

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency. The number inspected in each routine age-group are separately shown; as well as the total, but under "Special" only the total number are given.

Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, are recorded as other operations

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist :

(a) Routine age-groups

AGE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Number ...	—	31	124	159	146	186	95	86	82	38	947
(b) Specials	228
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	1175
(2) Number found to require treatment	888
(3) Number actually treated	449
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	1394
(5) Half-days devoted to :—											
Inspection		9									
Treatment		125									
Total							134
(6) Fillings (see note above) :											
Permanent Teeth			629								
Temporary Teeth			—								
Total							629
(7) Extractions :—											
Permanent Teeth			392								
Temporary Teeth			1588								
Total							1980
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions											604
(9) Other Operations :—											
Permanent Teeth			100								
Temporary Teeth			13								
Total							113

TABLE V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

All cases of uncleanliness, however slight, are recorded.

(i) Average number of visits per school department made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	4
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	8740
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	174
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921			—
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :			
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	—

TABLE VI.

Blind and Deaf Children.

	1 At a Public Elementary School.	2 At an Insti- tution other than a Special School	3 At no School or Institution.	4 Total not rec- eiving suitable education.
Blind Children	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaf Children	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Mentally Defective Children

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1940, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928

... .. 2



