#### [Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Gillingham (Kent) Borough.

#### **Contributors**

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BOROUGH OF





# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### Medical Officer of Health

AND

## School Medical Officer

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1942

BY

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

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Centre

School Medical Officer

1943

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,

GILLINGHAM, KENT.

July. 1943

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

It appears in abbreviated form but it is desirable to maintain a record of the usual statistics in order that, after the termination of the war, annual records may be continuous.

The death rate (13.6) compares with the figure of 12.2 in the previous year. The birth-rate at 19.2 remained unaltered, but infantile mortality rose from 44 to 56. Death rate from tuberculosis was the same as in the previous year, but the figure is much higher than in times of peace.

Propaganda by wireless and the Press produced a marked rise in applications for immunisation against diphtheria; 2,572 children were treated. It is estimated that at the end of the year 73 per cent. of children aged 5 to 15 years and 56 per cent. between 2 and 5 years of age had received a full protective course. Only eight cases of diphtheria were notified, and there were no deaths.

Civil Defence duties occupied much time during the year and the staff gave willingly of its services at all times. Many changes in the staff caused difficulties in the efficient working of the department, but I wish to express my indebtedness to all concerned for the help and assistance given.

> I have the honour to be, Your obedient servant,

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

Anæsthetist (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.) [Resigned 30/9/42]

\*†§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.).

\*†§Miss V. Fulford (C.M.B. Cert., Health Visitor's Cert.). [1/10/42.]

Municipal Midwives:

Miss E. Daly, C.M.B., S.R.N. (commenced 3/11/42). 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.

Miss A. Willey, C.M.B.

Chief Clerk:

F. Eric Young.

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

Miss G. Palmer.

Miss D. Dumbrell (temporary).

Miss E. Bowgen (temporary).

Miss C. Rogers (temporary).

Ambulance Driver and Mortuary Attendant: John Sparks (Military Service, September, 1939).

R. Daniels. .

\*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
Rateable Value (April, 1943) £373,518
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (1942-43) £1,425
In 1942-43 the total Rates were $14/4$ in the £ (excluding water rates and charges).
Average weekly number of persons in receipt of Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st March, 1943 171
Amount paid in Outdoor Relief, year ended 31st March, 1943 £10,381
Number of Gillingham persons admitted to the County Hospital, Chatham, during the year ended 31st March, 1943 592
EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
Live Births:
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.2
Still Births:
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 34
Deaths (all causes):
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population 13.6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis97
Other Puerperal Cause 1.9
· Total 2.87
Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age :
All Infants per 1,000 live births 56.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 53.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 101.6

#### Deaths in Public Institutions:

Three hundred and forty-three deaths, or 49 per cent. of the total, took place in Institutions.

#### Natural Increase of Population:

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1942 was 287 and for the previous years as follows:—

Year.			ural Increase Population.	
1938	 	 	373	
1939	 	 	324	
1940	 	 	160	
1941	 	 	239	
1942	 	 	287	

#### Cancer and Malignant Disease:

	ignant D	iscase .	ancer th Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1938			 1.6	16.8
1939			 1.4	13.0
1940			 1.9	13.1
1941			 1.8	12.7
1942			 2.0	14.7

#### Road Traffic Accidents:

Deaths numbered 6, compared with 4 in the previous year.

Deaths from suicides numbered 11 and from "other violent causes," 24 (19).

# GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES Midwives:

The number of registered midwives at 31st December was 11, of whom 5 are members of the Corporation Staff.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Vaccination:

The percentage of infants known to be successfully vaccinated was 63. The percentage of statutory declarations was 29.

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

igures :—	
<ol> <li>Number of cases on Birth lists received during 1942, but actually registered between 1st December, 1941, and 30th November, 1942</li> </ol>	923
2. Number of Vaccination Certificates received between 1st January, 1942, and 31st December, 1942	581
3. Number of Statutory Declarations received between 1st January, 1942, and 31st December, 1942	272
<ol> <li>Number of Postponement Certificates received between 1st January, 1942, and 31st Decem- ber, 1942:—</li> </ol>	
(a) Health of Child	8
(b) Conditions of house or prevalence of Infectious Disease in District	1
5. Number of Certificates of Insusceptibility received between 1st January, 1942, and 31st December, 1942	5
6. Number of cases removed from District	7
7. Number of cases not traced	19
Scarlet Fever:	
Notifications numbered 138. Fifty-seven were remaspital.	oved to
Number of houses in which One case occurred	106
Two cases occurred	13
Three cases occurred	2
Number of "return cases"	Nil

#### Diphtheria:

Fifteen cases were notified, but seven were found to be suffering from tonsilitis.

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria:

During the year 2,572 children were immunised, of whom 1,203 were under five years of age.

Two injections of A.P.T. are given at monthly intervals. The dosage employed is 0.2 cc. and 0.5 cc.

#### Cerebro-Spinal Fever:

Three patients were notified. One proved fatal.

#### Enteric Fever:

One case was notified. Bacteriologically it proved to be a case of Paratyphoid B. infection.

#### Pneumonia:

Notifications numbered 59.

Influenzal Pneumonia		 	 1
Acute Primary Pneumo	nia	 	 58

#### Measles and Whooping Cough:

The following cases were notified:-

Measles		 	 	846
Whooping	Cough	 	 	401

#### HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Admissions to Keycol Hill Hospital numbered 80, compared with 39 in the previous year.

The following table gives details :-

				Average	
Disease		Cases		Duration	Deaths
Scarlet Fever		5	8 (1)	33 days	Nil
Diphtheria		1	4*	34 days	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal	Fever		7 (2)	17 days	1
Dysentry	*		1	23 days	Nil

\* Six proved to be Tonsilitis.

<sup>(1)</sup> One proved to be German Measles.(2) Four incorrectly diagnosed.

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

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

Gillingham	Rainham	Clinic
1935* 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942	1935* 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942	Year
25 25 25 4 12 2	1   24	Number of 1st Schick Tests
1 7 1 18		Pos.
2533 9=2	3	Results Neg.
339 472 551 718 571 129 1252 2081	112 196 163 295 97 31 382 608	Ist
310 461 543 693 575 127 1153 2013	109 187 164 298 96 24 307 559	Number of Inoculations 2nd
275 471 549 658 346 56 2	100 187 149 294 73 2:	of ons 3rd
  328 2431 4094		Total Attendances

<sup>\*</sup> Part of the year. The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria was inaugurated in April, 1935.

# SUMMARY OF COMPLETED CASES.

GRAND	TOTAL	375	959	869	952	727	260	1988	2572
ie.	Total	44	40	17	21	4	26	177	162
Over 12 years of age	Rainham	5	4	_	6	2		=	22
Over	Gillingham	39	36	91	12	12	26	991	140
0	Total	231	431	464	809	408	76	964	1207
12 years of age	Rainham	73	130	66	197	55	10	189	287
5—1.	Gillingham	158	301	365	411	353	99	775	920
ie l	Total	100	187	217	323	305	158	857	1203
Under 5 years of age	Rainham	28	47	49	88	44	44	162	250
Under	Gillingham	72	140	168	235	261	114 ×	969	953
Veab		:							1
\A	7	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942

During 1942, the number of children who failed to attend for a complete course of injections was 58

#### Disinfections:

Houses disinfected by formalin spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 124.

#### Tuberculosis:

Notification of new cases :-

1940 ...

1941 ...

1942 ...

		Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
		ate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
	0	of population.	of population.
1936	 	0.7	0.2
1937	 	0.7	0.3
1938	 	0.8	0.2
1939	 	0.6	0.4

1.3

1.3

1.5

0.2

0.5

0.4

### PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930

		Non-	
	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Total
Number on Register at 1st January,		-	
1942	186	111	297
Number on Register at 31st Decem-			
ber, 1942	229	131	360

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases during 1942.

. D	New Cases			
Age Periods	Respi	ratory	No Respi	n- ratory
	Μ.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year 1— 5 years		=		- 3 3
5—15 ,, 15—25 ,,	2 11 8	15	7	3
25—35 ,, 35—45 ,, 45—55 ,,	13 8	13 4 3	1	1
55—65 ,, 65 and upwards	3	3 2 —	<u> </u>	
Total	45	38	-14	11

#### Tuberculosis Death Rate:

The following table is inserted for purposes of comparison:

	Death	Rates per 1,000 of Population				
Year	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary			
1938	0.58	0.49	0.08			
1939	0.50	0.44	0.05			
1940	0.97	0.80	0.17			
1941	0.91	0.78	0.12			
1942	0.92	0.73	0.19			

Particulars of patients from the Gillingham District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1942:—

#### Number of New Cases:

Male (inclu	iding chi	ldren)		 	177
Female	,,	,,		 	158
			Total	 	335

#### 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			18	14	32
Soft sore			_	-	_
Gonorrhoea			23	8	31
Non-Venerea	1		26	8	34
	T . 1				
	Totals		67	30	97

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

#### Public Health Act, 1936:

Ninety-nine per cent. of births were notified by midwives, the remainder by doctors or parents.

48 per cent. took place in institutions.

Twin births numbered 13.

#### Home Visiting:

Home visits under the M. and C.W. Scheme numbered 10,064. The following is a summary of home visits:—

The following is a summary (	or nome	VISITS .	1942.	1941.
Visits to expectant mothers		***	108	184
First visits to living infants			974	782
Re-visits under 1 year			2,603	2,549
Visits 1 to 5 years			4,906	4,759
Visits re Milk Order			15	62
Visits re Ophthalmia Neonatorur	n		6	30
Visits re Measles			290	167
Visits re Whooping Cough			265	142
Visits re Chicken Pox			15	7
Visits re Mumps			37	7
Visits re Boarded-Out Children			74	47
Other Visits			771	1,450
Tota	ls		10,064	10,186

#### 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 number referred was 4.

#### Ophthalmic Treatment:

Thirty children affected with defective vision were examined at the ophthalmic clinic by Dr. Dunlop, and glasses prescribed for 21. Attendances numbered 56.

#### Dental Defects:

The following	ng is a summary of the work dur	ing the	year :-
Number of session	ons held		24
Number of expec	ctant mothers treated		100
Number of nurs	ing mothers treated		13
Number of child	dren treated		61
Total attendance	es of expectant mothers		145
Total attendance	es of nursing mothers		30
Total attendance	es of children	Z	63
Extractions :			
Datiactions.	Permanent—Expectant mothers		539
	Permanent—Nursing mothers		41
Dill:	Temporary	<i>,</i>	270
Fillings	Expectant mothers		17
	Nursing mothers		5
	Children		-
Administration of Anæsthetics			
or maconicus	Expectant mothers		117
	Nursing mothers		17
0.1	Children		63
Other Operations			
	Expectant mothers		6
	Nursing mothers		2
	Children		
Dentures suppl	lied :—		
	Full upper and lower		11
	Full upper and part lower		7
	Full upper		2
	Full Lower		1

Part upper and lo	wer		 2
Part upper			 13
Part lower			 1
Gross cost			 £143/18/0
Amount recovered	from	patients	 £100/8/0
Net cost to Corpo	ration		 £43/10/0

#### Child Welfare Centres:

Total attendances numbered 16,298, of which 3,755 were in respect of children aged 1 to 5 years.

Atte	endances	:		Balmoral Gardens.	Rainham Centre
	1937		 	 17,096	3,067
	1938		 	 17,871	3,336
	1939		 	 14,822	4,112
	1940		 	 10,592	3,455
	1941		 	 13,241	4,958
	1942		 	 12,048	4,250

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

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham Centre
Children under 1 year on register for first time	628	193
Children 1 to 5 years on register for first time	157	42
Average attendance per session	58	82
Total children on register, December, 1942	1,743	499
Children referred for treatment to hospital or		
private doctor	37	1
Umbilical Hernia strapped	82	13

# SUPPLY OF MILK TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN Corporation Scheme:

Number of packets of dried milk supplied during 1942 :-

			Rainham.	Gillingham.	Total
(a)	Free		 12	90	102
(b)	Sold		 922	5176	6098
		Totals	 934	5266	6200

#### Distribution of National Dried Milk:

Number of Packets

Distributed for the Milk Officer Supplied by the Corporation	 Supplied Free. 1,262 522	Sold. 10,258	Total. 11,520 522
Totals	 1,784	10,258	12,042

Cost of dried milk supplied free by the Corporation :-

		£	s.	d.
Various dried milks	 	 8	10	0
National dried milk	 	 30	9	0
	Total	 £38	19	0

#### Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil for Children

These were distributed on behalf of the Ministry of Food, three times weekly at the Balmoral Gardens Health Centre, and twice weekly at the Rainham Centre. Only about 30 per cent. of parents made application, but the number is increasing.

#### CLINIC FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

The number of expectant mothers attending for the first time was 436, compared with 429 in the previous year.

Expectant mothers	Balmoral Gardens Centre. 373	Rainham Centre.
Attendances by expectant mothers	900	125
Expectant mothers referred for treat- ment to private practitioners or hospitals	27	6
Post-natal cases	39	6
Attendances by post-natal cases	52	7
Post-natal cases referred for treatment	1	_
Found not pregnant	23	3
Cases referred to Maternity Homes	24	1
Average attendance per session	19	6
The attendances etc., were as follows:-		
	m Total	
New cases, post-natal included 412 69	481	439
Attendances 952 132	1,084	1.157

#### Ante-natal and Post-natal Examinations by Private Practitioners:

Three hundred and ninety-three individual mothers received examination during the year.

The following is a summary of the examinations made :-

Number of first ante-natal examinations	293
Number of second ante-natal examinations	223
Number of post-natal examinations	147
Total	663

#### Institutional Midwifery:

Twenty-one were referred to the Naval Maternity Home, and 10 to the County Hospital Chatham. 35 were evacuated to improvised maternity homes.

#### Supervision of Midwives:

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

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

			Midwives in Inst'ns	
I.	Total number of midwives practis- ing 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:—		5	5
	(c) In private practice	I		I
	Totals	6	5	II
		Domicil'y Cases	Cases in Inst'ns	Totals
]	Number of cases in the area of the Local Supervising Authority attended during the year by midwives:			
(	a) Employed by the Council :— As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	312 103	=	312 103
	b) Employed by Voluntary Assoc- ations:—  As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	_	223 222	223 22 <b>2</b>
(	(c) In private practice—  As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	63	_	63
1	TOTALS As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	375 109	223 222	598 331

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			89
-----	---------	----	-------------	----------	--	--	----

(ii) in institutional practice ... ... 89

Total ... 178

#### Records of sending for Medical Help

	Notification	is Received		Percentage of Birth	
Year	On behalf of Mother	On behalf of Child	Total	in which Medical help was called	
1939	252	37	289	27%	
1940	176	34	210	26%	
1941	140	14	154	20%	
1942	155	23	178	18%	

The following notifications were also received from midwives:

Discontinuance of	brea	st-feeding	 	11
Death of child			 	3
Still-births			 	6
Having laid-out a	dead	body	 	1
		Total	 	21

#### 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.

Eighty-one accounts amounting to a total £167/18/0 were paid by the Corporation.

In accordance with the Corporation's scale of income £108/6/0 was due to be paid by patients, but the sum received by the end of the year was £60/14/0.

Whole fees due to be paid by the patient			40
Part fees due to be paid by patient			26
Whole fees due to be paid by Corporation			15
Home Holes			
Home Helps: These were employed on 9 occasions.			
	£	s.	d.
Gross cost to Corporation	30	0	0
Amount to be recovered	10	3	0
Amount recovered at 31st December	7	8	0
Consultants for Midwifery Patients:			
A consultant was called in on 6 occasions.	0		
		S.	4000
Gross cost to Corporation	40	19	0
Amount due to be received from patient	30	9	0
Amount received by 31st December	19	19	0
INFANT LIFE PROTECTION			
Summary:			
Number of foster-mothers (December, 1942	2)		28
Foster children (December, 1942)			33
Visits by nurses			74
Total number of children removed from register during the year			13
Returned to parents			
Over age			2
T. C M C.			

#### Infant Mortality:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year numbered 56, which represents an infant mortality rate of 56.3 per 1,000 births, compared with 44 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The rate for London was 60 and for England and Wales 49 per 1,000 live births.

#### Maternal Mortality:

There were 3 deaths associated with pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate of 2.8.

#### Birth Control Clinic:

This is conducted by Dr. Dunlop.

Number of sessions	 	 10
New cases	 	 7
Number of attendances	 	 11
Number advised	 	 4

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

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

	On Register 31st Dec.		No of Notices	Number of defects remedied
Bakehouses	18	78	_	_
Dairies and Milkshops Retailers of bottled sterilised milk Cowsheds	39 122 11	335 60	_	
Slaughterhouses	Nil	Nil	_	
Fried Fish Shops	25	62	- 20.	_
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises	88	149		
Restaurants	28	33		-

#### Milk Supply:

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

#### MILK SAMPLES

Three samples from dairy herds proved negative for T.B.

#### Inspection of Cows:

The number in milk at the end of the year was approximately 119.

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

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

Articles.				No.	of	Samples.
Milk						137
Household	Milk					1
Arrowroot						1
Baking Pov	wder					1
Butter						3
Cheese			***			1
Cocoa		·				1
Coffee						1
Custard Po	wder					3
Egg Powde	r					2
Flavour Es	sence					1
Flour						1
Gravy Pow	der					-1
Ground Gir	nger					1
Jam						3
Lard						1
Lime Juice	and Se	oda				1
Margarine						1
Oatmeal				-4-		1
Paste						1
Peas						1
Pepper						1
Sago						1
Sausages				1		2
Tea						1
				Total		169

#### Prosecutions:

Particulars of Offence	Result
(i) Selling adulterated milk on 16th April, 1942. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	£20 fine and £2/2/0 Advocate's fee.
(ii) Selling adulterated milk on 27th April, 1942. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	£20 fine and £2/2/0 Advocate's fee.
Selling adulterated milk. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	£3 fine.
Selling adulterated Milk. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	
Having in possession for the purposes of sale, meat intended for, but unfit, for human consumption. Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	1 month's imprisonment and £10 fine and £2/2/0 Advocate's fee.
Selling adulterated milk. Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	
Unsound Food:	
Amount of food condemned weight included tinned foods, flour, cheese, han	
HOUSING SUMM	ARY
1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses durin	ng the Year :-
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling for housing defects (under Housing Acts)	
(b) Number of inspections made	le for the purpose 3,545
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses sub-head (1) above) which and recorded under the House Pagulations, 1925	th were inspected using Consolidated
Regulations, 1925  (b) Number of inspections mad	
to runner of more cubits made	to Ital the Dullbuse 1111

9 mine 18 1 3

(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	437
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	185
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	366
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	265
(b) By local authority in default of owners	45
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	
Water Supply:	
Results of Bacteriological Examinations of Samples	
Chatham and District Water Company:	
Fourteen samples were taken. All proved satisfactory.	
Rainham Water Company:	
Twenty-seven samples were taken at intervals throughout year. All proved satisfactory.	the
Swimming Bath:	

Two samples of water from the Swimming Bath (1 inlet and 1 outlet) proved satisfactory.

#### 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., VISITE	D DUR	ING 19		Violta
Milk shops and dairies and retailers	of bott	led ster	No. of ilised	VISITS
milk				335
Cowsheds				60
Bakehouses				78
Slaughterhouses				Nil
Factories, workshops, and workplace	es			448
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance				60
Re notified infectious diseases				305
Houses (filthy or verminous)				85
Refreshment houses, or premises when	re food is	prepar	red	314
School lavatories				226
Shops under Shops Acts				3,078
Public lavatories				1,607
Drains tested				66
NUISANCES A	BATED			
Complaints received				295
Water Closets:				
New L.C.C. pans and traps fitted	d			41
Water closets re-built				1
Water closet fittings repaired (wa	ater)			148
Water closet seats, doors, floors,	brickwo	rk repa	ired	67
Water closet pans cleansed by ter	nants			2
177				
Water Supply:				
Pipes repaired				55

Yards:		
Drained and paved with cement concrete		32
Sinks and Baths:		
Glazed stoneware sinks fixed		11
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed		37
Drainage:		
Drains repaired		25
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department	7	1,125
Drains cleared by owners		55
Inspection chambers repaired by owners		. 7
Vent shafts repaired by Works Department		Nil
Dampness:		
Roofs repaired and made watertight		150
Eaves guttering and down water pipes provided repaired	or	116
External walls protected from dampness		104
Damp-proof courses inserted under walls		35
Ventilation provided under floors		7
Forecourts paved with cement concrete		9
General:		
Disused cesspools filled in		3
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed		13
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floor		4
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired		81
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired		219
Rooms re-paper and ceilings repaired and distemper	red	281
Smoke nuisance abated		17

#### PRELIMINARY AND ABATEMENT NOTICES

During the year the following notices were served :-	
Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances	497
(Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936)	202
Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Maintenance	
of a public sewer)	16
Section 39a of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	50
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Reconstruction of defective W.C. accommodation)	1
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	81

#### 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, 1942:—

:	
Total	to 31st Dec.,
	1942.
Number of notices servd	3,443
Number of notices complied with	3,381

#### Factories Act, 1937:

There are 186 factories on the register; 447 inspections were made. Outworkers' premises numbered 266.

#### Eradication of Bed-Bugs:

The number of houses found to be infested was :-	_
Council Houses	20
Other Houses	147
Total	167
Number of Houses sprayed	167
Number of Houses fumigated	_
Number of Houses sprayed and fumigated	-
Total number of rooms fumigated or sprayed	242
Bedding removed and disinfected	. 2

#### Rates and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919:

The Inspector appointed under the Act investigated 253 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 3,078.

#### LICENCES

Licences were granted for the following :-

Petroleum .		 	2
Hackney Carriages		 	39
Hackney Carriage Dr	ivers	 	27

#### MORTUARY

Forty bodies were received and 35 post-mortems performed.

Table showing:—(a) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1942.

(b) The number removed to Hospital.

(c) The total number of deaths in the Borough from these diseases.

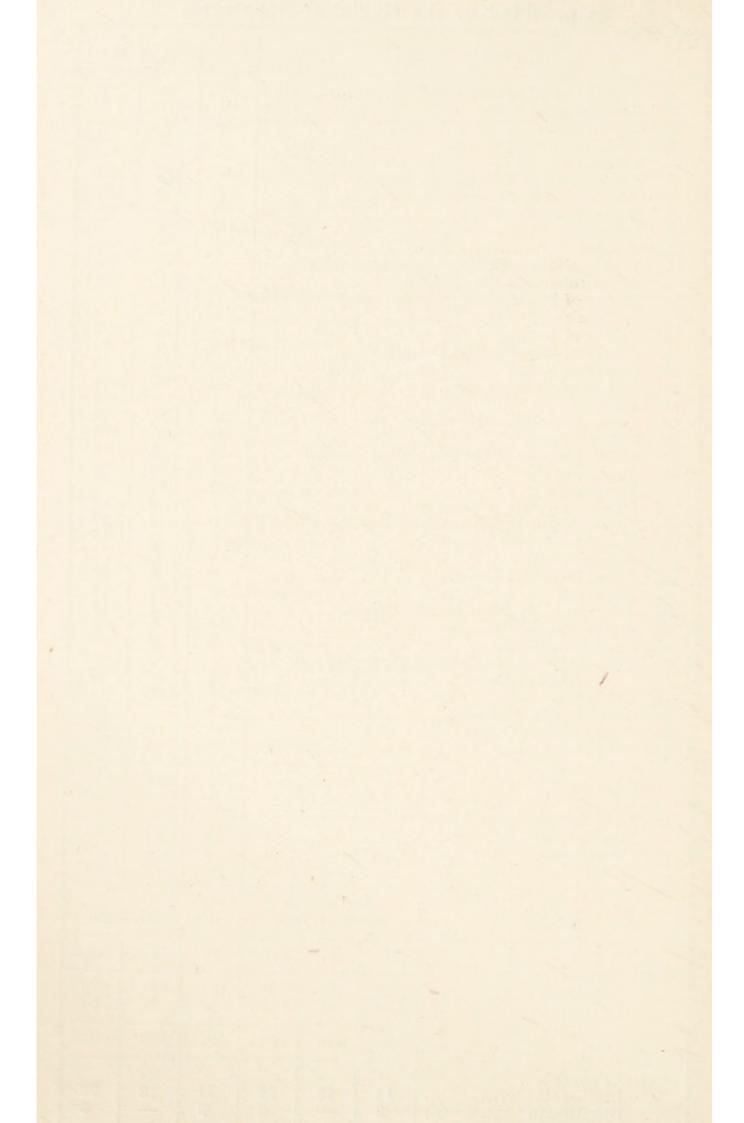
# (Local Records).

-			_				-				-
	Deaths	1	1	35	1	1	1	2	1	9	-
	Total cases removed to Hospital	57	00	12	67	67	1	3	1	1	1
	Over 65	1	-	5	00	1	1	1	1	1	1
	45 and under 65	1	1	16	11	1	1	1	1	1	1
RS	32 and under 45	53	1	7	67	1	1	1	2	4	1
YEARS	so suq nuqei 32	∞	1	7	1	2	1	1	9	1	-
	12 and under 20	4	1	3	1	1 6	1	1	7	1	1
ED .	10 and under 15	17	4	3	1	1	1	-	22	60	1
CASES NOTIFIED	S and under to	84	2	4	1	1	1	1	477	151	1
ASES N	4 and under 5	00	1	33	1	1	1	1	86	53	1
S	3 and under 4	9	-	1	-	-	1		109	63	1
AGES	z and under 3	8	1	2	1	1	1	1	7.1	49	1
AT A	r and under z	1	1	4	1		1	1	50	90	1
	Under z	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	16	29	2
	All ages	138	00	59	17	23	1	60	846	101	2
	NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para-Typhoid	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Ophthalnua Neonatorum

I case food poisoning—Age group 35-45 I case dysentery (removed to hospital) Age group 5 and under IO

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

as provided by the registral content						
Causes of Death	Male	Fem'le	Total			
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-			
9 Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	2			
9 Coorlot Forcer	-	-				
4. Whooping Cough 5. Diphtheria	4	2	6			
5. Diphtheria	-		-			
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	24	14	38			
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	6	10			
8 Syphilitic Diseases	5	_	5			
9. Influenza	2	3	5			
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	-	5	5			
15. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	12	5 3	15			
16. Cancer of Breast	/-	19	19			
17. Cancer of all other sites	36	25	61			
18. Diabetes	7	3	10			
19. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	24		52			
20. Heart Disease	89	76	165			
	12	6	18			
21. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System 22. Bronchitis	19	16	35			
	23	12	35			
23. Pneumonia	4	3	7			
24. CHIEL INCOMMENT DISCUSSION	9	3	12			
25. Citeration of the Stormach of	5	5	10			
26. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	2	4			
27. Appendicitis	9	6	15			
28. Other Digestive Diseases	6	10	16			
29. Nephritis Songis	0	1	1			
30. Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis		2	2			
31. Other Maternal Causes	6	7	13			
32. Premature Birth Pirth Injury	0	,	10			
33. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury,	7	10	17			
Infantile Disease	3	8	111			
34. Suicide		2	6			
35. Road Traffic Accidents	15	9	24			
36. Other Violent Causes			84			
37. All Other Causes	50	34				
ALL CAUSES	386	321	707			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—						
	29	21	50			
Legitimate	2	4	6			
Inegitimate	31	25	56			
Total	- 01					
For Infant	1	TO 1 12	D 4			
Births Mortality, etc.	F	or Birth	Rate			
M. F. Tot	al M.	F.	Total			
LIVE BIRTHS:	470	457	935			
Legitimate 478 457 935			59			
Illegitimate 28   31   59	28	31	99			
Total 506 488 994	506	488	994			
Course Progress						
STILL BIRTHS:— Legitimate 14 18 3	2 14	18	32			
Degitimete		3 -	3			
Illegitimate 3 —						
Total 17 18 3	5 1	7 18	35			



# 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, 1942

#### 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. J. Dunbar, M.A., M.B., (part-time and temporary)

Dental Surgeon

R. N. Merrett, L.D.S. (part time)

Dental Anaesthetist:

Agnes L. Kelly, B.A., M.B. (part time and temporary)

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids:

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

Nurses:

Miss W. Brandreth, (whole time)

Miss N. Legg (half time)

Miss E. M. Ross (half time)

Mrs. A. Leach (one-third time), Resigned 30/9/42

Miss R. Hopkins (one-third time)

Miss M. Hughes (one-third time)

Miss H. Parry (one-third time)

Miss V. Fulford (one-third \*ime) commenced 1/10/42

Clerks:

Chief Clerk-F. Eric Young

Mrs. T. Heath

Dental Attendant:

Mrs. Scott (commenced 12/10/42)

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

Municipal Buildings, Gillingham, Kent.

February, 1943

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

I herewith submit the annual report on the work of the school medical department for the year ended 31st December, 1942. As requested by the Board it has been made as brief as possible.

During the year the department has functioned more normally than in former war years. Medical examinations and attendances at Clinics show an increase. I find no evidence of physical deterioration amongst school children due to war conditions. Figures of heights and weights are generally higher, and although the percentage of children classified as nutritionally "slightly subnormal" is higher than in the previous year, so likewise is the percentage of "excellent nutrition." These variations are probably accounted for by a different standard adopted by one of the medical examiners.

The position in regard to mental welfare is less satisfactory, as there has been a definite increase in juvenile delinquency especially among boys. Many of those appearing before the Juvenile Court were found on examination to be dull and backward.

The incidence of pediculosis of the head is disturbingly high, viz. II'2 of the average attendance, compared with 6 to 7 per cent in pre-war years. The incidence of scabies was also greater. Where parents are unable to treat their children for domestic and other reasons, the clinic nurse applies Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion at the clinic. This procedure has produced good and rapid results.

Shortly after the outbreak of war the services of the whole-time dental attendant were dispensed with, but during the year a part-time attendant was appointed as recommended in Circular 1604.

I am indebted to Mr. Young, my Chief Clerk, for completing the statistical tables as required by the Board of Education.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR.

School Medical Officer

#### SUMMARY

Number on School Roll	***		6508
Average attendance December, 1	942		5212
"Routine" cases examined			2 <b>2</b> 92
Total medical examinations			4627
Visits to schools by nurses			272
Visits to homes by nurses			2995
Inspections by school dentist			1539
Treated by school dentist			985
Percentage of average attendance	e found v	erminous	11.2
Percentage of average attenda verminous conditions	nce excl	uded for	4.9
Total attendances at various clini	ics (denta	l excluded)	8971

#### NUTRITION

In accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education children examined at routine inspections are classified as Excellent, Normal, Slightly subnormal, or Bad.

The figures for the past 5 years are as follows-

	Excellent	Normal	Slightly Sub-normal	Bad
	%	%	%	%
1938	13.0	85.3	1.7	2 cases
1939	15.9	82.2	1.9	-
1940	17.92	79.20	2.88	-
1941	15.02	81.98	2.76	0.24
1942	_ 20.07	74.69	5.19	0.05

#### HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

			GIRLS				
Age.	N. 1		rage			rage	
	Number examined	Height in inches	Weight in lbs.	Number examined	Height in inches	Weight in lbs.	
5-6 years	186	$45\frac{1}{4}$	46	161	43	42	
6-7 ,,	189	47	48	240	$45\frac{3}{4}$	46	
7-8 ,,	86	$47\frac{1}{2}$	52	102	$47\frac{1}{2}$	51	
8-9 ,,	76	$49\frac{1}{2}$	$58\frac{1}{2}$	77	$50\frac{1}{2}$	62	
9-10 ,,	119	52	$64\frac{3}{4}$	88	$51\frac{1}{4}$	60½	
10-11 ,,	75	$53\frac{3}{4}$	$7^{\frac{1}{2}}$	84	$53\frac{1}{2}$	66 <u>1</u>	
11-12 ,,	70	54	$75\frac{3}{4}$	31	$56\frac{1}{2}$	76½	
12-13 ,,	191	57½	$82\frac{1}{2}$	122	$58\frac{1}{2}$	87	
13-14 ,,	156	59	87	146	$60\frac{1}{2}$	89	
14-15 ,,	54	60	91	39	60½	96	

#### PROVISION OF MILK

The Education Secretary has supplied the following information:-

### (a) Free Milk for Necessitous Children

Number of necessitous children provided with free milk at the end of the year ... 73

Maximum number of children to whom milk
was supplied during any one week ... 103

Total quantity of milk supplied during the year, 37,802 bottles (one-third pint)

## (b) "Milk in Schools Scheme"

The number of children who bought the milk on one day during the first week of December was 4225 (representing 65 per cent of the total number of children on roll). Of this number 2157 children had milk in the morning only and 2068 morning and afternoon.

## SCHOOL MEALS

Meals are provided for school children at Rainham Junior Council School canteen and at six British Restaurants, three of which are in school premises.

During the first week of December the average daily total attendance was 718.

The prices per meal charged at the British Restaurants are as follows:

Children under 12 years of age, 4d.

Children of 12 years and over, 6d.

At Rainham Junior School Canteen the prices charged are: Infants 3d; Juniors and Seniors 4d.

In all cases an additional sum of 2d per meal (to cover overhead expenses) is paid by the Education Committee.

Commencing 4th January, 1943 the Committee will pay the full cost of meals supplied to necessitous children.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following summary gives the number of patients excluded during the years 1939-42 (Private schools included)

		Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases
1939	 •••	121	49
1940	 	7	11
1941	 	8	2
1942	 	101	4

## MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, CHICKEN-POX, MUMPS

	Year	1940	1941	1942
Measles		 72	550	645
German measles		 8	15	15
Whooping cough		 13	264	263
Chicken-pox		 17	1	171
. Mumps		 _	15	387

### FOLLOWING-UP BY NURSES

The nurses paid 2995 (1180) home visits, of which 2102 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases.

## Summary of School Medical Work

	1940	1941	1942
(1) Total visits to schools	207	173	272
(2) Attendances at routine medical			
inspections	39	68	99

		1940	1941	1942
(3)	Attendances at clinics	520	639	857
(4)	Visits to home re		•	
	(a) Defective children	811	645	893
	(b) Infectious diseases	68	535	2102
(5)	Examination of head and bodies	0.740	0.554	
	re cleanliness	8,740	9,754	17057
(6)	Notices sent re nits (children not excluded from school)	130	147	334
(7)	Notices sent re nits and vermin (children excluded from school)	57	75	252
	(Similar Similar Market II offi oeffoor)			202

## MEDICAL TREATMENT

Total attendances numbering 5,210 were made by 1351 children.

ATTENDANCES	AT	TREAT	<b>IMENT</b>	CLINIC	S
		Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1942	Total 1941
Ringworm		149	10	159	83
Ear defects		175	37	212	252
Impetigo		687	148	835	805
Scabies		167	77	244	169
Other skin diseases		33	50	83	10
External eye disease		226	31	257	164
Other conditions		2,534	886	3,420	1,739
Total		3,971	1,239	5,210	3,222

Children suffering from the following conditions made 3379 attendances for inspection.:--

		lmoral ardens	Rainham	Total .1942	Total 1941
Catarrh, sore throats, colds, e	tc.	49	7	56	_
Vermin of head or body, nits,	etc.	271	81	352	37
Ringworm		35	2	37	25
Impetigo		114	84	198	43
Scabies		715	43	758	98
Other skin diseases		55	88	143	21
Defective vision, "sore eyes,"	etc.	192	16	208	129
Nose and throat diseases		233	65	298	79
Tubercular and pretubercu			7.0	26	
conditions		7	19	26	2
Chorea		3		3	_
Epilepsy		I	_	I	-
Ear disease		50	7	57	75
Heart disease		8	21	29	20
Rheumatism		5		5	3
Deformities		17	4	21	I
Convalescents from infection	ous				
diseases		100	9	109	14
Other diseases or defects		884	194	1078	503
Totals		2,739	640	3,379	1,050

#### NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS

Seventy-two children received operative treatment at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester; the parents of 21 of these were subscribers.

Twenty-one children received operative treatment elsewhere

#### OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

221 children made 383 attendances; glasses were prescribed in 139 cases, and obtained in 115 (83%).

## Errors of Refraction:

Hypermetr	opic asti	gmat	ism			25 == 21.8%
Myopic ast	igmatism					14 = 12.2%
Mixed astig	gmatism					6 = 5.2%
Hypermetr	opia					36 = 31.3%
Myopia						34 = 29.5%
				,	Γotal	. 115

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus :-

Sessions held					58
Individual children	attended				221
Total attendances					383
Glasses prescribed					139
Glasses not required	d or no c	hange	necessa	ary	77
Referred to hospital	l				I

#### PARENT'S PAYMENTS FOR TREATMENT

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

cacept when they are no	0000110	45.					Net to Con		
Operations for throat an	d nose	defec	ts	£ 27	s · 7	d. 6	£ 57	s. 3	d. O
Provision of spectacles.				36	16	2	I	4	5
Dental treatment				92	13	8		_	
	Tota	al	£	156	17	4			

#### UNCLEANLINESS

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 5. Total examinations numbered 17057 and 227 individual children were found unclean.

The following percentages are interesting:-

Year		entage of average endance found verminous	Percentage of average attendance excluded
1936	*	 6.6	2.9
1937		 7.1	3.5
1938		 6.4	3.5
1939		 4.6	1.3
1940		 7.1	1.7
1941		 6.4	2'2
1942		 11.2	4.9

#### SCABIES

Number of cases treated at the Clinics was 176, a marked increase over previous years.

There was also an increased number of cases of impetigo.

# Board of Education STATISTICAL TABLES

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

## A.—Routine Medical Inspections

Nui	nber of Inspections in	the prescribe	ed Group	OS	
	Entrants				786
	Second Age Group				460
	Third Age Group				560
		Total			1806
Nui	mber of other Routine	Inspections			486
		GRAND To	OTAL		2292

## B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... 2335

# TABLE II Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		ent) B (Sul			C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2292	460	20.I	1712	74.7	119	5.2	I	0.05	

#### TABLE III.

## Treatment Tables

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

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.				
Disease of Defect.	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
Skin: Ringworm-Scalp (i). X-Ray Treatment. If none, indicate by dash. (ii). Other Treatment Ringworm-Body Scabies Impetigo Other skin diseases  Minor Eye Defects (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II).	— 7 10 176 166 89 86		17 1770 166 91 88		
Minor Ear Defects	44	_	44		
Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	331	10	341		
Total	909	15	924		

#### 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)	221	I	222	
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	_	_	_	
Total	221	I	222	
No. of Children for whom spectacles were				
(a) Prescribed (b) Obtained	139 115	I	140 116	

Table III. (Continued).

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

	NUMBER C	OF DEFECTS.		
Receive	Desired	Total		
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total.		number treated.
72	2 I	93	25	118

#### TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(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	48	50	91	138	222	256	247	206	172	78	1508
(b) Specials									,		31
(c) TOTAL (Ro	outine	and	Spec	cials)							1539
2) Number found t	o requ	ire	treat	ment							1219
3) Number actually	y treat	ed									985
4) Attendances ma	de by	chil	dren	for t	reatn	nent					2126
5) Half-days devot Inspection Treatment		9			То	tal					217
6) Fillings: Permanent Temporary			767		Т	otal					767
7) Extractions :— Permanent Temporary			625 8671		T	otal					4296
B) Administrations	of gen	era	l ana	esthe	tics f	or ex	tract	ions			1300
9) Other Operation Permanent Temporary	Teeth		9		To	otal					9

## 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	5
(ii)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	17057
(iii)	Number of individual children found unclean	227
(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	6

#### TABLE VI.

#### Blind and Deaf Children.

Number of totally or almost totally Blind and Deaf children who are NOT at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs.

	At a Public Elementary School.	At an Insti- tution other than a Special School	3 At no School or Institution.
Blind Children	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaf Children	Nil	Nil	Nil



