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Contributors

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Borough of



Gravesend.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1940.

C. D. OUTRED,

D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (Eng).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

GRAVESEND.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

GRAVESEND.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Health Committee which incorporates the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee has been reconstituted and, as an emergency measure, is embodied in the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Chairman, Alderman Axccl, the Vice-Chairman, Alderman Morris, Councillor Mrs. Cole, J.P., and Miss E. Berrey and Mrs. Gray (Co-opted Members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee) are the Consultants representing the Health Department on the above General Committee of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. C. D. OUTRED. (Resigned May, 1941.)

Assistant Medical Officer of Health : Dr. D. DESMOND.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act : Mr. J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.*

District Sanitary Inspectors : Mr. R. BROOKS, Cert. R.S.I.*

Mr. O. B. DODDS, Cert. R.S.I.

Mr. L. G. OWEN, Cert. R.S.I.* (a)

Health Visitors : Miss S. A. CROSS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss C. BOVINGTON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerks : Mr. S. V. TONGE.

Mr. A. H. BAKER.

Mrs. B. CREIGHTON. (Resigned June, 1940.)

Mrs. W. SANDFORD. (Appointed Oct., 1940.)

* Also holds Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

(a) On Naval Service.

Part Time Health Visitor-School Nurse, appointment vacant.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

SECTION "A."

Area of the Borough (land and inland water) acres ...	4,619
Registrar-General's estimate of the population ...	35,550
Number of separate inhabited houses (estimated) ...	12,000
Rateable Value ...	£344,693
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£1,368

Social Conditions.

Unemployment, during the year 1940, was much below the average for several years past, but no accurate record is available relating to Gravesend persons as these are included in a much larger area covered by the Employment Exchange.

There is a considerable amount of casual employment in and around Gravesend, principally at Tilbury Docks. The chief industries in the locality are engineering, cement, paper-making and electrical equipment.

A large proportion of the population is employed in the Merchant Navy and on River vessels.

Industrial conditions in the area appear to have no detrimental influence on the health of the workers.

Births Registered. Total 621.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
Live Births, Legitimate ...	322	277	599	16.84
" " Illegitimate ...	12	10	22	.53
Still Births, Legitimate ...	10	8	18	
" " Illegitimate ...	1	—	1	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (live births) ...				17.46
" " (live and still births) ...				18.0

Deaths Registered.

Males	Females	Total	Rate
285	221	506	14.23

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1000
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	—
Other Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
All Infants ...	16	7	23	38.5
Legitimate ...	16	6	22	37.0
Illegitimate ...		1	1	16.7

Deaths from

	Number	Rate
Cancer	55	1.54
Measles	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diarrhoea (Under 2)	1	.02
Tuberculosis (All forms)	27	.75
Heart Disease	96	2.70

THE CAUSES OF DEATH, 1940.

	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid Fever, etc.	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	2	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	11	13	24
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	—	3
Syphilitic Diseases	2	1	3
Influenza	9	4	13
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	—	2
Cancer. All forms	30	25	55
Diabetes	2	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	30	23	53
Heart Disease	49	47	96
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	6	11
Bronchitis	29	17	46
Pneumonia	13	9	22
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	2	7
Duodenal Ulcer, etc.	5	2	7
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	1	1
Appendicitis	2	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases	8	9	17
Chronic Nephritis	7	3	10
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	9	2	11
Con. Debility, Malformations, etc.	3	3	6
Suicide	3	1	4
Road Accidents	3	2	5
Other Violence	25	10	35
All other Defined Diseases	30	37	67
Total	285	221	506

The following Table shows the Birth and Death Rates for the last 5 years.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1936	15.6	11.18
1937	15.1	14.3
1938	17.4	12.1
1939	16.88	10.56
1940	17.46	14.23

THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SECTION " B."

Public Laboratories.

There are no Laboratories in the Borough available for the use of the Public Health Services.

The facilities of the County Council Laboratory are placed at the disposal of the Medical Practitioners and the Public Health Department for the examination of specimens.

This service is efficient and quite satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Borough is adequately served in this respect.

The Civil Defence Services have now a fleet of efficient ambulances in addition to the normal establishment of one St. John and two Police ambulances. These all now form part of the A.R.P. organisation.

Home Nursing.

No provision is made by the Council for Home Nursing, except in the case of Home Helps who are available for attending to mothers during confinement.

A branch of the Queen's Nursing Association has been in existence for two years and is working very satisfactorily. There is also a private nursing organisation which has proved of great value.

Child Welfare Centres.

There are three Welfare Centres in the Borough: Windmill Street (Central), Whitehill (King's Farm Estate), and the Gordon Mission (Denton Estate).

These Centres are open for consultations with the Medical Officer who attends at each centre on one afternoon per week. For baby weighing, the treatment of minor ailments, etc., the Health Visitors attend on the following afternoons:—

Windmill Street,	Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
Whitehill,	Thursdays.
Denton (Gordon Mission),	Wednesdays.

Dried milks and other medical preparations can be obtained on these afternoons from the Members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee who have charge of the stores.

It is necessary to first obtain a certificate from the Medical Officer or Health Visitor before these foods are supplied at wholesale prices.

The Whitehill Welfare Centre has been taken over as a First Aid Post and is thereby lost to the Child Welfare service. A private house on the Estate is being utilised in this capacity as a temporary arrangement.

These Centres, with the exception of Whitehill, are now working normally after the disorganisation which occurred following the outbreak of hostilities.

Dental Treatment Centre.

The Dental Clinic, which is primarily the Education Dental Clinic, is situated in Manor Road. At this Clinic treatment is undertaken for expectant mothers and pre-school children on one afternoon per week and further sessions are arranged as found necessary.

The Dental Surgeon attends at each Welfare Centre on one afternoon per month to see any patients referred to him by the Medical Officers or Health Visitors.

The following is the report of the Dental Surgeon (R. A. Tran, Esq.) showing the treatment carried out during the year under the Child Welfare Scheme.

Dental Inspections of Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	49
Number referred for treatment ...	...	...	...	...	43
Treatment, Fillings ...	4	Extractions ...	...	...	540
Other Operations ...	127	Administrations of Gas ...	...	...	89
Number of Mothers treated (new cases) ...	...	...	...	...	33
Attendances by Mothers for treatment ...	...	...	...	...	233
Dentures supplied ...	...	...	...	...	47

(Note:—For purposes of this report one case of full upper and full lower dentures is reckoned as two dentures.)

Number of Pre-School children inspected	...	...	...	50	
Number referred for treatment	...	...	...	46	
Treatment, Fillings	...	8	Extractions	...	125
Other Operations	...	2	Administrations of Gas	...	44
Number of Children treated	...	...	...	...	37
Attendances of Pre-School children for treatment	...	...	...	...	59

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary, which is now at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, is held on Wednesday afternoons each week, is under the Kent County Council's administration. This Dispensary serves the Gravesend Borough and the surrounding area and an abridged report of the Medical Officer in charge will be found at the end of this report.

Venereal Disease Clinic.

The Gravesend Clinic is situated in Cobham Street and is also under the administration of the Kent County Council. This Clinic is open on two afternoons and two evenings per week. A summary of the treatment undertaken during the year is kindly furnished by Hamish Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S., the Surgeon in Charge.

<i>New Patients</i> —GRAVESEND.						Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	17	6	23
Soft sore	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	28	6	34
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	23	11	34
						69	23	92
Total number of new patients from all areas						...	...	202
Average number of Gravesend patients under daily treatment or observation during 1940						...	...	96
Number of attendances of Gravesend patients						...	...	1838
Total number of attendances—all areas						...	...	3538
<i>Discharged</i> (all districts)						Males	Females	Total
Cured—Syphilis						12	2	14
Soft Sore						2	—	2
Gonorrhœa						32	15	47
Non-venereal						43	20	63
Defaulted before final test of cure:								
Syphilis						1	—	1
Gonorrhœa						1	—	1
Defaulted before completion of treatment:								
Syphilis						3	12	15
Gonorrhœa						1	10	11

New Patients.

Married	...	...	...	...	...	39 per cent.
Single or widowers	...	...	...	...	...	61 per cent.
Contracted from prostitutes	...	...	...	...	...	57 per cent.
"amateurs"	...	...	...	...	...	35 per cent.
consorts	...	...	...	...	...	6 per cent.
Deny sexual intercourse	...	...	...	...	...	2 per cent.
<i>Contracted at Gravesend</i>	...	...	...	...	...	15 per cent.
Rest of Kent	...	...	...	...	...	13 per cent.
Essex	...	...	...	...	...	4 per cent.
London	...	...	...	...	...	10 per cent.
Elsewhere in U.K.	...	...	...	...	...	21 per cent.
Abroad	...	...	...	...	...	37 per cent.

Occupations :

Seamen	...	...	...	...	...	44 per cent.
Motor Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	1 per cent.
Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	23 per cent.
H.M. Service Ratings (referred by Service Authy.)	...	...	...	...	...	2.5 per cent.
Others	...	...	...	...	...	29.5 per cent.

HAMISH NICOL, F.R.C.S.,
Surgeon in Charge.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Immunisation of children up to the age of 15 was undertaken towards the close of the year.

It is intended that the scheme be considerably extended in the new year when two special sessions will be arranged for this purpose. Considerable publicity will be given to the scheme with the object of encouraging the parents to consent to this simple but vital operation to safeguard their children. The immunisations are carried out either at the Welfare Centres or the Elementary School as convenience offers.

Hospital.

There is only one hospital serving Gravesend and the surrounding district, the Gravesend and North Kent, which is a voluntary hospital.

An annual grant is made by the Local Authority of £200.

Poor Law Administration.

The Public Institution and the administration of Poor Law and Out Relief is under the Kent County Council.

The Institution in Gravesend is auxiliary to the County Hospital at Dartford.

Civil Defence Casualty Services.

The Casualty Service consists of two fixed First Aid Posts, two Mobile First Aid Units, 24 Ambulances with 12 First Aid Parties and 6 cars for Sitting Casualties.

Dr. Desmond, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, is the Administration Officer, and Mr. H. Fletcher, in a voluntary capacity, is Chief Ambulance Officer in charge of the ambulances and first aid parties at the St. Mary's Ambulance Depot.

As in most areas, it has been difficult to find premises which could easily be converted and made adaptable for First Aid Posts in convenient positions. In this respect neither the St. James' Post or the Whitehill Post can be accepted as ideal for the purpose, but alterations have been made from time to time which have afforded the accommodation for the treatment of gas contaminated casualties and thereby improved the efficiency of these posts.

The following shows the number of whole time personnel on the strength together with the ambulance parties:—

	Males	Females
Whitehill First Aid Post	3	37
St. James' First Aid Post	4	26
Dashwood Mobile Unit	2	19
Denton Mobile Unit	2	18
Ambulances (24)		120
First Aid Parties (12)	80	
Sitting Case Cars (6)		16

Midwifery Service.

The Kent County Council is the Local Supervising Authority and there are five Certified Midwives employed in the Borough of Gravesend who are salaried officers of the County Council.

This scheme, introduced in 1937, has been a considerable improvement. A particular advantage is the closer co-operation between the Municipal Midwives and the Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics.

Maternity Services.

No provision is made by the Council as regards maternity beds. The Gravesend and North Kent Hospital has a maternity ward of ten beds and a cubicle ward for five patients and an ante-natal clinic is held on every Wednesday under the supervision of that Hospital's Specialist Obstetric Officer.

Abnormal Maternity Cases.

The Gravesend and North Kent Hospital has an undertaking with the Gravesend Council for the immediate admission of abnormal maternity cases.

The Council accepts responsibility for the payment of £4 per week for these patients on the report and recommendation of Medical Practitioners.

Nineteen surgical and complicated cases were dealt with in this way during the year. No maternal deaths occurred.

Puerperal Sepsis.

Three persons were notified as suffering from "Other Puerperal Causes." One person was removed to the Dartford Infectious Diseases Hospital and one received treatment and isolation in a Private Maternity Home. One patient was attended in her own home. All these patients made a complete recovery.

Health Visiting.

Two whole time Health Visitors and one part time Health Visitor-School Nurse are engaged by the Council. During the whole of the year 1940 the appointment of Health Visitor-School Nurse remained vacant as it was not possible to obtain the services of a fully qualified person.

The Health Visitors experienced great difficulty in following their normal routine in the visitation of expectant and nursing mothers due to the very frequent "alerts" and in consequence their reports are less comprehensive. It was found that a great deal of their time should be allocated to visiting cases of measles affecting infants under five years of age.

The Health Visitors attend the Welfare Centres on four afternoons per week. During these sessions consultations are held with the mothers, and baby weighing is conducted under their supervision.

The following visits were made by the Health Visitors during the year:—

	Gravesend District	Milton, Denton and Chalk	Total
Total visits to expectant mothers ...	137	142	279
„ infants under 1 year of age ...	632	1110	1742
„ infants 1—5 years ...	1168	1490	2658
Supervision visits to Foster-Children	15	7	22
Enquiries <i>re</i> Adoption Orders ...	4	4	8
Visits to Measles cases ...	281	341	622
Other visits ...	32	61	93

Notification of Births.

Live Births notified	...	...	...	...	...	637
Still Births notified	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total Births notified (live and still)	...	...	...	...	...	656
Births attended by Doctors	...	...	...	...	...	310
Births attended by Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	346
Births in hospitals, institutions, etc., and transferred "out"	...	...	...	...	...	47

Attendances at Welfare Centres.

Individual children (at all Centres) under 1 year of age	367
" " between 1 and 5 years	479
Total No. of attendances of all children under 5 years	1860
Total No. of attendances by Expectant Mothers . . .	138

Distribution of Free Milk.

In connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare service the following quantities of fresh and dried milks were distributed free, to expectant and nursing mothers and children under one year of age, after financial investigation into the family circumstances.

Fresh Milk	1489 pints.
Dried Milk	5382 lbs.

The distribution of milk by the Health Department was discontinued after June, 1940, when the National Milk Scheme came into operation. There were, however, certain instances where milk was allowed free to supplement the National Milk supply.

Infant Life Protection.

The Children's Act provides for registration of all children up to the age of 9 years who are received into foster homes for "reward." The administration of the Act entails frequent supervisory visits to foster parents, by the Officers of this Department.

During the year 5 persons were on the Register as foster parents having the charge of 5 infants. The number of reception notices received was 3, and 2 notices were given of infants returned to their parents.

The number of supervision visits paid during the year was 22, and in all cases the children were found to be clean and well cared for.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

One application was made for registration as a Nursing Home under the Public Health Act.

At the end of the year two nursing homes were on the register; one medical (12 patients) and one Maternity (12 patients).

Five supervision visits were made by the Officers of Council and on all occasions the Homes appeared to be conducted satisfactorily.

One Maternity Home was closed during the year.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

By arrangement with the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital children under the age of 5 years are referred to the Orthopaedic Specialist who attends this hospital on one afternoon per week.

The Specialist, after making a report to the Medical Officer of Health, undertakes and supervises the necessary treatment. He also, in appropriate cases, arranges for in-patient treatment at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, for which the Council accepts financial responsibility.

Necessary surgical appliances are paid for by the Council and a proportion of the cost is recovered from the parents according to their financial circumstances.

During the year 3 infants were referred to the Specialist, who advised the provision of apparatus in 2 instances and the maintenance of supervision over another child.

A total of eight attendances were made to the hospital for treatment.

SECTION "C."

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

As in past years little comment can be made on the water supply. There is an unvarying high standard of purity and an abundant supply is always available.

The supply is obtained in the old portion of the Borough from the Gravesend and Milton Water Company: in the Denton and Chalk areas, from the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company.

Routine samples are taken twice per month for bacteriological examination as follows:—

	Total samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Gravesend & Milton Water Co.'s Supply—from Swimming Pool	2	2	—
—from other sources ...	13	13	—
Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co.'s Supply	16	16	—
	<hr/> 31	<hr/> 31	<hr/> —

The following is a report by the Analyst on two samples taken during the year 1940:—

No. I “Unchlorinated, Windmill Hill, May 2nd.”

No. II “Chlorinated, Windmill Hill, May 2nd.”

B.coli were absent from 60 c.c. of each of the samples and in addition, no bacteria were present, in this quantity of water, capable of developing acid in Bile Salt Lactose in 48 hours at 37½° C.

Both samples were very satisfactory.

Report on 2 samples submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination on April 4th, 1940:—

No. I “Meopham Works.”

No. II “Gravesend Works.”

Both waters were, chemically and bacteriologically, of the highest quality. The Meopham sample contained no detectable organic matter and is sterile, it therefore could not be better. The Gravesend sample is nearly as good.

After 48 hours contact with perfectly clean lead both waters contained only 0.035 grains of lead per gallon solution, a negligible amount. Owing to the temporary hardness even this minute action would soon cease.

	Sample No. 1	Sample No. 11
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Colours	Pale bluish	Pale bluish
Smell	None	None
Deposit	None	None
Phosphoric Acid	Very minute trace	Very minute trace
Hardness before boiling ...	20 degrees Clark	27¼ degrees Clark
Hardness after boiling ...	3¾ degrees Clark	5½ degrees Clark
Colour of Residue	White	White
Behaviour on ignition	Does not darken	Does not darken

				Grains per gallon	
Total dry residue	...	...	...	24.92	33.60
Free carbonic acid	...	...	...	2.10	3.20
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	0.001	0.015
Chlorine	...	...	...	1.19	2.03
Nitric acid	...	...	...	1.80	4.41
Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0000	0.0000
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	0.0000	0.0014
Micro-org. per c.c.	...	...	...	None	2 liquifiers
B.coli	...	...	...	absent in 76c.c.	absent in 76c.c.

F. H. DUPRE, *Analyst*.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department was, owing to the war, naturally curtailed to a considerable degree during the year 1940. One District Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Owen, was called for service with His Majesty's Forces at the outbreak of war and he has not been replaced. The Junior Clerk, Mr. Prothero, resigned to take up another appointment just prior to the war, and his position was not filled until October, 1940, when Mrs. Sandford was appointed to assist in the clerical work.

General housing work carried out was, of necessity, much less than in normal times, but complaints were in all cases investigated and repairs carried out where necessary.

There was a large increase in the work of meat inspection, due to the fact that two slaughter-houses at Gravesend and one at Northfleet were taken over by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of animals for the districts of Gravesend, Northfleet, Swanscombe, Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, and the Strood Rural District. This entailed the inspection in Gravesend during 1940 of over five times the number of animals inspected during the previous year and it was necessary for the Inspectors to work on practically all Sundays and up to late hours during the evenings to ensure the work being carried out efficiently.

Air Raid Precautions work also took up a considerable amount of time, particularly that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is in charge of the Decontamination Service, including the decontamination of streets, buildings and their contents, clothing, vehicles and food.

Summary of Inspections and Revisits.

Dwelling houses inspected	383
Re-inspections	990

Visits to other Premises:

Slaughterhouses	1354
Butchers' shops (for inspection of meat)	39
Dairies and Milk shops	71
Cowsheds	15
Provision Shops	320
Greengrocers	484
Bakehouses	45
Dining Rooms	23
Fishmongers	384
Butchers' Shops	204
Ice Cream Premises	47
Other Food Preparing Premises	19
Offensive Trades—Fish Frying	123
Gut Scraping	4
Shops Acts	11
Factories (with power)	27
Factories (without power)	16
Stables	7
Piggeries	38
Urinals	85
Public Conveniences	614
Schools	47
Places of Entertainment	44
Rats and Mice	100
Infectious Disease	26
Re Overcrowding	1
Miscellaneous	440
Total visits of all kinds	5961

Notices served and complied with.

In respect of dwelling houses :

Informal notices	289
Statutory notices (served subsequent to informal notices)	2
Notices complied with	312

Miscellaneous :

Informal notices	17
Notices complied with	18

Nuisances and Defects Remedied.

Animals kept in unfit state	2
Accumulations removed	4
Ashbins provided	128
Ceilings repaired and/or cleansed	59
Cesspools—new constructed	4
filled in	13
Chimney stacks—repaired	1
Coppers—repaired	4
Dampness—roofs repaired	26
guttering repaired or renewed	8
R.W.P.'s repaired or renewed	4
external walls repaired	1
external walls repointed	10
external walls rendered	10
Dirty houses cleansed by tenants	1
Door and door sills repaired or renewed	4
Drainage—drains relaid	9
drains partly relaid	4
drains unstopped	38
inspection chambers provided	3
soil and vent pipes—new provided	1
soil and vent pipes—repaired	1
soakaways constructed	1
Floors repaired or relaid	5
Light and ventilation of staircase and rooms improved	1
Paving relaid or repaired	13
Sinks—new provided	1
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired	3
Stoves renewed or repaired	15
Staircase handrails or balusters provided and repaired	6
Stair treads repaired	4
Urinals—cleansed	2
repaired	1
Verminous rooms disinfested	79
Walls, internal repaired and/or repapered, etc.	55
Water supply—internal supply provided	2
water pipes, etc., repaired	2
Water closets—number dealt with	34
new constructed	6
repaired and/or cleansed	17
new pans	19
pans cleansed	1
flushing cisterns provided	10
flushing cisterns repaired	6
Windows—renewed or repaired	11
sash cords provided	26
Other matters	3

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the local authority. Infested rooms and furniture are sprayed with "Ris" or "Pyagra" insecticides and two or more sprayings, as found necessary, are applied with intervals of from three to seven days.

Where necessary, belongings of tenants are sprayed before removal to Council Houses and again on moving into the houses.

Particulars of action taken during 1940:

	Council houses	Other houses	Total
No. of houses found to be infested	7	15	22
No. of houses disinfested	7	15	22

19 Public Air Raid Shelters were also treated with insecticide.

Factories Act, 1937.

	No. of inspections	No. of defects	No. remedied
Bakehouses	45	1	1
Factories (with power)	27	—	—
Factories (without power)	16	1	1

Shops Acts, 1912—1934.

Shops have been kept under observation for infringements of the above Acts. 11 visits were made. No infringements were found.

Cesspool and Pail System.

Cesspool emptying is carried out by means of a Dennis cesspool emptying machine with a capacity of 1,000 gallons and the sewage is disposed of at the Sewage Outfall Works.

6,501 tons of sewage were removed from 583 cesspools as against 4,450 tons from 498 cesspools the previous year.

There are approximately 30 pails in use in the Borough. Seven pails are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department, the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

House and Trade Refuse Removal and Disposal.

Six Shelvoke & Drewry freighters and two Eagle-Thornycroft vehicles are employed in the collection of house and trade refuse.

The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping and is being tipped at the Gravesend Co-operative Society's Sports ground in Old Road East.

9,470 tons of refuse were collected and tipped during the year as against 10,594 tons the previous year.

Salvage.

Salvaged materials collected and sold during the year were as follows:—

	Weight			Value		
	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper and Cardboard	289	12	5	1117	13	9
Metals	56	13	108	110	10	8
Tins	5	13	84	1	8	6
Bottles and Jars	9	11	13	29	1	0
Textiles	2	15	37	20	12	8
Household Bones	7	4	54	25	2	11
	371	10	77	£1304	9	6

Drain Testing.

Five sets of drains were tested and were found to be sound and in order.

Disinfection of Premises.

114 rooms were disinfected and 54 batches of clothing and bedding were removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected and returned or, in some cases, destroyed.

Public Conveniences and Schools.

The public conveniences and sanitary arrangements of certain schools under the control of the Education Committee have been cleansed and flushed daily by the Health Department during the period these schools have been opened in the past year.

The conveniences attached to licensed premises have been kept under supervision and 85 inspections were made. 3 urinals were cleansed at the request of this Department.

The conveniences at 14 licensed premises are cleansed by the Health Department in consideration of the fact that they remain open for the use of the general public.

Rats Orders.

Six premises were reported as being infested with rats. Inspections were made in each case and the occupiers advised as to the best procedure.

The total number of visits made was 100. Premises were cleared in 6 cases and 4 were still under observation at the end of the year.

Milk Supply.

There are three dairy farms in the Borough. 15 visits of inspection were made. 1 notice to cleanse the premises was served. 71 visits of inspection to milkshops and dairies were made.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The following table shows the number of samples taken and the results obtained on bacteriological examination :

Sample				Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Accredited	...	...	...	5	1	4
Pasteurised	...	...	...	7	6	1
Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ordinary	...	...	...	19	11	8
				<hr/> 31	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 13

16 samples were also examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli with negative results in all instances.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued during the year under the above Order :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk	Bottling licences	...	...	...	2
	Dealer's supplementary licence	...	...	...	1
“ Pasteurised ” Milk	Pasteurisers' licences	...	...	...	2
	Dealers' licenses	...	...	...	10
	Dealer's supplementary licence	...	...	...	1

Slaughterhouses.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, and these were taken over by the Ministry of Food at the beginning of the year. 1,354 visits were made.

The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licenses at the end of the year was 23.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the results of the inspections :—

MEAT INSPECTION—CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

		Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number known to have been killed ...		2136	1290	1275	15842	3528
Number inspected ...		2136	1290	1275	14738	3528
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ...		5	7	1	106	22

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	327	141	1	149	16
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	15.5	11.4	.15	1.7	1.0
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	13	56	—	—	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	549	380	—	—	115
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	26.3	33.7	—	—	3.4

Unsound Food.

Beef ...	900 lbs.	Ground coconut ...	1½ lbs.
Pork ...	107	Mixed dried fruit ...	7¾
Mutton ...	100	Jam ...	9
Bacon ...	127	Marmalade ...	1
Ham ...	42	Dates ...	2¼
Brisket ...	6	Meat or Fish Paste	14 jars
Beef puddings ...	12	Meat extract ...	2 jars
Ox tongue ...	6	Sardines ...	1 tin
Brawn ...	6	Pilchards ...	1 tin
Rabbits ...	80	Baked beans ...	3 tins
Chicken galantine ...	3	Peas ...	6 tins
Sausages ...	1	Pickles ...	3 jars
Meat pies ...	33	Fruit ...	3 tins
Butter ...	69	Eggs ...	1030
Margarine ...	9½	Custard tarts ...	33
Cooking fat ...	3	Caramels ...	2 lbs
Cheese ...	4		
Flour ...	2		

FISH.

Cod ...	784 lbs.
Coley ...	56
Dabs ...	14
Dogfish ...	84
Milts ...	14
Skate ...	416
Whiting ...	126

Approximate weights:

			Tons	Cwts.
Beef and organs	...	...	45	0
Pork and organs	...	...	1	14
Mutton and organs	...	...	2	7
Miscellaneous	...	...		18
			49	19

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

118 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and submitted to the Public Analyst. Particulars of the samples and a summary of the results is shown in the following table:—

Samples	Number of		Result of Analyses	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Adulterated
Butter	10		10	
Coffee	1		1	
Cornflour	2	2	4	
Cream (tinned)		2	2	
Custard powder		2	2	
Flour		2	2	
Jam		3	3	
Lard	4		4	
Medicine		5	5	
Margarine	7		5	2
Milk	62		59	3
Pearl barley	2		2	
Pepper		2	2	
Rice	2	2	4	
Sago	1		1	
Sausages	2		2	
Sausage meat	1		1	
Soup, desiccated	1		1	
Soup powder	1		1	
Tapioca	2		2	
	98	20	113	5

Particulars of adulterated samples:

Margarine. One sample contained 1.49% excess of water. Proceedings against the vendor were commenced but subsequently withdrawn. One sample contained 0.27% excess of water. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

Milk.

One sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 33%. Proceedings were taken and the vendor fined £3. Two samples were deficient in fat to the extent of 10% and 2% respectively. Letters of caution were sent to the vendors.

Legal Proceedings.

One case under Food and Drugs Act, 1938—selling milk deficient in fat to the extent of 33%—fined £3.

DISEASES.

[illegible]

SECTION " D."

HOUSING.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

(i)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	383
	Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	1373
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
	Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	—
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	289

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	310
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS:

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	—

(b) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:*

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which such defects were remedied after services of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	2
	(b) By local authority in default of owner ...	—

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

- | | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (i) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (i) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (ii) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY 1291

5. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES BUILT DURING THE YEAR :

- | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (i) | By the local authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (ii) | By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :

- | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A. | (i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| | (ii) | Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 128 |
| | (iii) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| B. | | Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| C. | (i) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| | (ii) | Number of persons concerned in such cases (persons displaced) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 |

SECTION " F."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) :

During the year 228 cases of infectious disease were notified, sixteen of which were removed to hospitals for treatment and isolation.

This is an increase over the number for the year 1939 and is accounted for by the addition of measles and whooping cough to the schedule of notifiable infectious diseases.

Twenty-five persons were notified suffering from scarlet fever, which is the lowest number recorded in any year since 1922.

Only one case of diphtheria occurred which was of a somewhat critical type, but made a complete recovery. This is the lowest number recorded since the year 1918, when the number was also one.

Two deaths were recorded, these being certified as from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

The following table shows the cases notified and admissions to hospitals:—

DISEASE.					No. of Cases.	No. admitted to Hospitals.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	25	11
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	3	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	2	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	6	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	183	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
					<hr/> 288	<hr/> 16

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital was closed in the middle of the year and acquired by the military authorities for the period of the war. Arrangements were accordingly made with the Dartford Joint Hospital Board for the admission of Gravesend patients to the Bow Arrow Hospital at Stone, near Dartford.

This arrangement has proved satisfactory and has been economical from the financial standpoint having regard to the small number of cases that were removed during the period under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year the number of primary notifications received was 33—28 Respiratory and 5 Non-Respiratory. There were in addition, 7 notifications of transfer received of persons having come to reside within the Borough. Ten persons were notified to other districts upon leaving the town.

The following table shows the sex and age periods of the cases notified together with the registered deaths which occurred during the year.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5 years	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
5 to 15 years	3	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
15 to 25 years	1	5	...	2	...	1	...	1
25 to 35 years	9	1	1	...	1	3	1	...
35 to 45 years	6	1	1	...	3	3	...	...
45 to 55 years	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
55 to 65 years	1	...	...	...	3	2	...	...
65 or over	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Total	21	7	2	3	11	13	2	1

The following gives the source from which notifications was received:—

Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	13
Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	12
General Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Assistance Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	...	2
Royal Naval Surgeons	...	...	...	...	...	2

The total number of persons residing within the Borough as shown by the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:—

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Respiratory	...	...	95	48	143
Non-Respiratory	...	...	16	21	37
			<u>111</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>180</u>

Deaths registered from tuberculosis during the year numbered 27—24 from Respiratory causes and 3 Non-Respiratory. This gives a death rate of .75 per 1,000 of the population and compares with a rate of .51 for the previous year.

Four deaths were registered from tuberculosis of persons not previously notified as suffering from this disease. No action was taken in these particular cases, but the Regulations as regards the notification of cases generally is complied with by the Medical Practitioners of the district.

There is no indication that any local industry is prone to the incidence of the disease.



