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Contributors

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Borough of Gravesend



1945

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1945



Borough of Gravesend



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1942

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Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1942

**HOUSING, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE
COMMITTEE.**

Chairman :

THE MAYOR (Councillor Mrs. E. E. COLE, J.P.).

Deputy Chairman :

Alderman Dr. J. I. HAGARD, J.P.

Alderman HODGE.

Councillor RICKETTS.

„ ROBSON.

„ LINES.

Councillor PRATT.

„ RAMSAY.

„ WILKINSON.

„ WATKINS.

„ TOULSON.

„ ALDERSON.

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. E. CROFT, J.P.

Mrs. LIFE.

Mrs. GRAY.

Miss BERREY.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
3, WOODVILLE TERRACE,
GRAVESEND.

July, 1946.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have prepared the following report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending December, 1945.

The statistics were received from the Registrar General on July 6th, 1946, showing that the estimated population to mid-year 1945 was 36,090 ; and on this figure the various rates have been calculated.

The Birth Rate of 21.0 compares favourably with 19.2 per 1,000 population for the 148 " Smaller Towns " of England.

The death rate is lower being 11.9 per 1,000 as compared with 12.3 for the other " Smaller Towns."

There is an increase in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, namely 37, or a rate of 48.6 per 1,000 live births compared with 26 and a similar rate of 35.8 for the previous year.

There was an increase in the cases of Scarlet-Fever and Diphtheria notified, three deaths occurring from the latter disease.

Tuberculosis, although on the increase in many parts of the Country, remained static, but with a higher percentage of deaths. It is with great concern I have to refer to the housing problem in connection with the large number of patients suffering from Tuberculosis. These unfortunate persons are in many instances living in very unsatisfactory surroundings and I am gratified to learn that every consideration is being given to the re-housing of these patients in the temporary houses which are now becoming available.

I should like to express my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and sympathetic consideration to my reports and my appreciation of the work of the whole of the Public Health Staff.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. DESMOND,
Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

HERBERT S. DAVIES, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.(Lond).,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Serving with H.M. Forces).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

DANIEL DESMOND, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Cork).
(Acting Medical Officer).

Dental Surgeon (Part Time) :

R. A. TRAN, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

*J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

*R. BROOKS, C.R.S.I.

*F. H. MILLICAN, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

*L. G. OWEN, C.R.S.I.

*Also holds Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate.

Health Visitors :

Mrs. C. M. DESMOND, S.R.N., S.C.M.

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

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

Clerks :

Mr. S. V. TONGE.

Mr. A. H. BAKER.

Mrs. W. M. SANDFORD.

Miss E. CLINCH.

Mrs. G. H. FERGUSON.

Miss H. FOSTER.

Miss D. M. PALMER.

SECTION "A."

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of Borough	4,619 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population	36,090
Number of separate inhabited houses (estimated)	12,300
Rateable Value	£340,376
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,365
Rates (to 31st March, 1946)—16/6d. in the £.	

Unemployment, at the end of the year, was at a particularly low level. The only accurate figure available relates to a much larger area than the Borough of Gravesend.

The chief industries in the locality are engineering, the manufacture of cement, paper and electrical equipment, while a large proportion of the population is employed in the Merchant Navy and on River Craft.

The industries and conditions do not appear to have any detrimental influence on the health of the workers.

Registered Live Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Legitimate	365	347	712	19.72
Illegitimate	28	21	49	1.35
Total Live Births	393	368	761	21.07

Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.
Legitimate	18	3	21	26.85
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—
Total Still Births	18	3	21	26.85

Registered Deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Total	234	196	430	11.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's List).

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.
Puerperal sepsis	—	Nil
Other puerperal causes	2	2.5
Total	2	2.5

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	16	19	35
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Total	18	19	37

The Infant Mortality Rate :—

All Infants per 1,000 Registered Live Births	48.62
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 Registered Births	49.1
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 Registered Births	40.8

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Per 1,000 Civilian Population.	Gravesend.	England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns Population of 25,000 to 50,000
Birth Rate			
(Live Births)	21.0	16.1	19.2
Deaths from			
All Causes	11.9	11.4	12.2
Deaths under			
1 year of age	48.6	46.0	43.0
(Per 1,000 Live Births)			

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

In accordance with the direction of Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, measures have been taken to ensure that facilities are available for the care of premature infants under 5½lbs. in weight at birth. No specially heated vehicle can be made available for the conveyance of such infants to a hospital nursery.

The Council has made special provision for home nursing including the loan of cots, bedding and other necessary equipment which is available on request by any doctor or midwife. Information regarding prematurity and weight is requested by its inclusion on the notification of birth forms which are supplied.

Infants notified as premature and under weight babies are specially followed up by the Health Visitors.

During the year 53 premature babies were notified, of which number 14 died within 24 hours of birth. Assistance was requested in two instances when a cot, hot-water bottles, blankets, etc., were loaned for twins, another infant was removed to a hospital and died within one month.

Twenty-three of these infants were born at home and 30 in hospital.

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES.

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 population
Cancer	72	1.99
Measles	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	3	.08
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	9	.24
Tuberculosis	23	.63
Influenza	—	—

THE CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1945.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	3	3
6. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	12	7	19
7. Tuberculosis, Other Forms	1	3	4
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
12. Acute Encephalitis, Infantile	—	—	—
13. Cancer—Oesophagus and Uterus	4	8	12
14. Cancer—Stomach and Duodenum	9	8	17
15. Cancer—Breast	—	9	9
16. Cancer—All other organs	22	12	34
17. Diabetes	—	2	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	28	27	55
19. Heart Disease	50	43	93
20. Other circulatory diseases	11	6	17
21. Bronchitis	14	7	21
22. Pneumonia	13	7	20
23. Other Respiratory diseases	1	—	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
25. Diarrhoea—under 2 years	3	6	9
26. Appendicitis	1	—	1
27. Other idigestive diseases	5	3	8
28. Nephritis	4	4	8
29. Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	2	2
31. Premature Births	6	4	10
32. Congenital Malformations	2	4	6
33. Suicide	3	—	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	1
35. Other Violent Causes	13	3	16
36. All other causes	29	25	54
Total—All causes	234	196	430

SECTION " B."

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

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.

This service is very satisfactory and is made very good use of by the Medical Profession and the Department.

Ambulance Service.

The responsibility for the provision of an ambulance service for street accidents has been assumed by the Public Health Committee pending the establishment of the proposed County Ambulance Service.

The service for street accidents was maintained by the Borough Police until the merging of this Force with the County Constabulary.

It was, therefore, expedient to make temporary arrangements with the St. John Ambulance Brigade to continue this service for the next 12 months. The terms for the function of maintaining and staffing two ambulances to be available at all times was agreed at £800 per annum payable by the Council.

HOME NURSING.

No provision is made by the Council for Home Nursing, except as regards Domestic and Home Helps during sickness or confinement.

A branch of the Queen's Nursing Association has been in operation for seven years and is making satisfactory progress. There is also the Gravesend and District Nursing Service which has proved of great value.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

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

It is proposed to open an enlarged Centre at " The Nest " to serve the Denton and Chalk districts in the near future.

These Centres are open for consultations with the Medical Officer who attends at each centre on one afternoon per week. For health talks to mothers, the weighing of babies and treatment of Minor Ailments, 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.

These foods are sold at wholesale prices but it is necessary to first obtain a certificate from the Medical Officer or Health Visitor before such foods can be supplied.

The attendances at the Welfare Centres during the years were :-

Individual children under 1 year of age	—	624
Individual children between 1 and 5 years	—	987
Total number of attendances of all children under 5 years		3143

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Births notified after adjustment of transferred notifications :—

	Live Births.	Still Births.
Gravesend	228	7
Milton	370	12
Denton	176	6
	<hr/> 774	<hr/> 25

The number transferred " In "	—	29
The number transferred " Out "	—	227
Number born in Hospital or Nursing Homes	—	286

DENTAL TREATMENT CENTRE.

The Dental Clinic, which is primarily the Kent Education Committee's Clinic, is situated in Manor Road. At this Clinic treatment is undertaken for expectant and nursing 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 Officer or Health Visitor.

The following report has been presented by the Dental Surgeon (R. A. Tran, Esq.) of his work in connection with the Child Welfare Scheme during the year 1945 :—

Number of Mothers inspected	—	60
Number of Mothers referred for Treatment	—	59

Treatment.

Fillings	39	Extractions	542
Other Operations	177	Number of Gas Cases	64
Dentures Supplied	59		
Number of Mothers treated as New Cases—		Expectant	24
		Nursing	33
		Total	57
Total attendance by Mothers for treatment	—		270
Additional attendances	—		102
Cash Received	—		£68 17 0

Number of Pre-School children inspected	65
Number of Pre-School children referred for treatment	48

Treatment.

Fillings	17	Extractions	77
Other Operations	5	Number of Gas Cases	34
Number of Pre-School children treated			41
Total attendance for treatment			49
Additional Attendances			56
Cash Received (no charge since April 1st) 16/-.			

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary, which is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital on Wednesday afternoons, is under the Kent County Council's administration. This Dispensary serves the Gravesend Borough and the surrounding area, and details as to the number of patients relating to this Borough 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 mornings, two afternoons and two evenings in the 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.

New Patients (Gravesend)	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	4	3	7
Soft sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	5	4	9
Non-venereal	49	19	68
	58	26	84
<hr/>			
Total No. of new patients from all areas served			262
No. of attendances of Gravesend patients			1,147
Total No. of attendances—all areas			3,907

Discharges (all Areas).

DISCHARGED CURED.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	11	3	14
Soft sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	40	18	58
Non-Veneral	171	51	222
<hr/>			
DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE.			
Syphilis	6	1	7
Gonorrhoea	1	1	2
<hr/>			
DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT.			
Syphilis	5	10	15
Gonorrhoea	1	3	4

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

(Public Health Act. 1936, Sections 206 to 220).

Six persons were registered who were receiving children under 9 years of age for reward.

Seven children were involved and in every instance when supervision visits were made by the health Visitors they were found to be clean and properly cared for.

Sixteen visits were made for the purpose of supervision during the year and on one occasion attention was drawn to the fact that a foster mother was in part-time employment. This foster parent was advised to return the infant to the mother's care.

No legal proceedings were taken under this Act.

The mother of a boarded out child, which she abandoned three years ago was traced during the year and negotiations were undertaken for this infant to be adopted by the foster parents.

GYNAECOLOGICAL CLINIC.

Dr. L. Hemmant, the Surgeon in charge of this clinic reports that the work continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

Eleven sessions were held on the second Saturday in each month, when 40 new patients were seen. Thirty-one of the new cases attended for Birth Control and the large majority of these were sent with letters from their doctors on account of histories of tuberculosis, recent caesarian section or pelvis disproportions.

There were nine gynaecological cases, several for sterility, while five others attended for vaginal discharges or prolapse.

Altogether 132 attendances were made during the year.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Three Clinics have operated during the year, one at the Windmill Street Centre, one at Whitehill Centre and at the Gordon Mission, Denton. One session per week is held at each Clinic.

The number of ante-natal patients who attended these clinics during the year was 306, making 474 attendances.

With the co-operation of the County Midwives, attendances have continued to improve and it is hoped that with the added facilities and alterations these clinics will receive wider appreciation.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Two deaths were registered in the Borough of women having died in consequence of child-birth. These two women were removed to hospital and died within 4 hours and 48 hours respectively.

The certified causes of death were registered as :—

- A. 1 (a) Cardiac Failure.
(b) Eclampsia.
(c) Toxaemia of pregnancy.
- B. 1 (a) Uraemia.
(b) Thrombocytopenic puerperal.
(c) Parturition.
Post Mortem.

ABNORMAL MATERNITY.

Twenty-four women were admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital as suffering from abnormal or complicated conditions of pregnancy. The death of one occurred within 4 hours of admission.

The Council has an undertaking with this Hospital to bear financial responsibility for such cases admitted to the wards in circumstances of emergency.

COUNTY MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICE.

The present housing conditions have created a very pressing necessity for the provision of maternity accommodation in hospitals and maternity homes and this has been met by an arrangement between the Kent County Public Health Committee and the Gravesend Council for such patients to be admitted to the County Hospitals.

Fifteen maternity patients were accommodated in the County Hospitals during the year under circumstances arising from overcrowded or other home conditions.

Four other maternity patients were admitted to the Broadwater Down Maternity Home, Tonbridge, during the year, under similar conditions.

The Gravesend Council bears responsibility for the payment of £5/5/0 per week and a sum is recovered from the patient according to the financial circumstances by the application of an assessment scale.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The Kent County Council is the supervising body under the Midwives Acts and five midwives are employed in the Gravesend area as salaried officers of the Kent County Council.

The Midwives attended 335 births as midwives and 76 as maternity nurses in conjunction with medical practitioners.

Co-operation between the County Midwives and the Health Visitors has been very fully maintained and in the interest of the Child Welfare Scheme the assistance given at the Ante-Natal Clinics is very much appreciated.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified by a Private Medical Practitioner but removal to hospital was not requested. Investigations and necessary precautions were taken, and swabs submitted for bacteriological examination.

The patient made a complete recovery.

DOMESTIC AND HOME HELP SERVICE.

Three women are retained as Home Helps on a whole-time basis and four as part-time. They were engaged in 29 cases of confinement and 23 part-time engagements to persons suffering from either sickness or infirmity.

Payment is made to these women at the hourly rate of 1s. 6d. for a normal 48 hour week and a retaining fee of 10/- per week is paid to the whole-time employees when not engaged.

The amount recoverable from the patient is assessed according to the family circumstances by the application of an income scale.

NURSING HOMES.

There are two registered Nursing Homes in the Borough, one for maternity and one for medical patients. The accommodation provided in these homes is as follows:—

NUMBER OF BEDS.		
Maternity.	Medical.	Total.
12	10	22

During the year 7 visits were made to these homes for the purpose of supervision and on all occasions the homes appeared to be clean and well conducted.

It was, however, evident that at both these homes there was difficulty in maintaining the adequate number of staff, both nursing and domestic.

MEASLES.

Of the total number of cases notified 313 children were under the age of 5 years. This shows a marked increase over the previous year's figure, but the cases were distributed throughout the year and were not in epidemic form.

Three infants under 2 years of age were removed to the infectious diseases hospital for treatment, but no deaths occurred.

The Health Visitors made thirty-two visits to young infants notified with the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Whooping cough was notified in nine cases of children under 5 years of age. There were, of course, many more that were not brought to the notice of the Health Department.

There were no serious cases requiring hospital treatment.

Thirty-two children were given prophylactic injections by the Medical Officer.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three notifications were received during the year and all received treatment at hospitals.

Two were admitted to the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital for a few days and treatment was affected without impairment of the vision.

The Health Visitors made enquiries into the cases which were reported as having a discharge from the eyes in 2 newly born infants but the diagnosis was not confirmed by bacteriological examination.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Fifteen new patients were seen at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital by J. S. Batchelor, Esq., F.R.C.S., the Orthopaedic Specialist.

One child aged four months received massage at the Dartford County Hospital, surgical appliances were prescribed and provided in four instances and X-Ray treatment for one child.

Eight infants suffered from minor deformities of the extremities and no special treatment was considered necessary in two others.

Altogether 55 attendances were made for treatment to the Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifiable infectious diseases was 489. Excluding Measles, Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis the number was 114, giving an attack rate of 3.1 per 1,000 of the population.

There was a marked increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Measles.

Three deaths occurred from Diphtheria and one from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Six children were notified with Sonne Dysentery as compared with 21 the previous year.

These children were not seriously affected and their removal was not considered necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Disease	Under one year	One and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 3 yrs.	3 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 years and over	Total	Number removed to Hospital
Diphtheria	—	2	2	15	7	5	—	—	—	—	31	31
Scarlet Fever	—	3	6	20	9	9	5	—	—	—	52	25
Whooping Cough	—	3	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	—
Measles	15	89	87	122	12	4	1	—	—	—	330	3
Pneumonia	2	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	8	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	4	11	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Peripharyngitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	11	8	—	32	21
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	4	3
Total	21	98	98	166	29	20	22	17	13	5	489	90

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital was requisitioned by the Government in 1940, since when the patients from the Borough have been admitted to the Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, by an emergency arrangement with the Dartford Joint Hospital Board.

The charge is £4/10/0 per patient per week and this has involved an expenditure of £1,168/18/0 for the isolation and treatment of 61 patients during the year.

This arrangement does not include the isolation of Smallpox patients, and in this respect, as a temporary measure, cases will be removed to the Capel Hospital of the Tunbridge Joint Hospital Board.

Now that the Gravesend Infectious Diseases Hospital has been released the question of again using this Hospital as such has been very carefully considered by the Council on account of the expense of maintaining it as a separate Hospital.

It will ultimately be decided to come to an agreement with another authority to undertake the treatment of infectious diseases as a more economical proposition.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The primary notifications received during the year were 36 compared with 42 for the year 1944.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	21	11	32
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4

The source from which the notifications were received was :—

Tuberculosis Officer	—	—	—	15
Private Medical Practitioners	—	—	—	10
Hospitals and Institutions	—	—	—	8
Service Establishments	—	—	—	3

Fourteen patients were admitted to Sanatoria suffering from pulmonary and four to hospitals for treatment of non-pulmonary diseases.

The names of 30 persons were removed from the Register during the year for the following reasons :—

Death	—	—	17
Recovered	—	—	9
Left the District	—	—	4

The occupations and ages of the persons affected are recorded as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Ex-Services	23, 24, 31, 32, 32, 33, 34, 38	
Housewife		37, 42, 41, 77,
Munition Worker		19, 20, 21
Engineer	16, 23, 58	
Clerk	22, 33, 39	
Shop Assistant		17, 19, 19
Field Worker		20, 46
Merchant Navy	47, 52	
Factory Workers	23, 62	
Shoe repairer	56	
Domestic		25
Gardener	33	
Nil	3, 17, 64	

The total number of persons residing within the Borough as shown by the Tuberculosis Register at the 31st December, 1945, was :—

	Males.	Females.	Total
Pulmonary	149	98	247
Non-Pulmonary	21	24	45
Total	170	122	292

The number of primary notifications received during the past five years :—

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
56	55	58	42	36

Deaths registered during the year from Tuberculosis numbered 23. Pulmonary 19 and from other forms 4.

This gives a death rate of .63 per 1,000 of the population and compares with a rate of .7 for the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 509 children were immunised against Diphtheria. Constant pressure has been maintained on parents throughout the year. Apathy on the part of the parents is difficult to overcome, and what is more disappointing is the number of children who attend for the first injection but fail to attend for the second.

It is satisfactory to note that 60 per cent. of the estimated

number of children under the age of 15 years have been immunised as follows :—

	Under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	Total.
Public Health Services —	915	3,593	4,508
General Practitioners —	493	661	1,154
Total	1,408	4,254	5,662

WAR TIME NURSERIES.

Three Nurseries were maintained throughout the year providing places for 108 infants under 5 years of age.

The Nurseries are well situated in the Borough and within easy distance of the different works and on bus routes.

The accommodation and average attendances, etc., are as follows :—

	Date of opening.	No. of places provided.	Average No. on the register.	Daily average attendance.
" Daneholme," Pelham Road.	Jan. 1942	30	45	33
" Glendillon," — Old Road East.	April, 1942	40	46	25
" The Nest," — Rochester Road.	Jan. 1943	38	30	18

" Glendillon " has accommodation for 12 children on a 24 hour basis but the demand for night time care has not averaged throughout the year to more than 3 infants.

Whooping cough and mumps had the effect of reducing the attendance at the three nurseries but on the whole, the health of the infants was maintained at a high level.

It is undoubtedly proved that the tuition with regula habitsr which the infants receive when placed in the care of the nurseries has very beneficial results and this is borne out by the Mistresses of Infant Schools to which the children are passed at the age of 5 years.

The staff at each Nursery consists of a Matron, Deputy Matron, Nursery Nurse and five Probationer Nurses.

A Warden on the staff divided her time between two nurseries as two vacancies for Warden were not filled during the year.

The nurseries are affiliated to the National Society for Children's Nurseries and are recognised as training schools for the examination of the Diploma of Nursery Nurses. Four Student Nurses were successful in obtaining this certificate during the year.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

The new cleansing station which was opened during the year has been a great benefit in dealing with the cases of scabies and verminous persons.

The treatment of scabies has been carried out by the Assistant Child Cleanliness Officer who is an employee of the Kent Education Committee and as regards the treatment of males, this is undertaken by the Store Keeper and Mortuary Attendant who is employed by the Corporation.

Three hundred and sixty-one patients, including one hundred and eighty-seven of them children, were treated.

Re-infection occurred in 9 instances.

The number for the year shows a reduction over the previous year and there is very definite indications that this serious complaint is gradually diminishing.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Infestation by head lice and general uncleanliness is not, fortunately, as serious now as it has been during the past few years. The Health Visitors, who always give particular attention, to the cleanliness of the mothers with whom they come in contact, rarely have difficulty in the securing co-operation of these people when necessary.

There are a number of mothers who are repeatedly visited and in spite of the careful advice given it is impossible to maintain the required standard of cleanliness for very long.

Seven infants and three nursing mothers were cleansed at the Cleansing Centre for similar conditions in the course of the year.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Gravesend is served by two public water companies and the supply is always abundant and of a high standard of purity.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations have been taken of the raw water and of the domestic supply. Twenty-six samples were submitted for analysis and the results were uniformly satisfactory.

The permanent hardness of the water renders the possibility of plumbsolvent action remote.

Some twenty houses are supplied from common stand pipes. A reservoir is in use in the Borough but a considerable proportion of the area is supplied by direct pumping.

A report of the Public Analyst and sample submitted for chemical analysis will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR For the Year 1945

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

Dwelling houses inspected	814
Re-inspections	1857
Visits to other premises :—	
Bakehouses	69
Butchers' shops	129
Butchers' shops (for inspection of meat)	14
Cowsheds	14
Dairies and milkshops	94
Dining rooms and cafes	124
Factories (with power)	7
Factories (without power)	7
Fishmongers	94
Fish Frying	22
Greengrocers	24
Gut scraping	6
Ice Cream premises	12
Infectious disease	78
Other food preparing places	36
Outworkers	3
Piggeries	3
Places of entertainment	22
Provision shops	196
Public Conveniences	1104
Rats and mice	2477
Schools	4
Shops Act	2
Slaughterhouses	876
Stables	2
Urinals	18
Miscellaneous	347
Total visits of all kinds	8455

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

In respect of dwelling houses :—	
Informal notices	499
Statutory notices	3
Notices complied with	459
Miscellaneous :—	
Informal notices	234
Notices complied with	191

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Accumulations removed	9
Animals in unfit state	2
Ashbins provided	119
Ceilings repaired and/or cleansed	161
Cesspools—new constructed	2
enlarged	1
filled in	5
repaired	2
Chimney stacks—repaired	3
new pots provided	7
Coppers—new provided	4
repaired	12
Dampness—roofs repaired	111
guttering repaired or renewed	20
hopper heads provided	8
R.W.P's repaired or renewed	17
external walls repaired	21
external walls repointed	17
external walls rendered	18
sub-floor ventilation provided	13
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed	7
Dirty houses cleansed by occupiers	2
Drainage—drains repaired	4
drains relaid	14
drains partly relaid	20
drains unstopped	38
inspection chambers provided	16
soil and vent pipes removed	2
soil and vent pipes repaired	7
soil and vent pipes, new provided	3
Floors repaired or relaid	34
Paving relaid or repaired	14
Sinks—new provided	9
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired	7
Stair handrails provided	1
Stair treads and balusters repaired	8
Stoves renewed or repaired	25
Urinals cleansed	1
Verminous premises disinfested	57
Walls (internal) repaired and/or repapered, etc.	126
Water supply—water pipes, etc., repaired	12
cisterns removed	1
Water closets—number dealt with	40
new constructed	13
repaired and/or cleansed	11
new pans	29

	flushing cisterns provided	—	—	11
	flushing cisterns repaired	—	—	16
Windows—renewed or repaired	—	—	—	17
	sash cords provided	—	—	55
Other matters	—	—	—	8

HOUSING.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	—	—	—	814
Number of inspections made for that purpose	—	—	—	2671
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	—	—	—	499
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	—	—	—	457
Action under statutory powers (Public Health Act) :—				
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—	—	—	3
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which such defects were remedied	—	—	—	2

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The work of disinfection of Council houses is carried out by the Local Authority. Infested rooms and furniture are sprayed with insecticide, and two or more sprayings, as found necessary, are applied, with intervals of from three to seven days.

Premises belonging to private owners are also disinfested on request, and the cost of the work is charged to the owners concerned.

Particulars of action taken during 1945 :—

	Council houses.	Other houses.	Total.
Number of houses found to be infested	8	57	65
Number of houses disinfested	8	57	65

In addition, disinfection was carried out at a number of premises for eradication of moths, cockroaches and wasps.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	Number of inspections.	Number of defects.	Number remedied.
Bakehouses	69	1	1
Factories (with power)	7	3	4
Factories (without power)	7	—	—
	83	4	5

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1934.

Shops have been kept under observation, as far as possible, during the year. One notice to provide heating facilities was complied with.

DRAIN TESTING.

71 Sets of drains were tested during the year ; of these, 45 were found to be sound and in order, and 26 or 36.62 per cent. were found to be defective.

In all cases where drains were defective, they were repaired or relaid, as necessary.

CESSPOOL AND PAIL SYSTEM.

5,250 Tons of sewage were removed from 448 cesspools as against 5,478 tons from 414 cesspools the previous year.

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

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

Six Shelvoke & Drewry freighters and two Thornycroft vehicles are employed in the collection of house and trade refuse and salvage. The two Thornycroft vehicles are now approximately 15 years old, and it will be necessary for these to be replaced during the coming year.

Disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping on land at Denton Marshes. This tip has been in use since January, 1944. During 1945, 8,681 tons of refuse were collected and tipped, as against 8,228 tons the previous year.

SALVAGE.

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

Materials.	Weight.			Value.		
	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Bones	3	12	74	18	7	1
Bottles and jars	23	15	84	165	12	7
Food waste	515	8	0	855	12	9
Metal, ferrous	3	14	0	7	8	0
Metal, non-ferrous		5	67	7	1	8
String		7	66	1	17	11
Textiles	4	14	37	53	1	7
Waste paper	198	16	90	1,304	10	4
	750	14	82	£2,413	11	11

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Eighty-seven premises were disinfected, and 96 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 have been cleansed and flushed daily by the Health Department during the past year.

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

Conveniences attached to other licensed premises have also been kept under supervision, and 18 inspections were made. One urinal was cleansed at the request of this Department.

The arrangement with the Education Authorities to cleanse the conveniences at schools ceased on 30th November, 1945, when the work was made one of the duties of the school caretakers by the Kent Education Committee.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

All infested premises brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year were dealt with. The cost of disinfestation at business premises by the Council's Rodent Officer is charged to the occupiers, but the work at private houses is carried out free.

The following report summarises the work carried out during the year 1945 :—

Number of infested premises brought forward from 1944	—	34
Premises reported as infested during 1945	—	221
Premises cleared	—	179
Total number of visits	—	2477
Premises still under observation at end of year	—	76
Estimated number of rats killed	—	1811

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination were as follows :—

	Total.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Gravesend & Milton Water Co.'s supply	14	14	—
Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co.'s supply	12	12	—
Gravesend Swimming Pool	6	4	2
	32	30	2

Two samples—one of the Gravesend supply and one of the Higham and Hundred of Hoo supply, were taken and submitted for chemical analysis. The reports were as follows :—

Description or number of sample.	No. 1 "Gravesend and Milton Water Co., Supply."	No. 2 "Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Co., Supply."
Appearance	Clear	Clear.
Colour	Green-blue	Green-blue
Smell	Normal	Normal
Chlorine in chlorides	1.12	2.10
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	None	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.39	0.62
Nitrogen in Nitrites	None	None
Ammonia	0.0006	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008	0.0011
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	Trace only	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.008	0.016
Hardness before boiling (total)	17.9	20.3
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	2.6	3.2
Total solid matter	24.22	28.28
Microscopical examination of deposit	Slight and unimportant	Slight and unimportant
Metallic impregnation (copper, lead, zinc)	None	None
REMARKS : The above results are satisfactory throughout and indicate in both samples, water organically pure and free from sewage percolation. The microscopical examination calls for no adverse remarks.		
N.B.—All numerical results expressed in grains per gallon.		

MILK SUPPLY.

There are two dairy farms in the Borough. Fourteen visits of inspection were made, and it was found necessary to make one request to cleanse premises. Ninety-four 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 :—

Designation.	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Result when examined for Tubercle Bacilli.	
				Pos.	Neg.
Pasteurised	38	37	1	0	17
Tuberculin Tested	25	17	8	0	0
Ungraded	18	17	1	0	9
	—	—	—	—	—
	81	71	10	0	26
	—	—	—	—	—

Ministry of Food Heat Treatment Scheme.

Thirty-two samples of pasteurised milk were also submitted to the Public Analyst under this scheme with the following results :—

		No.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Samples submitted to Phosphatase Test		32	26	6
" " " Methylene Blue Test		30	22	8

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

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

" Tuberculin Tested " Milk :	Bottling Licences	—	—	4
	Dealers' Supplementary Licence	—	—	1
" Pasteurised " Milk :	Pasteurisers' Licences	—	—	2
	Dealers' Licences	—	—	8
	Dealers' Supplementary Licence	—	—	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, both being under the control of the Ministry of Food. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 876.

The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 15.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

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

Meat Inspection : Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number known to have been killed —	2372	1333	951	3987	892	9535
Number inspected —	2372	1333	951	3190	892	8738
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcases condemned	3	11	2	13	9	
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned —	282	136	—	46	29	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis —	12.01	11.02	.21	1.85	4.26	
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	15	31	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned —	374	567	—	—	39	
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis —	16.39	44.86	—	—	4.37	

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED—1945 DISEASES

BOVINES	Tuberculosis	Abcesses	Actinomycosis	Angioma	Bruised	Cirrhosis	Cystic	Dropsical and Emaciated	Flukes	Healed	Immaturity	Johnes Disease	Malignant Oedema	Mastitis	Melanosis	Moulds	Nephritis	Pyæmia	Septicæmia	Septic Pericarditis	Total
Carcases ..	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	60
Calves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Heads	391	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	391
Tongues	338	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	352
Lungs	644	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	667
Livers	196	110	—	81	—	120	—	—	197	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	704
Mesenteries ..	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82
Stomachs ..	66	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	66
Intestines ..	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
Skirts	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Spleens	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57
Hearts	220	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	221
Kidneys ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6
Udders	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Beef	11067	69	—	—	510	—	—	—	—	68	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—	—	11750
	lbs.	lbs.								lbs.						lbs.					lbs.

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED—1945.

DISEASES.

PIGS	Tuberculosis	Abscesses	Bruised	Cirrhosis	Congestion	Cystic	Dropsical and emaciated	Enteritis	Moulds	Para Typhoid	Pneumonia	Septicaemia	Swine Fever	Unsound	Urticaria	TOTALS
Carcases and offal	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	2	1	—	—	9
Heads	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Lungs	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	21
Livers	—	2	—	11	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Mesenteries	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Plucks	4	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	576 (lbs.)	—	10
Intestines	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	576 (lbs.)
Pork	—	24 (lbs.)	131 (lbs.)	—	—	—	—	—	367 (lbs.)	—	—	—	—	—	86 (lbs.)	608 (lbs.)

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED—1945.

DISEASES.

SHEEP	Abcesses	Cirrhosis	Cystic	Dropsical and emaciated	Flukes	Moulds	Pneumonia	Suffocation	Strongylus	Unsound	TOTALS
Carcases and offal	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	1	—	—	13
Heads	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6
Lungs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	4	14
Livers	9	8	3	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	33
Plucks	10	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Mutton	48 (lbs.)	—	—	—	—	20 (lbs.)	—	—	—	—	68 (lbs.)

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were also condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	lbs.		lbs.
Bacon	218	Sugar	69
Brisket	53	Sultanas	25
Butter	34	Sweets	113
Cake	140	Tea	43
Cereals	282	Tomatoes	64
Cheese	43	Tongues	66
Chocolate	222	Tinned beans	454
Dried eggs	22	„ beetroot	24
Dried fruit	256	„ carrots	14
Eggs (904)	113	„ crayfish	23
Fish cakes	35	„ ham	87
Honey	4	„ mackerel	34
Jam	55	„ milk	1563
Lemon curd	10	„ mutton	152
Luncheon meat	538	„ peas	75
Margarine	37	„ pilchards	191
Marmalade	39	„ salmon	100
Paste	44	„ sardines	30
Pickles	57	„ shrimps	8
Sauces	12	„ soup	33
Sausages (pork)	81	„ spaghetti	9
Sausage meat	27	„ steak	70
Soup powder	20	Vegetables	148
Spanish onions	90		

FISH.

	lbs.		lbs.
Cod	230	Herrings	84
Crabs	417	Mackerel	96
Fish fillets	126	Plaice	140
Haddocks (smoked)	186	Whelks	6

Approximate Weights.

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef and organs	—	36	2	4	21
Pork and organs	—	1	16	0	16
Mutton and organs	—	—	8	3	4
Fish	—	—	11	1	25
Miscellaneous	—	2	12	0	3
		41	11	3	13

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

116 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.
Arrowroot	1	—	1	—
Aspirin tablets	—	2	2	—
Boracic ointment	—	1	1	—
Butter	2	—	2	—
Cake mixture	—	2	2	—
Camphorated oil	—	1	1	—
Castor oil	—	1	1	—
Celery salt	1	—	1	—
Cinnamon	1	—	1	—
Cocoa	—	2	2	—
Cod liver oil	—	1	1	—
Coffee	—	1	1	—
Curry powder	1	—	—	1
Epsom salts	—	1	1	—
Fish paste	—	1	1	—
Friars balsam	—	1	1	—
Gin	4	—	3	1
Jam	1	—	1	—
Lard	2	—	2	—
Margarine	2	—	2	—
Marmalade	1	—	1	—
Meat paste	—	3	3	—
Milk	54	4	57	1
Mustard	—	1	1	—
Nutmeg	1	—	1	—
Oil of eucalyptus	—	1	1	—
Pearl barley	1	—	1	—
Pepper	—	2	2	—
Rum	2	—	2	—
Saccharin tablets	—	1	1	—
Soup powder	1	1	2	—
Sponge mixture	1	1	2	—
Sugar	1	—	1	—
Tea	1	—	1	—
Tincture of iodine	—	1	—	1
Vinegar	—	2	2	—
Whisky	6	—	6	—
Zinc ointment	—	1	1	—
	84	32	112	4

Particulars of adulterated samples :—

CURRY POWDER, No. 121 : Contained 35 parts per million of lead. The result was reported to the Ministry of Food.

GIN, No. 139 : Contained 7 per cent. added water. Proceedings were instituted and vendor was fined £2 and £3/3/0 costs.

MILK, No. 189 : 5% deficient in milk fat. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

TINCTURE OF IODINE,
No. 206 : Contained 2.32 per cent. iodine instead of 2.45 per cent. and 1.83 per cent Potassium Iodide instead of 1.55 per cent. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 3.

Proceedings were taken against a proprietor of licensed premises for selling gin diluted with 7% added water. The defendant was fined £2 with £3/3/0 costs.





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