

[Report 1931] / Medical Officer of Health, Grays Thurrock U.D.C.

Contributors

Grays Thurrock (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1931

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/faxhuhwc>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

C.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH

4411 (3) GRAYS
Annual Report

DIVISION.

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1931.

GRAYS URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29265460>

Grays Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1931.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. T. G. BOUL, M.D., Ch.B. (Vict), D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

MAUDE BENNETT, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.)

Orthopædic Surgeon (part time) :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S (Eng.)

Obstetric Specialist (part time) :

ANDREW McALLISTER, F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Dental Surgeon (part time) :

W. S. ROSE, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. PLUMB, A.R.S.I., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods. Rats Officer.

Orthopædic Masseuse (part time) :

Miss M. SCOTT, C.S.M.M.G. Certificates : Medical Electricity, Teachers' Diploma for Educational Gymnastics.

Health Visitors :

Miss E. C. P. MILLER, S.R.N. General Training. Certified Midwife. Certificate Queen Victoria Nursing Institution. New Health Visitors' Certificate.

Miss A. POLLEY, S.R.N. General Training. Certified Midwife. Certificate Queen Victoria Nursing Institution.

Chief Clerk :

R. C. GILBERT.

Clerical Assistant :

Miss D. LAYZELL.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health to the adjoining Urban Districts of Purfleet and Tilbury, Medical Officer of Health to the surrounding Rural District of Orsett, and School Medical Inspector, Inspector of Midwives, and District Tuberculosis Officer for these districts under the Essex County Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Grays Thurrock Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Seventh Annual Report upon the Health of the Urban District. This is an Ordinary Report, unlike that for 1930, which was a Survey Report of the work of the previous five years.

The Registrar-General's estimated population (18,290) has been used for the calculation of all statistics.

The Birth Rate is 15.2 compared with 14.4 last year, but this is less than the figure for the whole country. The Death Rate has risen from 7.5 to 8.9, which is, however, below the national Rate of 12.3. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 31.2 compared with 22.2 in 1930, but it is still less than half the figure for England and Wales (66). I think it will be agreed that on this showing Grays is a healthy place in which to live.

Infectious disease notifications totalled 20 less than last year, which is very satisfactory when one remembers the large daily influx into the town from surrounding districts.

Steady progress is recorded in the Maternity and Child Welfare work. The attendances at the Welfare Centre have increased from 1,708 to 2,797. Many mothers bring their toddlers as well as their infants to the Centre, which renders a certain amount of home visiting unnecessary.

One small area of the town has necessitated special action under the Housing Act, and although the work is not yet complete a great improvement has been effected. There is no part of the district sufficiently bad to be scheduled as a Demolition or Improvement Area.

My thanks are due to the Council for their interest in and support of the Department's work. I wish to acknowledge, also, my indebtedness to those bodies and institutions who have so kindly supplied information for this Report, and to the local medical practitioners for their cordial co-operation.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

W. T. G. BOUL,

M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Quarry Hill,

Grays, Essex.

The Town of Grays Thurrock is situate upon the Northern bank of the River Thames, opposite but somewhat to the West of Gravesend. A certain portion of the river bank is within the Urban District, and a quantity of shipping trade is carried out by means of Wharves. Barges are received and despatched with cement, coal and other goods. In this portion of the town there is also a Ship-breaking Yard. Of late years the town has extended towards the North, where higher ground exists, and the older portion of the town, situated upon the river side, has needed constant attention in the matter of housing inspection. The higher portions of the town, to the North, are based on chalk, the quarrying of which for the manufacture of cement forms one of the local industries. Much of the higher ground, now being built over, is actually outside the border of the Urban District, and the anomaly is rising of two towns, geographically one, but under separate control.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,382 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,290
No. of inhabited houses on Rate Books, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,000
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£100,237
Product of One Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£396

Grays is to a great extent the home of an industrial community, but of late years a colony of City workers has grown in the new housing areas. The occupations of the inhabitants are mostly as follows:—

- (a) Workers in local industries (e.g., Margarine Works, Board Mills, Cement Factories.
- (b) Transport Workers.
- (c) Tradesmen and Clerical.
- (d) Seamen.

There is no evidence to show that any particular occupation exercises a deleterious influence upon the Public Health.

The air over the Western portion of the town is on many occasions polluted with cement dust, and with a south-westerly wind this nuisance becomes seriously enhanced.

Live Births—

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	163	120	283
Illegitimate	3	2	5
			<hr/> 288 <hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... 15.2

	M.	F.	Total.
Stillbirths	7	4	11
Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births ...			38.1

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	99	64	163

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... 8.9

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth—

From sepsis	Nil
From other causes	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	31.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	31.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

The principal causes of death were Heart Disease (24), Cancer (26), Tuberculosis (20), and Pneumonia (12).

COMPARISON OF VARIOUS STATISTICS.

Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1927	314	17.3	9.9	47.0
1928	317	14.1	8.2	37.8
1929	307	13.8	8.3	65.1
1930	314	14.4	7.5	22.2
1931	288	15.2	8.9	31.2

The following Tables have been supplied by the Registrar-General, with the exception of the line marked * in Table No. 2.

TABLE 1.—Civilians only.

Causes of Death in Grays Thurrock U.D., 1931.

Causes of Death.				M.	F.
All Causes				99	64
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..				
2	Measles				
3	Scarlet Fever				
4	Whooping Cough				
5	Diphtheria				
6	Influenza			5	
7	Encephalitis Lethargica ..			1	
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...			1	
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..			11	2
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...			4	3
11	Syphilis				
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis				
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease ...			15	11
14	Diabetes				
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ...			4	11
16	Heart Disease			17	7
17	Aneurysm				
18	Other Circulatory Diseases ...			1	1

TABLE 1.—Civilians only.—*continued.*

19	Bronchitis	...	...	2	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	8	4
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	1	
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...
24	Appendicitis	...	...
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	
26	Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	...
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	3	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	6	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Mal-formation, &c....	...	...	4	2
32	Senility	...	...	1	8
33	Suicide	...	...	2	
34	Other violence	...	...	4	3
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	7	6
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—					
	Small Pox	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total				6	3
	Legitimate	...	...	6	3
	Illegitimate	...	...
LIVE BIRTHS—Total				166	122
	Legitimate	...	...	163	120
	Illegitimate	...	...	3	2
STILLBIRTHS—Total				7	4
	Legitimate	...	...	7	4
	Illegitimate	...	...
POPULATION—				18,290	

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. 2.

TABLE 2.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY during the year 1931.

(Provisional figures.)

The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
	Live Births	Stillbirths	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales ...	15.8	0.67	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.36	0.54	6.0	66	91.18	6.17	1.70	.095	
107 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London.	16.0	0.67	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.33	0.48	8.4	71	91.43	5.84	2.24	0.49	
159 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000.	15.6	0.73	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.36	0.43	4.0	62	92.17	5.49	1.25	.09	
London ...	15.0	0.50	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.26	0.57	9.7	65	89.52	6.23	4.24	0.01	
*Grays Thurrock ...	15.2	0.60	8.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.49	0.00	31	91.3	5.1	2.7	0.9	

NURSING IN THE HOME.

A. General—

There are no district Nursing Associations within the area. A small amount of professional nursing in the home is performed by the Health Visitors, and attention should be called to the excellent work of the 48th Nursing Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade. This comprises a Lady Superintendent, 2 Lady Ambulance Officers, and about 25 Ambulance Sisters. I am indebted to Mrs. A. H. Harvey, the Superintendent, for the following details of duties during 1931:—

Motor Ambulance duties	...	...	...	683
Home Comforts Centre	...	...	...	268
Orthopaedic Clinic	...	...	...	271
Miscellaneous (including night visits)	...	...	...	1122

The voluntary work of the Division should earn the appreciation of the Council and public alike.

A Hospital Home Comforts Committee was established in 1926, with the Medical Officer of Health as Chairman. Its object was to establish Centres whereat articles for use in a sick room could be obtained for a nominal loan charge. The under-mentioned Centres have been established:—

Quarry Hill, Grays. Open 2—4 p.m. daily.

The Rectory, Tilbury.

4, Morley Square, Chadwell St. Mary.

Council School, Stanford-le-Hope.

33, Second Avenue, West Thurrock.

29, Jarrah Cottages, Purfleet.

The Green, South Ockendon.

The Rectory, Orsett.

Church Institute, Aveley.

Articles loaned, 1931—

Air Beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Air Rings	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Air Pillows	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Bed Pans	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Bed Rests	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Bed Cradles	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Crutches	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Hot-water Bottles	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Waterproof Sheets	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Urine Bottles	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Bronchitis Kettles	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Invalid Chairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Feeding Cups	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total							716

The Committee's scheme for the supply of Nurses, persons with some nursing experience and Home Helps to the homes of the sick, has proceeded quietly but satisfactorily. Owing to the demand for such assistance steps are being taken to increase the number of names on the Register.

B. Infectious Disease.—There is no nursing in the home for Infectious Disease other than that carried out upon occasions by Health Visitors in cases of Measles, etc.

Midwives.—There are 4 practising Midwives within the district. There are no practising Midwives employed by or receiving subsidy from the Local Authority.

Laboratory Facilities.—The examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens is provided for at the Essex County Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, and during the year the following examinations have been undertaken :

Specimen.	Number examined.
Diphtheria	2296
Sputa	109
Typhoid	7
Ringworm	2
Miscellaneous	6
	<hr/> 2420 <hr/>

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations relative to Public Health in force in the district:—

P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5.
Adopted 1st January, 1891.

I.D. (Notification) Act, 1889.
Adopted 9th October, 1890.

I.D. (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Adopted 1st January, 1891.

P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.
Part 2 other than Sec. 26.
Part 3 other than Sec. 50.
Part 4 Sections 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62,
63, 64, 65 and 66.
Part 6.
Part 10, Section 93.
Adopted 1908.

P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Section 50.
Adopted May, 1928.

P.H. Act, 1925, Sec. 2, 3, 4, 5.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Slaughter Houses. June 23rd, 1887.

Common Lodging Houses. June 23rd, 1887.

Nuisances. June 23rd, 1887.

Nuisances. September 22nd, 1892.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. July 13th, 1889.

Additional Cowsheds and Milkshops. May 11th, 1905.

Tents, Vans, and Sheds. December 22nd, 1910.

New Streets and Buildings. July 30th, 1896.

New Streets and Buildings. November 21st, 1913.

Slaughter Houses. July 26th, 1927.

The Council have under consideration at the present time the question of the adoption of Bye-Laws re Nuisances including sections to deal with the dumping of refuse. These sections will, when adopted, control the dumping of refuse on the lines of what is known as the "Bradford System."

HOSPITALS.

(1) *General.*

Name and Address: Seamen's Hospital, Tilbury Docks.

Accommodation: Men, 52 beds; Women, 24 beds; Children, 16 beds; total, 92.

The Hospital is equipped with efficient X-ray, dental and Ophthalmic apparatus, and I wish once again to record my appreciation of the kindly co-operation extended to this Department by the staff. The Medical Officer of Health is a member of the consultant staff, and I am indebted to the Secretary, Seamen's Hospital Society, for the following statistics relating to the Hospital:—

No. of In-patients	1257
„ Out-patients	5408
„ Major Operations	327
„ Minor Operations	374

Orsett (Public Assistance) Infirmary—

	Beds.
General Medical	97
General Surgical	50
Tuberculosis	21
Children	20
Maternity	7
Mental (observation)	5
	—
	200
	—

(2) *Infectious Diseases—*

Orsett Joint Hospital Board, of which Grays is a constituent authority, maintains—

(a) Isolation Hospital, Stifford Long Lane,
Little Thurrock 96 beds

(b) Smallpox Hospital, ditto 22 beds

These have been found adequate for the needs of the district during the year.

**NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT.
1927.**

The Essex County Council is the Authority under this Act. There are no Nursing Homes in Grays.

*Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate
Infants and Homeless Children.*

There is no accommodation for the above within this district, apart from Orsett Public Assistance Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) *Infectious Cases.*—The Isolation Hospital maintains two Motor Ambulances, which are available at any hour of the day or night.

(b) *Accidents and Non-Infectious Cases.*—St. John Ambulance Brigade provide two Motor Ambulances and various hand ambulances. The hire charges for the former are very moderate, and although maintenance costs have to be met from voluntary sources, inability to pay these costs does not debar any person from the use thereof. I am indebted to the Transport Officer, W. R. Lucas, Esq., for the under-mentioned details :—

No. of miles covered, 1931	...	...	...	15360
„ Journeys	...	...	...	770
„ Road accidents attended	...	...	...	49

14. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

	Address and Accommodation.	Hours.	Remarks.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	The Park	Medical Officer. Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. except Third Tuesday. See Ante-Natal Clinic. Health Visitors } Thursday 2 p.m. } Medical Officer Daily, } alternate 9.30—10 a.m. } Thursdays.	Grays U.D.C.
Ante-natal Clinic	The Park	Third Tuesday 2 p.m.	Grays U.D.C.
School Clinic	Quarry Hill	Minor Ailments Daily, 9.30—11. Inspection Clinic, Wednesday, 9.30—11.30. *Eye Clinic, Thursdays, 9—11.30. Dental Clinic: *a) Extractions, Tues., 9.30 (b) Conservative treatment *Thursdays, 9.30 a.m. Mondays, 9.30 a.m.	The School Clinics are provided by the Essex County Council. The M.O.H. as School Inspector supervising the work of the Clinic.
Orthopædic Clinic Orthopædic After-care Clinic	Quarry Hill "	*By arrangement— Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Wednesdays, 2.30 p.m. Fridays, 2.30 p.m.	Grays, Purfleet & Tilbury Urban Districts, Orsett Rural District, and Essex County Council.
Tuberculosis	59 London Road	Adults : Mondays, 4—6 p.m. Children : Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.	The Dispensary is provided by the Essex County Council, the M.O.H. as Tuberculosis Officer supervising the work of the Dispensary.
Venereal Disease	22 Cobham Street, Gravesend	Women, Tuesdays : 12.45—2.30 p.m. Women, Thursdays : 3—4.45 p.m. Men, Tuesdays : 11—12.45 Men, Thursdays : 4.45—6.30	Kent County Council

*Patients attend these clinics by appointment only. Applications should be made to any member of the Public Health Staff,

National Health Insurance.—The work of the Local Authority is not related to or administered in co-operation with this service.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.—The Medical Out-relief is administered by the County Council, and the work is co-ordinated with that of the Local Authority. An arrangement exists whereby applicants for an assisted milk supply from the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Service who are already in receipt of out-relief are granted milk by the Public Assistance Committee.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Visits paid by Health Visitors during the year:—

To Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	36
To Infants under 1 year of age—					
(a) First Visits	...	...	...	...	264
(b) Re-visits	...	...	...	...	1242
To Infants. age up to 5 years—					
Total Visits paid	...	...	...	...	1685

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre has continued its work successfully during the year. Sessions are held twice weekly, at which a Medical Officer attends for the purpose of advice.

Attendances—

1. Children under 1 year	...	...	...	1709
2. Children 1-5 years	..	...	...	1088
				—
Total	...	...	...	2797
				—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

The Ante-Natal Clinic has continued during the year, the average attendance being in the neighbourhood of 17.

I am indebted to the various Midwives of the town for their co-operation, upon which the success of the Clinic largely depends.

No. of Sessions held	...	...	...	11
No. of Patients in attendance	...	...	...	101

With the appointment of Dr. Andrew McAllister, as part-time Obstetric Specialist, a considerable advance in Maternity and Child Welfare has been made during the year under review.

Comparison of Visits Paid by Health Visitors.

	1930	1931
To Infants under 1 year	1832	1506
To Infants 1 to 5 years	2328	1685
To Expectant Mothers	21	36
	<hr/> 4181	<hr/> 3227

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic have increased from 108 to 182. This Clinic is now fully established and in its third year. It is anticipated that an additional session will have to be provided in 1932, as the attendances are too large to be dealt with comfortably in an afternoon.

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1921.

Cow's and Dried Milk supplied, year ending 31st December, 1930 :—

Value of Milk supplied Free in Necessitous cases	£41	7s.	od.
Total Value of Milk supplied	£304	9s.	2d.
Total Cost to Committee	£41	7s.	od.

It is a great pleasure to record once again the excellent work carried out by my colleague, Dr. Maude Bennett, who acts as Assistant Medical Officer in charge of the Clinic.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (LOCAL RECORDS).

Total notification of Births, including Stillbirths ...	302
Notified by Medical Practitioners	116
Notified by Certified Midwives	179
Otherwise Notified	7
Total Births Registered	302
Total Stillbirths	7

SECTION I. CHILDREN ACT, 1908: INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

N. of Foster Mothers in the area	4
No. of Infants Registered within the area	4
Total Visits Paid by Health Visitors during the year ...	17

The conditions with regard to the above are quite satisfactory. No prosecutions have been undertaken or warnings given during the year under review.

DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

No applications for treatment under the Council's scheme were received.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) *Maternity.*

The Council have an arrangement with the Essex County Council for the admission of maternity cases to Orsett Infirmary at a cost of two guineas weekly. Patients are admitted also to the Seamen's Hospital, Tilbury. Complicated maternity cases are admitted also to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, E., at a cost of 3 guineas per week. The services of the Obstetric Specialist were not requisitioned during 1931.

(b) *Orthopaedic.*

Cases are treated at the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E.1; the Cheyne Hospital, Chelsea; or Brookfields Hospital, Walthamstow, with whom the Council have arrangements. (See tables relating to Orthopaedic Treatment).

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

The Orthopaedic Scheme is carried out in conjunction with the Urban District of Tilbury, the Rural District of Orsett, and the Essex County Council. The Orthopaedic Surgeon appointed, Mr. B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S., visits the district at frequent intervals. After-Care is carried out by an Orthopaedic Masseuse three times weekly, at a specially equipped Clinic in Grays.

ORTHOPAEDIC ASCERTAINMENT CLINIC.

	County.	Grays.	Tilbury.	Orsett.	Total.
No. on Register—1st Jan., 1931	202	15	39	19	275
„ „ 31st Dec. 1931	209	12	45	13	279
„ Discharged as cured, &c.	84	8	47	8	147
„ of new cases reported	91	5	53	2	151
„ „ cases treated in Hospital	17	2	6	...	25
„ „ in Hospital 31/12/31	1	...	...	...	1

ORTHOPAEDIC AFTER-CARE CLINIC.

	County.	Grays.	Tilbury.	Orsett.	Total
No. of cases on Register, Jan. 1931	153	16	32	9	210
„ „ „ Dec. 1931	183	15	41	12	251
„ „ discharged as cured ...	58	8	8	3	77
„ „ other reasons	6	...	12	...	18
„ new cases during year	94	7	29	6	136
„ attendances during year	1163	84	150	35	1432
Nature of treatment recd. .					
(a) Exercises	46	...	...	...	46
(b) Massage & muscle re-education	15	3	...	...	18
(c) Superintendence of Applicances	22	3	8	1	34
(d) Wedges & After-Care	134	9	35	11	189
(e) Breathing Exercises ...	10	...	1	...	11

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION. ORSETT DISTRICT.

Annual Report of School Medical Inspector for year ending
31st December, 1931.

I am pleased to record an increase in almost every branch of the School Medical work of this district during the year 1931. This may be attributed to the provision of extra school medical inspectors and to the fact that arrears of inspection amounting to sixteen Departments, outstanding from 1930, were completed. To facilitate comparison the figures for both years appear side by side.

One of the most unsatisfactory features of the work of the district consists of the non-provision of a whole-time Dentist. This, as stated in last year's report, is a most pressing need. The part-time Dentist has been so fully occupied in treating urgent cases that dental inspections for conservative treatment has not been carried out. It will be seen that during the year only one School received a dental inspection. The School Dentist arranges to carry out one inspection per month on the third Tuesday. Owing to the continual congestion of the waiting list almost every one of these occasions has had to be used as an extra Dental Extraction Clinic. The present arrangements are utterly inadequate, and I hope the matter will receive early attention.

The Orthopaedic Clinic has continued to carry out useful work, and it is to be hoped that changes in the personnel have finished. The After-Care Clinic is staffed by lady members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, for whose help I am indebted. One point attaches to this which cannot be emphasised too strongly. The School Nurses are employed half-time on school medical duties and half-time by Grays and Tilbury Councils respectively. With the increase in the former great care has been necessary to ensure that County work should not encroach upon the local Councils' time, and should the voluntary workers withdraw their help at any time it will be absolutely impossible to maintain the After-Care Clinic without additional assistance.

The local treatment scheme at Tilbury Hospital for the removal of tonsils and adenoids continued very satisfactorily during the year. Owing to the small number of patients who can be operated upon at one session a long waiting list has been inevitable and a large number of extra Clinics have been held, and my thanks are due to the authorities of Tilbury Hospital for their readiness in granting the use of the operating theatre.

The Refraction Clinic brought some regrettable facts to my notice. Over-study, reading by artificial light, and excessive homework were responsible for many cases of eyestrain, and this was particularly noticeable amongst scholarship students and pupils of the higher grade schools. Education gained at the expense of eyesight is dearly bought.

SIGHT-SAVING (MYOPE) CLASS.

This is held at Quarry Hill School, Grays, and children from all parts of the Orsett district are admitted.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
No. on Register 1/1/31	8	10
No. admitted during year	3	1
No. discharged during year	1	1
No. on Register 31/12/31	10	10

Reason for Discharge—

Left District	—	1
Attained School-leaving age and found employment	1	—

Classification of Visional Defects—

Myopia	12
Cataract	2
Dislocation of lenses	1
Ditto with Myopia	1
Nystagmus	1
Ditto with Myopic astigmatism	1
Strabismus	1
Myopia, Cataract, Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

The children are divided into Division 1 (Infants), Division 2 (Juniors 8-11 years), and Division 3 (Seniors over 11 years).

Educational Matter.—Prior to December, 1931, all reading matter had to be hand written, thus limiting its scope and quantity. In December, however, some American reading books were purchased, printed in specially large type on unglazed paper, and these have proved of great assistance to the pupils. It is to be regretted that British publishers seem unable to produce literature so eminently suitable in size and text, particularly as American spelling varies from the English to a considerable degree.

Physical Exercises.—The problem of physical training and games received attention during the latter part of the year. It has been thought proper that children in attendance at the Myope School should receive training of this kind in their own class rather than with a neighbouring school, and the matter of the provision of suitable games, etc., is now under consideration. Organised games and country dancing form part of the curriculum.

Handwork.—Manual skill must necessarily play an important part in the lives of these children, and I am pleased to report that in a Handwork Competition held in this district five scholars were successful with cane basketwork, in which they competed against children of normal vision.

There is no doubt that the Myope Class fills a gap between the elementary school and the blind school. The children would be out of place in either of the latter, but are cared for very efficiently in the class. Although a small branch of the school medical service it is a very important one.

MINOR AILMENT TREATMENT CLINICS.

	<i>Grays.</i>		<i>Tilbury.</i>	
	1930	1931	1930	1931
No. of Individual Children treated ...	935	1245	1119	1261
Total number of attendances made				
during year	2021	3332	3618	3697
(Excluding Dental Clinic).				

EYE CLINIC.

Owing to the kind assistance of Dr. W. A. M. Stewart a larger number of Refraction Clinics were held than in 1930. A number of extra sessions were held, thus keeping the long waiting list within reasonable proportions. Owing to the greater amount of inspection carried out in the Schools more cases of defective vision were discovered, and if these cases are to be dealt with promptly similar assistance will be necessary in 1932, as owing to the time required for each refraction only a small number can be performed at each session.

No. of Refractions during 1930—251. During 1931—283.

No. of Glasses prescribed 1930—133. During 1931—232

In addition to these cases, a large number of re-tests and minor defects were seen. The attention of the N.S.P.C.C. to several cases produced the desired effect upon the parents.

TONSILS AND ADENOID CLINICS.

No. of cases operated upon during 1930—92. During 1931—151.

During the year it will be seen that a large increase in the number of cases operated upon took place. Owing to the co-operation of Drs. Barrow, Hawes and Bennett and the Authorities of Tilbury Hospital the waiting list has been kept within reasonable proportions. At the close of the year arrangements were made that all children over the age of thirteen should remain in Hospital for at least one night. Co-operation with such Societies as the Hospital Savings Association, London Midland and Scottish Railway, and all local benevolent associations continued during the year.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

One school was inspected during 1930—Lansdowne Road School, Tilbury.

<i>Children Inspected.</i>	<i>Offered Treatment.</i>	<i>Age Groups.</i>
182	129	5-7—105 7-9—77

SUMMARY OF WORK AT DENTAL CLINIC.

		Teeth		Gas		Fillings.		Operations
Children Attend.		extracted	Tem.	Per.	Cases.	Tem.	Per.	
1930	785 930	2103	167	708	95	121	63	
1931	1240 1365	2704	469	934	91	138	28	

I have again to remark that a vast amount of dental disease is unascertained. The waiting list has made it impossible for inspections and conservative treatment to be undertaken. Present treatment is confined almost exclusively to the relief of pain and not, as it should be, to prevention. Although 1,240 cases have been treated there are still about 100 outstanding, and I do not anticipate that the work will reduce during 1932. The Dentist has been fully occupied with cases found during routine inspections, and until these are dealt with it would be unwise to add to the waiting list the results of dental inspections.

SCHOOL BATHS.

The figure under this heading shows a reduction from the previous year.

	1930	1931
Grays	3990	2664
Tilbury	6742	4601

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

No. of places in the School	...	...	60
No. of vacancies, 1/1/31	...	...	9
No. of children admitted during the year	...	...	67
No. of children discharged during year	...	...	58
<i>Reasons for Discharge.</i>			
Fit for ordinary school	...	...	38
L.C.C. tuberculosis contacts returned to London	...	...	5
Removed from District	...	...	4
Attained school-leaving age	...	...	3
Unfit for open-air treatment (rheumatic, etc.)	...	...	3
Non-attendance	...	...	2
Orthopaedic cases removed to Hospital	...	...	1
Other reasons	...	...	2

Admissions.

Recommended by School Medical Inspector	...	...	57
Recommended by Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	6
Recommended by Private Practitioners	...	...	4

Weight and Height.—During the first half-year 76 per cent. of the scholars showed increased weight, while 8 per cent. lost weight and 16 per cent. remained stationary. In the second half-year every child recorded an increase in weight, while throughout the year the scholars showed advances in height. This is very satisfactory.

Washing Accommodation.—In my half-yearly report to the Open-air School Sub-Committee in July, 1931, appeared the following remarks :—

"The Register numbers 33 boys and 27 girls, but only two wash basins apiece are provided in the cloakrooms. I submit that in a school where a considerable portion of the staff's time is occupied in teaching the principles of health and cleanliness these are inadequate. The County School Medical Officer comments on the same in his Annual Report for 1930, and suggests that they should be augmented."

These remarks, with little modification, still apply, and I hope that the matter will receive early attention.

General.

The value of the School to this district is unquestionable. Many expressions of gratitude have been received from parents, who show a pleasing co-operation with the medical and teaching staffs. Parents of children discharged from the school receive a letter setting out the health routine thereof, and explaining how it could be continued at home, emphasis being placed upon the need for its regular observance. Cases of malnutrition coming from homes where unemployment and poverty exist are frequent, and the improvement wrought in the children's health by a course of open-air instruction is very satisfactory.

In a school where no two children may be suffering from the same condition, knowledge of the domestic circumstances, etc. is very useful, and owing to the keen interest displayed by the teaching staff in each individual scholar this is usually available. Credit is due to them for their help in this direction.

I am indebted to Inspector F. E. Sacrett for the under-mentioned details of work carried out in the district by the

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Number of new complaints received 41

Details of new cases :

Neglect to obtain medical treatment ... 18

Ill-treatment 3

General neglect 14

Miscellaneous 5

Advice Sought 1

Cases reported by—

General Public 15

Other 2

M.O.H., School M.O. and School

Attendance Officer 24

Number of Offenders in all cases, 73—Males 34, Females 39.

Number of Children in all cases, 84—Boys 50, Girls 34.

Of the 14 cases reported by the School Officials all were for Neglect in various forms.

In all cases warning by the Officer had the effect of improving conditions, or of the parents taking steps to provide the necessary medical attention.

One hundred and ninety-seven supervision visits were made respecting these cases. The above figures represent an increase over 1930. I am of opinion that a prosecution, followed upon conviction by a sharp sentence, would act as a moral deterrent to habitual offenders.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The water of the district is supplied by the South Essex Water Company, and is on the "Constant System."

The water possesses 23 degrees of hardness, but is of an excellent standard of purity. No complaints concerning the quality of the water have been received during the year, and no samples have been taken for analysis.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Apart from the River Thames, upon the North Bank of which the town of Grays is situate, there are no rivers in the area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—With the exception of the Lodge Estate, mentioned below, the greater part of the district is efficiently sewered. I am indebted to the Works Manager of the Thurrock, Grays and Tilbury Joint Sewerage Board for the following particulars.

The Works are situated one-and-threequarter miles N.E. of Tilbury Station, and consists of Sewage Disposal Works with Sedimentation Tanks and Circular Revolving Distributors on Bacterial beds.

Total volume of sewage pumped.

					<i>Gallons.</i>
1927	...	...	...	...	410,706,000
1928	...	...	...	...	429,081,000
1929	...	...	...	...	474,012,000
1930	...	...	...	...	468,993,000
1931	...	...	...	...	461,529,500

Average number of gallons dealt with per day—1,264,464.

LODGE ESTATE.—In my Annual Reports for the years 1924 to 1930 attention has been called to the unmade streets on the above Estate. Although a commencement has been made in regard to the construction of sewers in certain of them, yet there still exists a considerable number of houses with cesspools. The number at the end of the year 1931 is given as approximately 120.

Once again I must comment upon the fact that another year has elapsed and these streets are in precisely the same condition as before. I stated in my Report for last year that these unmade streets are a definite menace to the child population of the area, and I must repeat these remarks for the year 1931. It seems very regrettable indeed that an Urban District should exist with this uncivilised state of affairs in its midst.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Every house in the district is now supplied with a proper closet and flushing apparatus.

SCAVENGING AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Every house is supplied with a portable galvanised iron dustbin of approved type. The Council's dustmen report all cases of defective dustbins to the Sanitary Inspector on cards provided for that purpose. The collection of household refuse is weekly, and I am indebted to the Surveyor for the following details:

Total Cost of Collection and Disposal of Refuse ..	£3,190
No. of Tons of Refuse Collected	3654
Cost per Head of Population (approx.)	3s. 6d.

This is an increase over 1930.

Efforts to impress the public with the necessity of burning all combustible refuse have proved useless.

There is no reason why waste paper and kitchen refuse should not be burned at home, with a saving to the rates.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Nature of Inspections.	Number.	NOTICES			
		Informal	Formal	Compl'd with	Out-standing
Dwelling Houses	783	455	28	480	3
Disinfections	114	114	...	114	...
Factories	42	5	...	5	...
Workshops	38	3	...	3	...
Slaughterhouses	551	1	...	1	...
Cowsheds, Dairies, Milkshops	86	1	...	1	...
Bakehouses	31	...	...	...	...
Butchers' Shops	408	4	...	4	...
Overcrowding	5	5	...	2	3
Drainage Defects	53	53	...	53	...
Dustbins Provided	108	108	...	108	...
Fishshops	296	...	...	...	...
Tents, Vans, Sheds, W.C. Pans, Cisterns and Pails	40	28	...	28	...
Houses Cleansed	124	124	...	124	...
Schools	15	...	...	...	...
Totals	2694	901	28	923	6

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year, and from time to time, observations upon various factory chimneys have been recorded. The only complaint worthy of notice is that of cement dust in the western portion of the town.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1—Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories— (including Factory Laundries)	19	Nil	Nil
Workshops— (including Workshop Laundries)	21	1	„
Workshops— other than Outworkers' Premises)	13	—	„
Total	53	1	Nil

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of offences in respect to which pro- secutions were insti- tuted. (5)
<i>Nuisances under Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	..	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	..	...	...	...
Sanitary accommo- dation { insufficient { unsuitable or defective { not separate for sexes ... ..	.........	.........	.........	.........
Offences under the Factory & Work- shop Acts—	...	...	...	...
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Offences (excluding offences relating to outwork, and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Fac- tories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order 1921).	...	...	...	...
Total	1	1	Nil	Nil

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 6 bakehouses within the district, and during the year 18 Inspections were made, and all were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses : No. Registered	...	...	...	6
Factories : No. Registered	...	...	...	21
Workshops : No. Registered	...	...	...	28
„ No. of Inspections	...	...	...	53

The following trades represented :—

Factories—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bootmakers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quarries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sleeper Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shipbuilders and Breakers	...	...	...	...	...	2

Workshops—

Printers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Garages	...	...	...	...	...	8
Van Builders	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Decorators	...	...	...	...	...	10

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one Common Lodging House in the district containing accommodation for 50 Males. During the year 19 visits were paid to the same, and no offence against the Bye-Laws was detected.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades within the district.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Disposal of the Dead—

The arrangements operating in the district are adequate, an excellent cemetery existing in the north-eastern part of the town.

Mortuary—

The utterly inadequate accommodation and equipment of the mortuary have been mentioned in my Reports for previous years. In this respect Grays lags far behind most communities of similar size, and I am pleased to report that a new building is in the course of construction, and will probably be completed in the very near future.

Schools—

These are visited periodically by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. There is a certain amount of overcrowding in the older schools, but it is possible that re-arrangement of certain classes during 1932 may obviate this trouble. The sanitary accommodation is fairly satisfactory, minor defects being reported to the local Education Sub-Committee. One new school, the John Henry Burrows Intermediate, containing accommodation for both sexes, was completed and opened during the year. This is ideally situated, on high ground on the Council's housing estate.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928—

There are no premises in Grays on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	785
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	2355
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses—included under sub-head (1) above—which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	451
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	451
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(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	458

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 ... 402

4. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 28

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By Owners ... 28

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 17

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... 14

(b) By local Authority in default of owners ... —

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... —

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

E. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—
- (a) By owners Nil
- (b) By local authority in default of owners ... —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... —
- F. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*—

Number of Dairies on Register	...	...	7
„ Milkshops on Register	...	...	3
„ Cowsheds on Register	...	...	1

There are seven retailers of Grade “A” milk and two retailer of Grade “A” (T.T.). There is considerable competition amongst the retailers in the district, which appears to have resolved itself into an effort to supply the public with the highest grade of milk at a price within reach of all. This is all to the public good.

The Council have an arrangement with the Counties Public Health Laboratories for the examination of milk samples. During 1931 the following results were obtained upon samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector :—

No.	Date taken.	Bacterial count per 1 c.c.	B. Coli present in c.c.
1.	12th March	26,000	0.1
2.	„	16,300	1.0
3.	„	146,000	0.01
4.	5th May	46,000	0.001

5.	„	...	...	76,000	...	0.001
6.	„	...	...	63,000	...	0.001
7.	31st August	...	...	790,000	...	0.00001
8.	„	...	...	378,000	...	0.0001
9.	„	...	...	840,000	...	0.00001
10.	11th October	...	...	180,000	...	0.1
11.	„	...	...	96,000	...	0.01
12.	„	...	...	68,000	...	Absent in 1 c.c.

Samples 1, 2 and 12 are very good, but 7, 8 and 9 are the reverse, and the retailers were warned that some improvement was necessary. The high B. Coli figures in these samples is an indication of manurial contamination which is, of course, due to lack of cleanliness during production. The addresses of the producers were outside the Urban District, so the facts were notified to the appropriate authorities for attention. That this action produced effect can be seen by the following comparison :—

Samples 7 and 12 were taken from the same retailer.

„	8 and 10	„	„
„	9 and 11	„	„

(b) *Meat and Other Foods—*

No. of Slaughterhouses on Register—

(a)	Licensed	...	...	...	...	3
(b)	Registered	...	...	...	...	2
	Visits paid	...	...	...	...	551

Number of Animals Slaughtered—

				1930.	1931.
Beasts	...	...	...	676	758
Sheep	...	...	...	1560	2622
Swine	...	...	...	1423	2702
Calves	...	...	...	372	183
Lambs	...	...	...	241	284
				4272	6549

Butchers' and Fishmongers' Premises.

These are inspected at frequent intervals for the detection of foodstuffs in an unsound state.

Unsound food surrendered—

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	1112 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	840 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	402 lbs.
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	110
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.

(c) Adulteration of Foods, etc.

Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 1928.

Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923-1927.

Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923-1927.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations,
1925-1927.

The Essex County Council is the Authority under all the above, and complaints received by this Department have been sent to them.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This is carried out under the authority of the County Council at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

(e) Nutrition.

Articles by the Medical Officer of Health on diet, food values, etc., appear in the local Press at intervals, and advice is given by the Health Visitors at the Welfare Centre.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
during 1931.

DISEASE.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	4	4	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	30	22	...
Diphtheria	...	...	*42	37	...
Pneumonia	...	...	25	...	12
Puerperal Pyrexia...	...	...	3	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	5	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	1	1
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	...	2	...	...
TOTALS	...	...	113	66	13

* Includes 3 cases wrongly diagnosed.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Treated			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Noti- fied	At Home	Hos- pital				
...

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken during the year under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 13 cases less than in 1930. In households where home isolation is possible this is carried out. General experience throughout the country indicates that this is quite satisfactory, and providing that the person in charge of the patient takes all necessary precautions, does not lead to secondary cases. From a financial viewpoint the practice should be encouraged.

Diphtheria.

This also shows a decrease. Several of the above cases were diagnosed as the result of swabs taken by the Health Visitors in cases of discharge from the ears and nose, and it is possible that this action prevented spread of infection.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

There is very little demand for serum, only 11 packets being issued during the year. Antitoxin is available at the Public Health Department and after office hours at the Police Station, Grays. Thanks are due to the Superintendent of Police, Grays, for his ready co-operation in making this facility possible.

Schick Testing.

No Schick Testing or Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out during 1931. I anticipate that during 1932 the question of its adoption in the Urban District will receive consideration.

Typhoid Fever.

This disease is almost unknown nowadays, which may be attributed to the efficient water supply and cleanly conditions under which food, ice-cream, etc., is handled. The source of infection in the only case notified could not be traced.

Pemphigus Neonatorum.

This disease became notifiable in 1930. I am satisfied that compulsory notification serves a useful purpose in this district.

Pneumonia.

Most of the cases occurred in the later months of 1931. The efficiency of notification appears to have improved, but the local Registrar's death returns indicate that a number of cases still escape notification.

Smallpox.

There were four cases, in January, June, September, and October respectively. They comprised M.62 years, F.42 years,

M. 22 years, and M. 23 years, all unvaccinated. The source of infection in the two former cases was untraced, but there was a history connecting the two latter, who were employees and acquaintances at the same works.

Enquiries in the district elicited the fact that many people in these so-called enlightened days possess remarkable ideas as to the object of vaccination.

Vaccination PREVENTS smallpox—it is not intended as a CURE for the disease. At the present time vaccination of the young adolescent for the first time is not to be recommended. The vaccination of infants soon after birth is, however, desirable. The present position of compulsory vaccination is impossible.

The fact that the Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector simplifies the control over infectious disease considerably. Names of school contacts of disease are sent periodically to the Medical Officer of Health, and followed at once by him or by the Health Visitors, who act as School Nurses under the combined medical service system.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES IN FOLLOWING
AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 "	3-4 "	4-5 "	5-10 "	10-15 "	15-20 "	20-25 "	25-35 "	35-45 "	45-65 "	65 upwards	Total
Smallpox ...									2		1	1		4
Enteric fever including Para-typhd.				1										1
Scarlet Fever		1	1	5	3	14	3		1	1		1		30
Diphtheria ...	1	3	1	1	3	16	9	4	1		3			42
Pneumonia ...		1		3	1	3	2	3		3	2	2	5	25
Puerperal Pyrexia										3				3
Erysipelas ...											1	3	1	5
Eucephalitis Lethargica								1						1
Pemphigus Neonatorum	2													2

The Medical Practitioners of the area are supplied with the necessary outfits for sending Pathological Specimens for laboratory examination, and in every case a duplicate form of result of such examination is forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

PREVALENCE OF VERMIN.

Mosquitoes.

The district suffers to some extent from the prevalence of these insects, but no special measures were taken for their suppression during the year.

Rats.

The suppression of rats is of the utmost importance in a riverside and dock area, and during the year steady efforts were made by the Sanitary Department, under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

No action has been taken under this heading except through the medium of the School Spray Baths. (See School Medical Section of this Report).

Disinfection.

Upon removal of cases of infectious disease to Hospital the patient's bedding is steam sterilised and the bedroom disinfected. Science has proved that disinfection as carried out is of little value, and experience in all parts of the country where extensive disinfection after a case of Infectious Disease has occurred has been discontinued confirms the fact that no ill-effects accrue. Far too much faith is placed by the public in disinfectant fluids—actually, sunlight, fresh air, and soap and water are of equal or greater value.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1 to 5							1	1
5 to 10			1	1			1	1
10 to 15		1	1	5				1
15 to 25	3	3			1	2	1	
25 to 35	4	2			2	1		
35 to 45	3		2		1			
45 to 55	7				2		1	
55 to 65	1				1			
65 upwards	1				3			
Totals	19	6	4	6	10	3	4	3
	25		10		13		7	

There were three deaths of unnotified cases, the ratio of deaths of notified cases to unnotified cases being 100 to 15. The efficiency of notification is generally satisfactory. Out of 25 new cases 12, or 48 per cent., occurred between the ages of 15 and 35 years. I am of opinion that this proportion would be reduced if skilled treatment was sought immediately any grounds for suspicion arose.

Number of cases on Register at 31st December—

		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1930	...	59	51	36	22	168
1931	...	65	39	52	25	181

Diluted disinfectant and crepe paper handkerchiefs are supplied free of charge to patients upon application to the Sanitary Inspector. Leaflets have been prepared which set out the various facilities available and details of household hygiene to prevent the spread of infection. A copy is sent to each patient upon receipt of a primary notification from the practitioner in attendance. Disinfection of bedding is carried out after death, removal, or admission to sanatorium.

Sanatoria.

Beds are available at Orsett Infirmary for treatment of Tuberculosis, and it is customary to admit patients whose condition is such that they would not benefit by the regular sanatorium treatment of the County Council establishments, or patients who are awaiting admission thereto. Patients are admitted to Harold Court (males only), Black Notley, High Beech, Chingford, and Colchester Sanatoria. Harold Court acts as a clearing station, and transfers patients in whom the prognosis is hopeful to other establishments on the South Coast and elsewhere. In last year's Report I commented upon the shortage of beds for advanced cases of Tuberculosis. I wish to repeat my remarks. In this locality the only establishment accepting such cases is Orsett Infirmary, and many cases are prejudiced against entering any premises which are or have been connected with the Poor Law or newly-christened Public Assistance Authorities. The result is that they stay at home and spread infection.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken under either of the above during 1931.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Essex County Council have an arrangement with Kent County Council whereby patients living in the Riverside area attend the latter's clinic at 22, Cobham Street, Gravesend. In necessitous cases travelling expenses are paid by the County Council. I am indebted to Dr. R. Erskine Gray, Medical Officer at the Clinic, for some interesting and comprehensive statistics relating to the year's work, in which is stated that 82 patients from Essex were found to be suffering from venereal disease and 26 from non-venereal conditions. The attendance figures—(see under)—although not divided into particular districts, are illuminating :

<i>Attendances.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
To see Medical Officer ...	7943	2012	9955
For intermediate treatment ...	5020	950	5970
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12963	2962	14925
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Essex contributed 20 per cent. of the new infection amongst males, while 28 per cent. was estimated to have been contracted abroad. Of the total new infection 55 per cent. gave a history of one or more previous infections.

Grays.



