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ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.


Annual Report
on the
PUBLIC HEALTH
of the
Administrative County of the
Isle of Ely,
For the Year 1945,

With Summary of Reports of District
Medical Officers of Health,

by

HILDA R. HAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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LITTLEPORT, ISLE OF ELY :
G. T. WATSON, PRINTER, VICTORIA STREET.
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ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee.

PAYNE, H. (Chairman).

ARMIGER, J. C.	MALLETT, H. R.
BARKER, A. S.	MARTIN, H. G.
BUTT, B.	MARTIN, H. J.
CHILDS, L.	NEWELL, G. W.
COLLINGWOOD, J. S.	PAYNE, H.
COVILL, S. E.	PAYNE, J. W.
HERBERT, F. F. (Rev.)	ROSEBERRY, F. G.
KIDD, A. J.	ROWE, L. W. H.
LANGFORD, F. J.	STEEL, C. W.
LAWRENCE, S. C.	WEBB, W. F. R.
LEEDING, A. C.	YEOMAN, S. G.
LEFEVRE, H.	

Number 23. Quorum 5.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

All the Public Health Committee and the following Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. COLLINS CLAYTON, Wisbech.

Miss S. M. MARTIN, Littleport.

Mrs. F. SOLE, March.

Number 26. Quorum 5.

Mental Deficiency Committee.

All the Public Health Committee and the following Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. COLLINS CLAYTON, Wisbech.

Miss S. M. MARTIN, Littleport.

Mrs. F. SOLE, March.

Number 26. Quorum 5.

Staff.

County Medical Officer of Health.

HILDA R. HAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (appointed 25/5/44)

Deputy County Medical Officer.

W. DODD, M.D., Ch.B. (on Service, resigned 28/7/45)

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

E. G. NIVEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Superintendent Health Visitor.

D. F. WOOLSTON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

(d)—Council Officials (whole-time).

M. ABBOTT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (appointed 2/7/45)
 R. C. BOYD, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Pt. I.) H.V. Cert. (resigned 12/11/45)
 H. L. MORRIS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 C. A. NEW, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 M. OLIPHANT MARK, S.C.M., Cert. of R.S.I. (Inspector of Nuisances)
 E. E. REDHEAD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 M. E. ROSE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Bd. of Ed.
 E. T. TAYLOR, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 M. E. WOOLCOCK, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

(b)—County Midwives.

J. B. D. BENSON, S.C.M. (appointed 6/2/39)
 A. L. GUIVER, S.C.M. (appointed 16/6/37)
 F. MILLAR, S.C.M. (appointed 1/7/37)

(c)—Employed by District Nursing Associations (part-time).

The Nurse or Nurses at:—

Little Downham

Littleport

Clerical Staff.

H. A. HOUSE (Chief Clerk)

C. E. RUSSELL (on Service) F. RITCHIE

A. W. ROWBOTHAM (appointed 19/11/45) W. ASHTON (resigned 18/11/45)

Mrs. D. EDGOOGUE (resigned 31/12/45)

Misses D. SITCH, B. RANDALL, V. PRIOR (transferred 30/9/45),

P. SLAUGHTER (resigned 28/7/45), B. DOBSON (appointed 13/8/45),

E. M. PENDLE (appointed 15/10/45),

District Medical Officers under Poor Law Acts :—

J. DWYER, M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	(also Public Vaccinator).
C. H. GUNSON, M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	" " "
J. R. BARROWCLOUGH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..	..	" " "
A. PAIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..	..	" " "
A. BERNARD, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	" " "
S. GOVERNOR, M.B., B.Ch.	..	..	" " "
J. M. HISLOP, M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	" " "
S. J. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch.	..	..	(also Public Vaccinator).
G. H. LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..	..	" " "
G. B. DAVIS, M.A., M.D.	..	..	" " "
J. W. C. FAIRWEATHER, M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	" " "
J. B. BAMFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..	..	" " "
W. M. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	" " "
D. E. YOUNG, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.	..	..	" " "
C. THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..	..	" " "
J. W. A. WILSON, M.D., B.Ch.	..	..	" " "

Public Analyst :—

S. GREENBERG, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Vaccination Officers :—

H. A. HOUSE (Ely, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech).

G. SHARPE (Chatteris).

LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

Urban Districts and Boroughs.	Clerks.		District Medical Officers of Health.	
1. Ely	J. E. Watkins, Esq.	..	K. S. Maurice Smith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..
2. Chatteris ..	C. Dobb, Esq. ..	..	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.	..
3. March	R. E. Dixon, Esq. ..	..	S. Governor, M.B., Ch.B.	..
4. Whittlesey ..	H. Kewish, Esq. ..	..	W. A. D. Lawson, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	..
5. Wisbech ..	J. E. Siddall, Esq. ..	..	H. L. Groom, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..

Rural Districts.	Clerks.		District Medical Officers of Health.	
1. Ely	C. Wickens, Esq. ..	..	K. S. Maurice-Smith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..
2. North Witchford	A. F. Sharman, Esq.	..	C. Thomas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..
3. Thorney	A. F. Whittome, Esq.	..	J. R. F. Popplewell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..
4. Wisbech ..	A. W. Laidman, Esq.	..	H. L. Groom, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	..

Port.

Port of Wisbech	J. E. Siddall, Esq.	R. E. Crockatt, M.B., Ch.B.
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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Isle of Ely County Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health.

The year 1945 will be ever memorable for its historic events, but as no new legislative measures of note were passed, it was a period of stabilisation and steady growth in the existing Public Health Services.

The County Hospital began to function increasingly as a General Hospital for the middle section of the area and the demands on the County Maternity Home and on the beds available for local residents in the Grange Emergency Maternity Home increased considerably. A new Infant Welfare Centre was opened at Prickwillow. Possibly the most interesting event of the year, and one most pregnant of future developments, was the co-option on to the Public Health Committee of two members of the British Medical Association.

There were no large epidemics and the principal mortality rates were lower than in the previous year and also lower than the general rates. Infant mortality reached a new low level and it is greatly to be hoped that this steady downward trend will continue. The stillbirth rate unfortunately showed a rise, but it is felt that further improvements in the ante-natal and intra-natal facilities will effect a reduction in this rate, which is however, no higher than that obtaining in many rural counties.

Such statistics as are available with regard to the incidence of illness indicated that the general health of the area was on the upgrade. Among the sanitary districts housing continued to be the most acute problem and one for which there appears to be no hope of a rapid solution.

Staffing difficulties, particularly among the various categories of nursing staff, have not eased since the war ended. As the year wore on it became increasingly evident that this was a problem with deep rooted causes, and created principally by the greatly increased demand for hospitalisation.

I desire to record my deepest gratitude to my own staff for their loyal and willing services. I also wish to express my gratitude to other members of the County Hall staff, to the District Medical Officers of Health and to the general practitioners for their courtesy and assistance.

I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking all voluntary workers in clinics and in the County Hospital for their valuable contribution to the smooth running of the services.

As the routine work of this Department has grown, increasing demands have been made on the members of the Public Health and allied Committees. I wish to express my deep appreciation of the unflagging interest they have shown and to tender my thanks for their continued help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HILDA R. HAY.

Administrative County of the Isle of Ely.

The Annual Reports for the year 1945, from the Medical Officers of Health for the Districts within the Administrative County, as submitted to the Isle of Ely County Council, in pursuance of Section 24, of the Local Government Act, 1888, were received as follows:—

	Area.		Medical Officer.	Date Received.	Style.
Urban Districts	Chatteris ..	..	Dr. R. E. Nix	.. Report not to hand	
	Ely ..	..	Dr. K. S. Maurice-Smith	Report not to hand	
	March ..	..	Dr. S. Governor	.. Report not to hand	
	Whittlesey ..	..	Dr. W. A. D. Lawson	Oct. 9th, 1946	Typewritten
	Wisbech ..	..	Dr. H. L. Groom	.. Report not to hand	
Rural Districts	Ely ..	..	Dr. K. S. Maurice-Smith	Report not to hand	
	North Witchford	..	Dr. C. Thomas	.. Nov. 7th, 1946	.. Printed
	Thorney ..	..	Dr. Popplewell	.. Sept. 13th, 1946	Typewritten
	Wisbech ..	..	Dr. H. L. Groom	.. Sept. 4th, 1946	Typewritten
	Wisbech Port	..	Dr. Crockatt	.. Report not to hand	
	San. Authority				

Area of Administrative County (land & water)...	acres	239,794
Rateable Value	£	300,201
Produce of 1d. rate 1945/46	£	1,213
Population (Census 1931)		77,705
Population (estim. to middle of year 1945)		81,010
No. of live Births in the year	<div>males 747 { Legitimate 665 Illegitimate 82 } females 717 { Legitimate 633 Illegitimate 84 }</div>	1464
Birth-rate per 1,000		18.07
No. of Still-births in the year	<div>males 21 { Legitimate 20 Illegitimate 1 } females 17 { Legitimate 16 Illegitimate 1 }</div>	38
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births		25.29
Total No. of Deaths in the year ...	<div>males 492 } females 493 }</div>	985
Death-rate per 1,000		12.16
No. of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	<div>from sepsis 0 other causes 2 Total 2</div>	<div>Rate per 1,000 total Births — 1.33 1.33</div>
Number dying under 1 year old	<div>males 29 { Legitimate 28 Illegitimate 1 } females 30 { Legitimate 27 Illegitimate 3 }</div>	59
Infantile Mortality-rate (per 1,000 Births)	<div>in legitimates 42.37 } in illegitimates 24.09 }</div>	40.03
In males ... 38.82	<div>in legitimate males... 42.11 in illegitimate males 12.19</div>	
In females ... 41.84	<div>in legitimate females 42.65 in illegitimate females 35.71</div>	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		7
England and Wales—		
Birth-rate		16.1
Death-rate		11.4
Infantile Mortality-rate		46.0
Maternal Mortality-rate per 1,000 total births		1.46

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General has supplied the figure of 81,010 as the estimated mid-year population for 1945.

Statistics for the past eleven years are given for comparative purposes.

1935	82,500
1936	81,700
1937	81,590
1938	81,480
1939	81,620 (for births)
	83,760 (for deaths)
1940	87,270
1941	90,540
1942	84,970
1943	83,240
1944	82,030
1945	81,010

The birth-rate has fallen slightly from 18.71 to 18.07 and is above that for the country as a whole. The death-rate is slightly lower than last year.

BIRTHS.

The births in the Urban Districts numbered 851 (439 males and 412 females), this being a birth-rate of 17.25 per thousand of population.

In the Rural Districts the births numbered 613 (308 males and 305 females), the Rural birth-rate being 19.35 per thousand.

The total births for the County numbered 1464 (747 males and 717 females), a birth-rate of 18.07 per thousand. This compares with a birth-rate for England and Wales of 16.1 per thousand.

The illegitimate births in the Urban Districts numbered 98, a rate of 115.16 per 1,000 births. Of this 98, 47 were males and 51 females, giving rates of 107.6 and 123.78 respectively.

For the Rural Districts there were 68 illegitimate births, a rate of 110.91. Of these, 35 were males and 33 females, giving rates of 113.64 and 108.2 respectively.

Taking the County as a whole the illegitimate births numbered 166, or a rate of 113.39. There were 82 male and 84 female illegitimate births, and this gives rates of 109.77 and 117.15 respectively.

The birth-rate shows a slight fall as compared with last year, and this also applies to the Urban and Rural Areas. The rate for the Isle is still above that for the whole country, the respective rates being 17.25 and 16.1.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

These have shown a marked increase since 1941 and are one of the most undesirable aftermaths of war. Figures for the past 9 years are given.

Year	Illegitimate Births
1937	63
1938	61
1939	59
1940	61
1941	64
1942	82
1943	98
1944	149
1945	166

A further increase occurred in 1945 but was not so marked as in the previous year.

It is anticipated that the 1945 figure will be a peak and that with the gradual re-establishment of normal family life a rapid decline should set in.

DEATHS.

The deaths in 1945 numbered 985 compared with 1011 in 1944. Of these 985 deaths (492 males and 493 females), 618 occurred in the Urban areas and 367 in the Rural, giving a death-rate per thousand of 12.16.

The birth and death-rates for the Isle for the past 11 years are shown in Table I. together with the rates for England and Wales. When being compared, due allowance must be made for certain differences in the computation of these rates since 1938. Prior to the war a factor was supplied to each Local Authority by the Registrar General which when applied to the crude death rate corrected it for comparison with the general rate. It has been impossible to supply this factor since the war. Then the population figures on which these rates are calculated were more approximately correct up to 1938. Since the war, although the births and deaths have been adjusted for transfers, the estimated population on which these rates are based does not include non-civilians. Deaths among non-civilians are not included in the death rates.

TABLE I.

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	Isle of Ely	England and Wales	Isle of Ely	England and Wales
1935	16.42	14.7	10.16	11.7
1936	16.24	14.8	*10.88	12.1
1937	15.97	14.9	*10.77	12.4
1938	15.32	15.1	*10.63	11.6
1939	14.99	15.0	11.57	12.1
1940	13.76	14.6	12.16	14.3
1941	14.2	14.2	11.6	12.9
1942	16.76	15.8	10.55	11.6
1943	16.49	16.5	11.83	12.1
1944	18.71	17.6	12.32	11.6
1945	18.07	16.1	12.16	11.4

* Corrected Rates.

It will be noted that the birth rate in the Isle remains consistently higher than rates for England and Wales, and that the death rate was consistently lower until 1944.

As the principal rates are based on population figures, if the population is estimated at too high a figure, lower birth and death rates will be given than is actually the case. The converse also holds true and there is some possibility that this applies to the Isle.

The actual births and deaths registered in the Isle are given in Table II. and it will be noted that the figures for 1935 and 1945 approximate fairly closely. The population given in 1935 was 82,500 and assuming that the death rate is more or less stationary, some support is given to this claim that the population estimated for 1945 is somewhat low.

TABLE II.

ISLE OF ELY		
	Registered Births	Registered Deaths
1935	1,355	983
1936	1,327	999
1937	1,303	987
1938	1,248	973
1939	1,234	969
1940	1,201	1,071
1941	1,286	1,051
1942	1,424	897
1943	1,373	985
1944	1,535	1,011

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The death rate in infants under one year per 1,000 births was 40·3 in 1945, this being a decrease of 4 per cent.

The rate in the country as a whole was 46, being the same as for 1944.

In this county there was one death from whooping cough in children under 1 year in 1945 as against 3 in the previous year. The group labelled congenital debility and malformation shewed 21 out of the 59 infantile deaths.

The other principal cause of death under one year is pneumonia, and this accounted for 10 of the total deaths, which is one more than last year. Bad housing, overcrowding and other environmental factors undoubtedly affect this part of the rate.

The balance of the infantile deaths resulted from a variety of causes, no one of which was outstanding.

In last year's report I commented at length on problems of infant mortality, and although there has been a further very satisfactory reduction in this area, I wish to stress that many of these deaths are still preventable. This is particularly the case in those deaths registered as due to infections such as diarrhoea, bronchitis and pneumonia. The infant has not acquired the resistance an adult possesses and quite mild infections may prove fatal. Much could be done to secure a further fall in this mortality rate by a thorough comprehension of modes of transmission of infection and an enhanced standard of personal hygiene. Improvement in the methods of care of the premature infant will also save many infant lives.

We may congratulate ourselves, however, that improvement in social conditions generally and in the application of sound feeding principles to mother and child in particular, have both combined to effect a remarkable reduction in this rate. Welfare work has been very fruitful of results here.

It is of great interest to know that the infant mortality among illegitimate children is much lower than among legitimate. This is an outstanding feature of the Isle rates for 1945.

In Table III. are to be found the infant mortality rates for the past thirty-four years. It will be noted that the more or less steady tendency for this rate to fall has not been disturbed by the war, as was feared during 1941. The figure for 1945 is the lowest yet recorded for the area.

TABLE III.
INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Year	Isle of Ely	England and Wales	Year	Isle of Ely	England and Wales
1912	90·13	95	1929	83·3	74
1913	95·24	109	1930	52·19	60
1914	100·80	105	1931	58·11	66
1915	92·22	110	1932	53·68	65
1916	—	91	1933	57·7	64
1917	70·7	96	1934	58·59	59
1918	109·3	97	1935	46·49	57
1919	83·8	89	1936	60·29	59
1920	69·04	80	1937	58·35	58
1921	85·13	83	1938	56·89	53
1922	60·4	77	1939	41·96	50
1923	63·57	69	1940	50·28	55
1924	58·86	75	1941	49·15	59
1925	65·66	75	1942	50·56	49
1926	60·42	70	1943	45·88	49
1927	64·91	69	1944	44·9	46
1928	58·94	65	1945	40·3	46

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two women died in, or in consequence of child-birth, a decrease of three on the corresponding figure last year.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The deaths from these diseases in the County in 1945 comprised one from Whooping Cough, four from Influenza, and one from Encephalitis Lethargica.

The deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases are the lowest ever recorded in this County, and during 1945 there was for the first time no death recorded from diphtheria.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 19 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis (14 in males and 5 in females) during 1945. This number is a decrease of seven on that of the previous year.

The deaths from other forms of the disease numbered 10, an increase of two on the figure for the previous year.

The following are the death-rates per thousand from tuberculosis since 1926:—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1926	·506	·195	·701
1927	·568	·052	·620
1928	·810	·116	·926
1929	·614	·154	·768
1930	·476	·154	·630
1931	·412	·219	·631
1932	·458	·153	·611
1933	·456	·177	·633
1934	·489	·123	·612
1935	·436	·109	·545
1936	·392	·147	·538
1937	·453	·074	·527
1938	·294	·147	·441
1939	·358	·155	·513
1940	·447	·138	·584
1941	·298	·088	·386
1942	·189	·105	·295
1943	·372	·06	·432
1944	·292	·097	·39
1945	·235	·123	·357

It will be seen that the death-rate for the pulmonary form of the disease again shows a decrease, while the non-pulmonary rate has risen.

The rise in the rate from non-pulmonary forms of tuberculosis is somewhat disturbing. A large proportion of these deaths is traceable to infection from diseased cows, and until all milk producing herds in an area are attested free from tuberculosis, the only safe milk for children is heat treated.

County of Isle of Ely.

Causes of Death in Administrative Areas, 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Registrar's number of area.	URBAN										RURAL										Total for Urban and Rural Districts.	GRAND TOTAL.						
		Chatteris.		Ely.		March.		Whittlesey.		Wisbech.		Aggre- gate of U.D's.		Ely.		North Witchford.		Thorney.		Wisbech.				Aggre- gate of R.D's.					
		3.y.		3.x.		40		51		62		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.				F.		M.		F.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	..	28	42	55	64	72	67	55	38	80	117	290	328	90	79	36	19	6	14	70	53	202	165	492	493	985	1		
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	1		
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3. Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1		
4. Whooping Cough		
5. Diphtheria		
6. Tuberculosis of Resp'y System	..	1	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	6	2	11	3	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	14	5	10	19
7. Other Forms, Tuberculosis	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	1	3	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	3	4	6	10	10
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1	3	3		
9. Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	2	4	4		
10. Measles	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	2
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis		
13. Cancer Buc. Cav. Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	..	1	2	..	1	..	5	3	1	2	1	6	10	2	3	1	..	..	..	1	4	7	10	17	27	27	27
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	..	1	..	4	2	4	1	3	..	2	5	14	8	4	4	1	1	..	1	1	1	6	20	15	35	35	35		
15. Cancer of the Breast	1	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	3	27	9	..	10	..	1	1	3	..	1	5	45	33	14	14	14		
16. Cancer, all other	..	3	3	2	3	8	1	5	1	9	12	27	26	10	..	..	2	1	..	2	2	18	7	6	5	78	78
17. Diabetes	1	1	2	..	1	2	1	3	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	3	43	5	11	11	11		
18. Inter-cranial Vasc. Lesions	9	8	15	6	13	5	8	4	20	23	65	9	5	6	..	1	1	8	10	16	43	48	91	91	91		
19. Heart Disease	..	10	8	14	19	18	14	19	8	25	4	86	80	26	33	12	7	1	2	25	14	56	150	136	286	286	286		
20. Other Dis. of Circ. System	4	2	1	1	1	..	1	2	5	5	12	2	2	2	..	1	1	4	2	9	14	16	30	30	30		
21. Bronchitis	..	1	2	2	3	3	2	..	5	5	4	11	16	..	3	..	..	..	..	6	2	6	17	21	38	38	38

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the Administrative County of Isle of Ely in 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex.	Aggregate of Urban Districts.						Aggregate of Rural Districts.							
		All Ages.						All Ages.							
		0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65 & upwards	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65 & upwards		
ALL CAUSES	M.	290	22	2	4	33	56	173	202	7	4	3	16	34	138
	F.	328	15	7	3	20	68	215	165	15	1	3	17	28	101
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	1	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Whooping Cough	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	..	..	..	..	..
5. Diphtheria.. ..	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Tuberculosis of Resp'y System	M.	11	..	..	..	7	3	1	3	..	..	..	2	1	..
	F.	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	M.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	1	..	1	1	..
	F.	3	1	..	..	1	..	1	3	1	..	1	1	..	..
8. Syphilitic Disease	M.	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	0	..	..	..	..	1	..
9. Influenza	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
10. Measles	M.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and polioenceph. ..	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	1	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis ..	M.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F) ..	M.	6	..	..	..	..	1	5	4	..	..	..	..	3	4
	F.	10	..	..	1	6	6	3	7	..	..	..	1	1	4
14. Cancer of Stom'ch & Duodenum	M.	14	..	..	..	..	7	7	6	..	..	..	1	1	6
	F.	8	..	..	..	..	2	6	7	..	..	..	..	1	..
15. Cancer of Breast	M.	0	..	..	..	1	4	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	9	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	4	1

16. Cancer, all other Sites	M.	27	..	..	1	3	5	18	18	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	13
17. Diabetes	F.	26	..	..	..	2	7	17	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
18. Inter-Cranial Vas. Lesions	M.	5	..	..	..	..	1	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
19. Heart Disease	M.	23	..	..	..	..	3	20	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Other Dis. of Circulatory Sys.	F.	65	..	..	..	1	20	44	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	19
21. Bronchitis	M.	86	..	..	..	4	13	69	16	..	..	1	..	..	..	10	13
22. Pneumonia	F.	80	..	..	..	3	8	69	64	..	..	..	2	..	..	9	51
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	M.	5	..	..	..	..	2	3	56	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	44
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	F.	12	..	..	..	..	2	10	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	M.	11	..	..	..	..	2	8	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
26. Appendicitis	F.	16	..	..	..	1	1	13	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
27. Other Digestive Diseases	M.	13	..	..	..	..	3	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
28. Nephritis	F.	11	..	..	..	2	1	5	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	1
29. Puerperal & Post Abort. Sepsis	M.	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	F.	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31. Premature Birth	M.	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Inf't Diseases	F.	6	..	..	..	..	3	3	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1
33. Suicide	M.	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	F.	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
35. Other Violent Causes	M.	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
36. All other Causes	F.	5	..	..	..	..	2	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	M.	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
	F.	36	..	..	..	..	5	27	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	17

OTHER CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diseases of the circulatory system, that is of the heart and blood vessels, caused 464 deaths in 1945 and rank as the principal cause of death. Much organic heart disease is associated with certain forms of rheumatism and during the past few years schemes have been launched for the provision and early treatment of rheumatism, particularly of the juvenile type.

Cancer follows as the next main cause with 157 deaths. Cancer treatment schemes are still in their infancy in most parts of the country, but developments are anticipated under the National Health Service Act.

Diseases of the respiratory system caused 87 deaths, diseases of the digestive system 39, and nephritis 16 deaths.

Full details of the causes of death in the County are shewn in the tables on pages 18—21.

It is noteworthy that of the total of 985 deaths, 63% were aged 65 years or over.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

AMBULANCES.

The County Council does not operate its own ambulance service but local needs appeared to be satisfied by the various district arrangements, with the possible exception of Thorney and district.

The Urban District Councils of Wisbech, March and Ely, each provide an ambulance service and in Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey this is carried out by voluntary committees. Drawbacks to such a scheme are the lack of uniformity in the working arrangements, and various limits are enforced as to the distances which may be travelled. Then, largely owing to war-time depletion of the personnel of voluntary organisations, ambulances in certain districts are not always accompanied by an attendant.

The Volunteer Car Pool organised by the Womens' Voluntary Services, continued its most valuable service and use was repeatedly made of sitting cars to transport cases to Hospitals and to various clinics in the county.

Long distance transport of patients was on several occasions successfully carried out by Voluntary Organisations.

DISTRICT AMBULANCES.

Urban Districts and Boroughs	No. of Ambulances	Controlling Authority or Body	Where kept
Chatteris... ..	One ...	Chatteris Ambulance Committee	Messrs. Crawley & Crawley's, Chatteris
Ely	One ...	Joint Committee for Ely U.D.C. & R.D.C.	Barton Road Depot, Ely
March	One ...	March U.D.C. ...	Messrs. Peck & Packer, Garage, March
Whittlesey ...	One ...	St. John Ambulance Brigade	Messrs. Morley's Garage, West End, Whittlesey
Wisbech Borough	Two ...	Joint Committee for Borough of Wisbech, Wisbech and Marsh- land R.D.C.'s ...	Messrs. Johnson's Garage, Church Ter- race, Wisbech
Rural Districts	No. of Ambulances	Controlling Authority or Body	Where kept
Ely	See Ely U.D.C.		
North Witchford	One ...	St. John Ambulance Brigade	W. Richardson, "Ashdene," Wisbech Road, Manea

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMBULANCES.

	No. of Ambulances	Controlling Authority or Body	Where kept
Wisbech	One ...	Wisbech Joint Isolation Hospital Board	Messrs. Johnson's Garage, Church Terrace, Wisbech
Ely	One ...	Ely Joint Isolation Hospital Board ...	Isolation Hospital, Ely

LABORATORY SERVICE.

The County Council has an agreement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service whereby for the payment of an annual grant the facilities of the nearest laboratory at Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, are placed at the disposal of all doctors in the area. No limit is placed on the number of specimens which may be sent, but pathological and biochemical work is not undertaken nor are the more complicated serological tests such as the Wasserman and Kahn undertaken except for routine ante-natal investigations. The service has been of the greatest value to general practitioners in the area and in the investigation of outbreak of infections in schools or in institutions.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT—COUNTY HOSPITAL, DODDINGTON.

The County Hospital continued throughout 1945 as a Class I.A E.M.S. Hospital on 100% basis, but permission having been granted for the admission of civilian local residents, it functioned as a County General Hospital to an increasing extent as the year wore on. Local demands grew steadily and dispelled any doubts that might exist on the need for such a hospital in this locality.

PATIENT BED DAYS, 1945.

Essex cases	....	....	14679	
L.C.C. „	....	....	1497	
Service	....	....	1765	
P.O.W.	....	....	2815	
Other E.M.S. Categories	....		1059	21815
				<hr/>
Local civilians	....	....		9101
				<hr/>
				Total bed days
				30916

Large sums had been spent by the Ministry of Health at the time of the original conversion, but the alterations and additions were designed to meet the war-time emergency and, except for the operating theatre and X-ray block, the standards were not high.

The Public Health Committee therefore resolved in 1944 to embark on a programme of up-grading.

The approval of the Ministry was obtained to carry out improvements on the nurses' sitting room, the sisters' quarters, to convert part of D. block into accommodation for night nurses and to build a new kitchen, but long delays were created by shortage of man power and materials, difficulty in obtaining tenders, and above all the system of government controls then operating. By the end of the year only the alterations to the nurses' sitting room were completed. Additions to equipment were almost impossible to effect for the same reasons.

Turning from this rather disappointing picture to staff matters, there were two changes on the Resident Medical Staff, but for the greater part of the year there was a Resident Surgical Superintendent and a Resident Medical Officer of senior grade. It is with the greatest possible pleasure that I record the appointment of the following visiting consultants early in the year:—

Dr. L. B. Cole (Physician).

Mr. O. Lloyd (Gynecologist).

Mr. R. W. Butler (Orthopaedic Surgeon).

Mr. A. S. H. Walford (Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon).

Later in the year Mr. J. Lewin, of King's Lynn, was added to the staff as Consultant Surgeon.

A part-time dispenser has been maintained throughout and the services of a part-time radiographer were also arranged. It proved impossible however to obtain a physiotherapist, and replacements of nursing staff presented great problems which increased as the war went on and on occasions limited the number of admissions. Domestic staff on the whole were found not difficult to replace and no changes occurred in the male out-door staff.

The facilities available to patients were greatly extended. Out-patient clinics for general medical and surgical cases were held daily and patients were seen by the resident staff. In addition Dr. Cole commenced regular monthly sessions in January and the other consultants arranged to hold special sessions as cases accumulated. There was also the popular weekly Diagnostic Clinic held by the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

General practitioners and patients in the locality were quick to take advantage of the services offered as the following figures illustrate:—

Admissions	....	....	692
Operations	....	....	382
Out-patients			
(First attendance)	....		596

By the end of the year the number of evacuee E.M.S. cases had

The supervision of mental defectives in their own homes is now carried out by the health visitor in each district as there is no longer a special visitor for this work. The health visitors also assist in the matter of ascertainment.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

But for the war the Isle would by now have possessed its own Home for mental defectives. A site on the outskirts of March was purchased in 1936 and plans for a 100 bed institution had been finally approved by the Board of Control when the new building was stopped. In the meantime the disposal of our mental defectives in other areas is an ever increasing problem creating continual administrative difficulties and giving rise to much fruitless correspondence.

The Ely Public Assistance Institution is approved by the Board of Control for the reception of 10 females.

The Council has an agreement with the Hertfordshire County Council for 11 beds at Cell Barnes Colony.

Other cases are accommodated as and when vacancies can be secured at various institutions.

The provision of these agreements do not remotely cover our needs and the pressure for places has become most acute now that one institution after another is being closed down owing to lack of staff. The situation promises to increase in gravity.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

No change has taken place in the existing arrangements for this service. During the year two children were admitted to hospitals for treatment.

Place	Address	Surgeon	Time
Ely	Dispensary, St. Mary's Street	Dr. Roderick and Mr. Butler	2nd Thursday in each month at 11 a.m.
Wisbech	North Cambs. Hospital	Dr. Roderick and Mr. Butler	3rd Thursday in each month at 11 a.m.
Peterborough	Memorial Hospital	Mr. Sleggs	2nd Tuesday in each month at 2 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

During 1945 the only change which was effected in the schemes as described in my first report was an extension of the piped water supply to the villages of Tydd St. Giles and Newton.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE.

Following the passing of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Public Health Committee decided that the District Councils should be asked to submit their proposals and a conference be held to determine the policy to be adopted regarding nature and amount of assistance the County Council might be prepared to give to the various District Councils.

An application from the Wisbech Rural District was received and the County Council decided to make a grant of an amount not exceeding 25% of the loan charges involved.

Applications from the Ely Rural District and March Urban District Councils for assistance in connection with sewerage schemes have been received but final decision regarding the making of any grant was deferred, pending the survey of the whole area.

A conference was held on the 14th May, 1945, of members of the Public Health Committee and representatives of the Borough of Wisbech, and the Urban and Rural authorities.

It was decided to appoint a Consulting Engineer to undertake a survey and to advise upon the schemes submitted by the various District Councils. A survey was undertaken and a report received.

The suggested schemes with the Engineer's report have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for consideration.

The Wisbech Water Works Company promoted a Bill but this was subsequently withdrawn after the passing of the Water Act, 1945, and it is understood the Company now propose to apply for an Order to be made under the Act for their Scheme.

HOUSING.

Since the suspension in 1939 of action under the various Housing Acts, housing conditions have deteriorated steadily. Several factors are at work.

Condemned properties are still inhabited in many districts and shortage of labour and materials creates growing difficulties in

carrying out maintenance and repair work. The fabric of all property is suffering and dwellings have sometimes to be abandoned when the state of disrepair becomes too great.

I continued to receive "agony" letters from occupants of unsatisfactory dwellings and could only refer them to the appropriate District Councils.

Overcrowding reached a peak during 1945 due to the fact that service men and women began to be demobilised during the latter part of the year. As the marriage rates have been high ever since the war commenced, sharing of homes was the only solution to the problem of finding accommodation, and it is remarkable that under such adverse conditions the incidence of infectious disease was not higher.

HOUSING RURAL WORKERS ACTS.

Only one application for grant was approved by the County Council during the year, £100 being allocated.

Grants by County Councils under the above Acts ceased on 30th September, 1945.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions in the schools varies with the age of the building and with its situation. Many of the older schools are obsolete in design and many of the more recently constructed schools are not yet connected up to a piped water supply.

Re-arrangement of schools and extensive re-building is anticipated under the Development Plan, Section II, Education Act, 1944, and possibly long before this takes place improvements in the sanitary arrangements will be effected following action taken under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

The following is a summary of notifications of infectious disease received from head teachers.

Schools concerned 81	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Whoop- ing cough	Chic- ken pox	Meas- les	German measles	Mumps	Total
Cases ...	48	1	150	369	261	8	746	1583
Contacts ...	14	...	5	6	7	...	2	34

No schools were closed by or at the instance of the Local Sanitary Authority.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR 1945.

The full provisions of the Labelling of Food (No. 2) Order, came into force so far as sales by retail were concerned during 1945. The provisions of this Order require that pre-packed food must bear the name and address of the packer and be marked with the quantity of each ingredient contained in the article. I am pleased to be able to report that the effect of this legislation has been to put an end to the large number of food substitutes which had found their way on to the market to fill the gap caused by food shortages. Further legislation now prescribes standards for such articles as salad cream and mayonnaise, liquid coffee essence, baking powder, mustard, self-raising flour and various jams and marmalades.

During the year under review, 324 samples of food stuffs were taken, of which 300 were submitted to the Public Analyst. The Public Analyst reports that 41 samples were unsatisfactory.

A summary of the unsatisfactory samples is as follows :—

Milk containing added water....	....	....	....	1
Milk deficient in fat ....	....	....	....	26
Wines ....	....	....	....	6
Whisky containing added water ....	....	....	....	1
Baking powder deficient in available carbon dioxide				3
Sausages containing preservative (which was not declared) ....	....	....	....	2
Ice cream containing dried egg ....	....	....	....	1
Pilchards sold as herrings ....	....	....	....	1

It is gratifying to be able to report that out of 154 milk samples taken only 1 was found to contain added water. It would appear that the publicity given to this mean fraud during the previous year has had some effect. The large number of milk samples found to have fat contents less than the presumed standard of 3%, must be attributed to the fact that the average fat content of all genuine milk samples was only 3.23% as against 3.29% in 1944, and against an average of 3.6% in other parts of the country. Some fat deficiencies were, however, found to be due to incorrect handling of the milk by inexperienced staff.

Immediately prior to Christmas, 1945, a great many varieties and brands of British Wines were found to be on the market. A number of these articles were sampled and in 6 cases were found to consist of

coloured and flavoured cider. The Wines were being sold under such titles as Pale Golden British Wine—Sherry Flavour, British Tawny Wine, British Wine Cocktail and Cherry Cocktail Full Strength. Very careful consideration was given to the question of the labels attached to these wines in view of the fact that a number of complaints were received from purchasers who had been led to believe that they were receiving a genuine article from under the counter. The labels varied and similar wines would be sold under different descriptions such as sherry or port type, sherry style and sherry flavour, etc. Opinions varied as to what a customer would expect to receive as a result of a request for a British Wine and as prosecutions in other counties had not all been successful and were to be the subject of appeal, it was felt that there was some doubt as to whether a case could have been successfully established against the manufacturers of the article. The Ministry of Food, however, soon became aware of the activities of the manufacturers and amended the Labelling of Food (No. 2) Order so as to secure that British Wines shall bear an appropriate description of the product, a clear indication of the fruit basis from which it is made, and a statement of its alcoholic content.

Brief details of proceedings in respect of unsatisfactory articles of food, etc., are as follows :—

- (1) Dairyman failing to supply a sample on request—case dismissed.
- (2) Baking powder deficient in available carbon dioxide—case against grocer dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act.
- (3) Baking powder deficient in available carbon dioxide—grocer fined £2 and 10s. 6d. costs.
- (4) Butcher selling sausages containing preservative without declaring the presence of the preservative. Dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act on payment of 4/- costs.
- (5) Licensed Victualler selling whisky containing 25% added water. Case dismissed against the licensed victualler who summoned one of his staff before the Court as the actual offender. The actual offender was fined £3 and 15/- costs.

T.B. MILK SAMPLES.

One sample out of the 45 samples taken, was reported as positive for T.B. Details were immediately telephoned to the Divisional Veterinary Surgeon who took immediate steps to discover the source. Most of the 45 samples taken were from milk being delivered to the public in a raw state, and the figures show that very little infected milk is sold to the public. The sample reported above was the first positive result in about 100 samples.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDERS.

There are now 7 holders of T.T. Licences and 25 holders of "Accredited" in the county. Practically every licence holder was sampled at least 4 times during the year. In all, 172 samples were taken, of which 39 were incorrect. 3 licences were suspended during the year.

REGULATION 55G.

This regulation deals with the testing of pasteurised milk to ascertain that it has been adequately heat-treated. Although the Regulation is not actually in force the Ministry of Food suggested that sampling might commence. The heat treatment of milk takes place on two premises within the county and in all 7 samples were taken, one of which proved unsatisfactory. The premises from which the unsatisfactory sample was taken have since ceased to heat-treat milk.

F. W. Crabtree,
County Inspector

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases is set out in the adjoining table. It is greatly to the credit of the Services and local authorities that none of the infectious diseases prevalent abroad became a menace to the people of this country when demobilisation took place.

Scarlet Fever.

Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year, but there was no epidemic and no death. It has long been recognised that this disease undergoes alterations in virulence: a century ago virulence was low, then it rose and the case mortality became high. Once again virulence is in a low phase and probably accounts for the decreased incidence.

Measures of control consist in the prompt isolation of the patient and swabbing of all contacts with subsequent quarantine if necessary. When cases occur among the school children they are notified to this office in order to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken. The school is promptly visited by the school nurse and if necessary by a member of the medical staff. Missed cases are looked for and suspicious throats are swabbed in addition to the routine swabbing of contacts.

Diphtheria.

Only seven cases of diphtheria were notified during 1945, and for the first time there was no death. This very gratifying state of affairs is entirely traceable to the large amount of immunisation carried out, but as this disease can be stamped out entirely, we cannot be content until the notifications are reduced to nil. **To achieve this at least 75% of the child population should be immunised.** In some parts of the county this proportion is known to be exceeded but in other areas it has not reached the standard required.

Propaganda will achieve much to popularise immunisation but the best method of attaining the objective is personal contact with the mother of each child over six months of age.

Numbers immunised at County Clinics during 1945.

Under 5 years

591

5-15 years.

122

Measles.

The rise in incidence of measles during 1945 was accompanied by two deaths and this number might well have been higher but for the fact that the main outbreaks occurred in March and North Witchford during the summer months, when pneumonia is less liable to be a complication.

A temporary passive immunity could be conferred by the use of immune globulin and is worth consideration in closed communities. No method of widespread control has yet been devised.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was much less prevalent than during 1944 when a scheme was launched for immunisation to be offered as a free service at the various Clinics attended by the County Medical Staff.

Numbers immunised at County Clinics during 1945

<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5-15 years</i>
240	102

It is too soon to express any opinion as to whether the use of this service has effected a reduction in the incidence and mortality. As the disease tends to occur with epidemic prevalence for the second year, 1946 figures should be interesting.

Institutional Provision.

No change has occurred in the arrangements described in the Annual Report for 1938. Cases of infectious disease in the northern half of the county are admitted to the Wisbech Isolation Hospital and in the southern half to the Ely Isolation Hospital, each managed by a Joint Hospital Board. The Ely Hospital, which was built for the purpose, affords adequate facilities, but the same cannot be said of the Wisbech Hospital which was originally adapted and which nothing short of rebuilding can render satisfactory.

Cases of smallpox occurring in the County can be dealt with under an agreement with the Kings Lynn Borough Council.

As a result of the lessened severity of scarlet fever, to the large measure of control over diphtheria and to the almost total disappearance of the enteric group of diseases, there is now much less demand for institutional treatment in fever hospitals, and wholesale revision of existing institutional arrangements appears to be called for.

Scabies Order, 1941.

The local sanitary authorities have arrangements whereby a limited number of cases of scabies can be given treatment at the Wisbech Public Assistance Institution.

Infectious Diseases Notified in the Several Districts
for the Year ending 1945.

Disease	URBAN DISTRICTS.						RURAL DISTRICTS.					Combined Total
	Ely	Chatteris	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Total Urban Districts	Ely	North Witchford	Thorney	Wisbech	Total Rural Districts	
Small Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	8	1	2	9	10	30	19	7	..	26	52	82
Diphtheria ..	..	..	1	1	..	2	3	..	..	2	5	7
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..	4	5	..	15	8	32	1	11	..	6	18	50
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	3	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	2	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	..	..	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
Erysipelas ..	4	1	5	2	8	20	..	3	..	1	4	24
Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(a) Pulmonary ..	9	..	4	2	8	23	11	1	..	7	19	42
(b) Other ..	3	..	7	7	3	20	2	2	..	3	7	27
Malaria ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chicken Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	23	80	217	64	152	536	48	22	17	94	181	717
Whooping Cough ..	20	1	3	14	12	50	36	2	10	3	51	101
Other Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(a) Cat. Jaundice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	6	6
(b) Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
(c) Acute polio-myelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
(d) Paratyphoid fever ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2

PUBLIC VACCINATION.

Return respecting the Vaccination of Children whose Births were Registered during the year 1943, and number of Certificates and Statutory Declarations received by Vaccination Officers during the year 1945.

Registration District.	Number of these Births duly entered by 31st January, 1946, in Columns I., II., IV. and V. of the "Vaccination Register" (Birth List Sheets), viz.:							Number of these births, which, on 31st January, 1946, remained unentered in the "Vaccination Register" on account (as shown by "Report Book") of—				Number of these births remaining on 31st Jan., 1946, neither duly entered in the "Vaccination Register" (Cols. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the "Report Book") (Cols. 8, 9 and 10 of this Return).	Total number of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination of children under 14 received during the calendar year 1945.	Number of Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection actually received by the Vaccination Officer, irrespective of the dates of birth of the children to which they relate, during the calendar year 1945.
	Col. I.	Col. II.	Col. IV.	Col. V.	Had Small-pox.	Number in respect of whom Statutory Declaration of Conscientious Objection have been received.	Died Unvaccinated.	Postponement by Medical Certificate.	Removal to Districts the Vaccination Officers of which have been duly apprised.	Removal to places unknown or which cannot be reached and cases not having been found.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.		
Chatteris	98	48	..	..	44	2	1	3	..	..	38	37
Ely	515	142	..	..	258	15	3	41	10	46	123	236
March	237	57	..	..	154	4	..	1	2	19	73	162
Whittlesey	165	29	..	..	110	8	..	1	3	14	28	127
Wisbech	681	198	..	..	360	16	3	39	11	54	201	350
TOTAL	1696	474	..	..	926	45	7	85	26	133	463	912

Vaccination.

The details regarding the administration of the Vaccination Acts will be found on page 36.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

HEALTH VISITING.

Staff.

The County Nursing Superintendent acts as Inspector of Health Visitors, of whom there are 8 whole-time employed by the County Council and 2 part-time employed by District Nursing Associations. The failure to fill the vacancies on the health visiting staff owing to shortage of qualified nurses, occasioned these part-time appointments. There has been a vacancy for a full-time health visitor in the Ely urban area since 1944, whilst one of the two employed in the March area resigned in December, and at the time of writing this report no appointment has been made.

Summary of Work carried out by Health Visitors.

Live Births 1605	Still Births 32	Total 1637
Visits to expectant mothers.	First visits 136.	Total visits 487.
Visits to children under 1 year of age.	First visits 1279.	Total visits 8228.
Visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.		Total visits 8717.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Centre provided and maintained by the County Council—1 (Manea)
Centres provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations—7
(March, Wisbech, Thorney, Whittlesey, Ely, Littleport, Chatteris)

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were—

Under 1 year of age—371. Over 1 year of age—707.

Several of the Infant Welfare Centres have had to transfer for the duration of the war to temporary premises which leave a lot to be desired; either there is inadequate waiting accommodation or there is no separate room for consultations with the Medical Officer. One of the Assistant Medical Officers attends regularly at the Manea, Chatteris, March, Ely and Littleport Centres and general practitioners attend the others.

During the year a Centre was opened at Prickwillow. This was organised by the Littleport District Nursing Association and their nurses were in attendance. One of the Assistant County Medical Officers also attended at fixed sessions.

Area Covered.	Name of Midwife.	Hon. Sec. of District Nursing Association.
Benwick, Doddington, Wimblington.	Nurse H. Henson, Benwick Rd., Doddington. Tel.: Doddington 214.	Mrs. A. M. Morton, Coneywood Farm, Doddington.
Ely, Witcham.	Nurses at— 18, Egremont Street, Ely. Tel.: Ely 124.	Miss H. M. Willink, Palace Green Cottage, Ely.
Haddenham and Wilburton.	Nurse M. Lowe, Linden Farm, Haddenham. Tel.: Haddenham 16.	Mrs. E. Robinson, South Place, Haddenham.
Little Downham.	Nurse K. Billiquez, School Lane, Little Downham. Tel.: Pymoor 52.	Mrs. E. M. Young, The Rectory, Little Downham.
Littleport. and Prickwillow.	Nurses Johnson and Pearson, 33, Hempfield Place, Littleport. Tel.: Littleport 96.	<i>Jt. Hon. Secs :</i> Miss M. Martin, Highfield House, Littleport. Mrs. M. Goy, Main Street, Littleport.
Manea and Welches Dam.	Nurse M. Ferguson, Westfield Rd., Manea. Tel.: Manea 223.	Mrs. A. Hazel, School Lane, Manea.
March.	The Matron, Nursing Home, March. Tel.: March 3176.	H. Moore, Esq. March.
Stretham and Thetford.	Nurse H. Cook, 11, Ely Road, Stretham. Tel.: Stretham 35.	Mrs. E. E. Stevens, Cambridge Road, Stretham.
Sutton, Mepal.	Nurse R. Rayner, Pound Lane, Sutton. Tel.: Sutton 14.	Mrs. L. Haylock, High Street, Sutton.
Thorney.	Nurse M. Lawford, 7a, Abbey Place, Thorney. Tel.: Thorney 325.	Mrs. Smith, Gothic House, Thorney.
Whittlesey.	Nurses at— 30, Whitmore Street, Whittlesey. Tel.: Whittlesey 181.	Mrs. E. E. Brown, 7, Cemetery Road, Whittlesey.
Wisbech.	Nurse Boulton, Nurse Williams, Nurse Knowles. Tel.: 687.	Mrs. Barrett, 13, Tavistock Road, Wisbech.

COUNTY COUNCIL MIDWIVES.

Area Covered.	Name of Midwife.
Chatteris.	Nurse F. Millar, Guisborough House, London Road, Chatteris. Tel.: Chatteris 144.
Fridaybridge.	Nurse J. B. D. Benson, Heathfield, Fridaybridge. Tel.: Wisbech 799.
Parson Drove, Wisbech St. Mary.	Nurse A. L. Guiver, "Pitsdale," Leverington Common, Nr. Wisbech. Tel.: Wisbech St. Mary 44.

COUNTY MATERNITY SERVICES.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES.

The ante-natal scheme introduced in 1937 to provide for ante-natal and post-natal examinations has continued in operation.

	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Number of clinics provided and maintained by the Council	1	1
Number of clinics provided and maintained by the Voluntary Associations	1	1
Total number of women who attended at the clinics during the year	562	42
Total number of expectant mothers ante-natally examined and of cases post-natally examined during the year under arrangements made by the Council with private Medical Practitioners	453	15

The mileage allowance to practitioners was increased from 9d. to 1/- per mile one way, for journeys over two miles.

The County ante-natal clinic is held on Wednesday afternoons at the County Maternity Home, Wisbech, and the post-natal clinic on Thursday afternoons. Dr. W. H. Carlisle, Medical Officer to the Home, is in attendance.

Domiciliary Midwives.

The Scheme formulated under the Midwives Act, 1936, whereby the bulk of the domiciliary midwifery and maternity nursing in the area is carried out by the District Nursing Associations has functioned very satisfactorily but to completely cover the needs of the area it was found necessary to appoint whole-time County Midwives in

three districts which were not covered for midwifery by Voluntary Associations.

There are 12 district Nursing Associations and they employ fourteen Queen's Nurse Midwives, four district nurse midwives, six village midwives, one general trained nurse and one assistant nurse. The Associations provide eight cars, 1 auto-cycle and six cycles, whilst three cars and two auto-cycles are privately owned.

The filling of casual vacancies has been rendered very difficult by the extreme shortage of midwives and it has been found impossible to appoint a County Relief Midwife. It has therefore been essential to arrange a system of mutual relief in the districts and this has been greatly facilitated by the formation of the County Nursing Association in 1942, and the appointment of the County Nursing Superintendent.

Supervision of Midwives.

This is carried out by the County Nursing Superintendent who acts as Non-Medical Supervisor. The total number of midwives practising at the end of the year were as follows :—

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
Employed by the Local Supervising Authority	3	4	7
Under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936	20	—	20
In Private Practice	3	—	3
	26	4	30

Number of Cases attended during the year by Midwives.

	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
Employed by the Council			
—as Midwives	135	269	404
as Maternity Nurses ...	72	25	97
Employed by Voluntary Assocs.			
—as Midwives	348	61	409
as Maternity Nurses ...	302	55	357
In private practice			
—as Midwives	—	2	2
as Maternity Nurses ...	—	162	162
TOTAL—as Midwives	483	332	815
as Maternity Nurses ...	374	242	616

Medical aid was summoned in 313 cases, of which 151 were domiciliary and 162 occurred in institutions. Three midwives in practice in the area are qualified to administer analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board.

Institutional Midwifery.

(a) *County Maternity Home, Wisbech.*

I described last year the appalling working conditions created by the lack of facilities and the complete absence of amenities provided in this Home. In spite of this the demand for beds increased and the output of work in 1945 was greater. One is therefore justified in concluding that the need for such an institution in Wisbech is established beyond any doubt and also that the patients are deeply appreciative of the attention they receive from the staff.

In addition to 174 local residents, 97 expectant mothers from London were admitted to the ante-natal hostel of 11 beds and then confined in the Home. The agreements between the Isle of Ely and Holland and Norfolk County Councils continued in force throughout 1945 and 33 out-county cases were duly admitted. The Matron has furnished the following analysis of cases :—

Statistics for 1945

No. of Cases Delivered	....	292	
No. of Live Births	....	291	
No. of Stillbirths	....	6	
Babies born before Admission	9		4 Caesarean Sections 5 others
Total Cases Nursed	....	301	
Twins	....	5	
Neo-natal Deaths	....	7	
Maternal Deaths	....	Nil	
Forcep Deliveries	....	18	
Breech Deliveries	....	9	
Ante-partum haemorrhage....	3		1 Lateral Placenta Praevia 1 Accidental Haemorrhage 1 Slight
Toxaemia	....	45	
Pyelitis	....	2	
Cases notified			
Puerperal Pyrexia		2	

Patients sent to Hospital	5	
Patients with V.D.	1	
Manual Removal of Placenta	2	
Transfusions given	4	
Post-partum haemorrhage	8	
Mitral Stenosis	3	
Breasts Flushed 4 Abscess	Nil	
Prolapse of Cord	1	
Abnormal Babies	2	1 Hydrocephalus Spina Bifida and Talipes 1 Webbed Hand

Total Attendances

Ante-natal Clinics	1773
Post-natal Clinics	41

The existing arrangements for holding ante-natal and post-natal clinics in the ground floor ward were held to be so unsatisfactory that demands were made to furnish fresh quarters but although extensive enquiries were carried out, no definite arrangements had been made by the end of the year.

The outstanding difficulty of 1945 was shortage of nursing and domestic staff and so acute did the position become in July that the Clerk of the Council was empowered to approach the Ministry of Labour and National Service and failing any help from that quarter, the Ministry of Health. By October the position as far as nursing staff, had eased considerably and for the first time a full establishment of staff midwives was reached.

I desire to express my deep admiration for the devoted work of the Matron and the Assistant Matron, who carried on through a very difficult and trying year and rose to every emergency.

(b) Bowthorpe Hall, Wisbech.

In my last report mention was made of the desire to secure more satisfactory premises, and in January, 1945, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee decided that enquiries be made of the Executors concerning property known as "Bowthorpe," at Wisbech.

Following negotiations, the Council resolved to purchase the house and between 2 and 3 acres of adjoining land.

Plans for the adaption and necessary alterations were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Officers of the Ministry subsequently carried out an inspection of the premises and a conference was held in London of the Ministry's officials and the Council's Officers to discuss the various suggestions.

The Minister was of opinion that the proposals submitted would prove to be more costly than had been expected and he suggested the Council should reconsider the matter in the light of alternative possibilities brought forward at the conference.

Further plans were drawn up and submitted and, at the time of writing this report, approval of the Council's proposals (as amended) has been received from the Ministry.

The premises have now been de-requisitioned by the Ministry of Works.

(c) *Grange Emergency Maternity Home, Ely.*

This home of 18 beds continued to be run in conjunction with a hostel of 13 beds under the Ministry of Health official scheme for evacuee expectant mothers. A limited number of local residents were permitted to use the home and this helped to ease the growing demand for institutional confinements in the area. Two hundred and twenty-seven patients were admitted during the year, of which 99 were local residents.

The Grange is most agreeably situated in private grounds and lends itself to its present purpose admirably. It is to be hoped that when it is finally released by the Ministry, it may be acquired for County purposes.

(d) *Hospital provision for complicated cases.*

During the year 43 cases were sent into Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, under the County Maternity Scheme.

(e) *Registration of Nursing Homes.*

Five private maternity homes with a total of 17 maternity beds were registered during 1945. The number of births which took place only being 164.

OBSTETRIC CONSULTANT SERVICES.

Mr. Canney of Cambridge, Mr. Harrison of King's Lynn and Dr. Carlisle of Wisbech are available to be called in when a general practitioner, in consultation with the County Medical Officer of Health decides that this is desirable.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Five cases were notified during the year and recovered with home treatment.

DENTAL TREATMENT OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

During the year 56 offers of treatment were made under the Authority's Scheme and were accepted by 11 mothers.

HOME HELPS.

During the year a determined effort was made by the County Nursing Association to ascertain the availability of such help in this area. The District Nursing Associations of March, Ely and Wisbech advertised in the local press but only one reply was received and the applicant was considered unsuitable.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN : CIRCULAR 2866.

The services of the Social Welfare Workers at Ely and Wisbech have continued to be used throughout the year in connection with the ascertainment and visiting of expectant unmarried mothers and of unmarried mothers and their children. 9 cases were visited in the Ely area and 19 in the Wisbech area. Advice and help was offered in each case and vacancies were found in homes or hostels for 6 persons, whilst others made their own arrangements regarding the confinement and after-care of the child.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

Two sets of equipment were ordered for use in the care of premature infants in the district or at the County Maternity Homes.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The statutory inspection of foster mothers continues to be carried out by the Health Visitors. Nineteen foster mothers were inspected during the year and the total number of children boarded out at the end of the year was 21.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1939.

During 1945, one home was visited under the above Regulations.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangement whereby one of the Senior Medical Officers of Papworth Village Settlement visits the Isle to carry out the clinical tuberculosis work, was continued during 1945. Dr. F. L. Wollaston took up a higher appointment elsewhere in September and was replaced by Dr. R. B. Murphy, the Senior Resident Medical Officer, and the high level of the work achieved has been maintained.

ASCERTAINMENT.

The weekly Diagnostic Clinic, which was inaugurated at the County Hospital in 1944, has proved very successful and the number of cases examined has increased steadily since the opening.

DISPENSARIES (AS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1945).

County Clinic, County Hall, March—Every Wednesday afternoon.
County Clinic, Lynn Road, Wisbech—Alternate Thursday mornings.
County Clinic, Downham Road, Ely—Alternate Thursday afternoons

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

Under an agreement with the Secretary of Creaton Sanatorium, three beds are reserved for male and six for female cases requiring sanatorium treatment. Most of the remaining cases were admitted, usually without delay, to the Papworth Village Settlement.

ADVANCED CASES.

In January the Public Health Committee decided not to entertain the suggestion that cases of advanced disease should be treated in one of the existing blocks at Doddington Hospital. Their decision was supported by Ministry of Health officials, but the disposal of chronic cases remains as a most acute problem. Although the total number of cases is not numerous, they are a potent source of danger in the spread of this disease and they are given home care which is the only present alternative and is desperately unsatisfactory.

A report of the work carried out during 1945 has been furnished by Dr. R. B. Murphy who carried out the duties of part-time Tuberculosis Officer that year.

"I have the honour to present the following report on the work of Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1945 :—

At the Diagnostic Clinic held at the County Hospital, Doddington, on Wednesday mornings, 307 new cases have been seen and an opinion given to the patient's doctor. Of these, 37 cases were diagnosed as tuberculosis. The co-operation on the part of the general practitioners in sending so many doubtful cases has resulted

in early diagnosis, thereby greatly increasing the benefits of treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Forty one patients were recommended for sanatorium treatment during the year, mainly admitted to the following :—

Papworth	22	Manfield	6
Creton	7	Lord Mayor Treloars	2
Children's Sanatorium	1	St. John's Open Air	
Morland Hall	1	School	2

Eighty one notifications have been received during the year, 49 of which were pulmonary and 32 non-pulmonary. This number includes those cases of service personnel notified direct by the Ministry of Health.

The number of attendances made at the Dispensaries are given :—

March	181
Wisbech	172
Ely	123

In addition, 245 artificial pneumothorax refills have been carried out. Thirteen domiciliary visits were paid to patients who were unable to attend the dispensaries.

At the present time there are 257 patients on the Tuberculosis Register, 136 pulmonary and 121 non-pulmonary.

There are 41 patients at present receiving sanatorium treatment and none awaiting admission.

MEMO. 266/T.

Eighteen cases of early pulmonary tuberculosis received allowances under this scheme during 1945.

DETAILS OF CASES SEEN AT THE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC, DODDINGTON.

Total number of cases seen at Doddington including routines	419
Number of X-rays taken	412
Number of new cases	307
Number of cases diagnosed as tuberculosis....	37
Number of non-tubercular cases	270 "

R. B. Murphy,

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Details of the Notifications received during the year 1945 under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.

Previous years also given for comparison.

			NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM A.											Total Notifications on Form A.	
			Number of Primary Notifications												
			Age Periods												
			0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards		Total Primary Notifications
Pulmonary: Males in 1928			..	1	1	2	3	5	7	5	4	2	..	30	30
"	"	in 1929	2	..	5	2	5	4	10	6	5	3	..	42	42
"	"	in 1930	..	1	3	1	4	3	5	6	8	6	4	41	41
"	"	in 1931	..	..	2	..	3	6	3	5	3	2	..	24	25
"	"	in 1932	..	..	1	1	..	3	7	7	1	1	..	21	21
"	"	in 1933	..	..	1	2	..	2	6	3	2	..	1	17	17
"	"	in 1934	..	1	1	1	3	6	5	7	1	3	1	29	29
"	"	in 1935	..	..	..	1	4	2	9	6	6	2	..	30	30
"	"	in 1936	..	..	1	1	4	4	11	12	6	4	..	43	43
"	"	in 1937	..	..	1	..	1	5	5	7	1	3	1	24	24
"	"	in 1938	..	1	..	..	2	3	7	7	1	2	1	24	25
"	"	in 1944	..	..	1	1	2	5	6	7	1	..	2	25	25
"	"	in 1945	..	1	..	..	1	2	8	4	3	5	..	24	25
Females in 1928			..	..	5	2	11	5	15	6	..	..	1	45	46
"	"	in 1929	..	..	..	4	4	8	10	15	5	2	..	48	48
"	"	in 1930	..	1	1	3	10	3	3	5	1	2	1	30	30
"	"	in 1931	..	..	..	..	6	6	6	5	3	2	1	29	29
"	"	in 1932	..	..	1	1	1	6	..	4	2	..	..	15	15
"	"	in 1933	1	..	2	1	2	7	4	3	2	1	..	23	23
"	"	in 1934	..	..	..	2	3	5	3	3	5	..	1	22	22
"	"	in 1935	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	4	1	2	2	17	17
"	"	in 1936	..	..	1	2	2	5	11	8	5	1	..	35	35
"	"	in 1937	..	..	..	1	4	..	4	5	4	1	3	22	23
"	"	in 1938	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	3	..	1	1	13	13
"	"	in 1944	..	..	..	1	1	1	6	6	1	1	..	17	17
"	"	in 1945	..	..	1	..	4	7	4	4	..	1	..	21	21
Non-Pulmonary: Males in 1928			..	5	3	4	..	1	5	1	..	..	..	19	19
"	"	in 1929	..	1	7	1	3	..	2	1	1	..	..	16	16
"	"	in 1930	2	9	3	1	4	3	4	2	1	..	..	29	29
"	"	in 1931	..	4	4	4	1	2	3	1	..	..	..	19	19
"	"	in 1932	..	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	12	12
"	"	in 1933	2	2	7	5	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	21	21
"	"	in 1934	2	3	8	7	2	1	2	..	..	1	..	26	26
"	"	in 1935	..	2	6	2	..	2	1	4	1	1	..	19	19
"	"	in 1936	..	2	8	5	..	3	2	1	2	1	..	24	24
"	"	in 1937	..	4	5	5	2	..	2	1	..	..	1	20	20
"	"	in 1938	..	6	6	2	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	21	21
"	"	in 1944	..	2	5	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	13	13
"	"	in 1945	..	3	3	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	13	13
Females in 1928			2	3	3	1	3	1	3	1	..	..	1	18	18
"	"	in 1929	..	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	..	..	14	14
"	"	in 1930	1	4	3	4	1	2	1	..	1	..	..	17	17
"	"	in 1931	..	1	5	3	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	12	12
"	"	in 1932	..	..	1	1	5	3	..	3	1	..	..	14	14
"	"	in 1933	..	1	2	2	..	1	3	..	1	2	..	12	12
"	"	in 1934	1	3	5	..	..	4	2	..	1	..	1	17	17
"	"	in 1935	..	2	4	1	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	13	13
"	"	in 1936	..	5	6	1	8	3	2	..	..	1	1	27	27
"	"	in 1937	..	3	4	2	4	3	..	2	..	..	..	18	19
"	"	in 1938	..	4	7	3	1	1	3	1	1	..	..	21	22
"	"	in 1944	..	1	10	4	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	18	18
"	"	in 1945	1	2	5	3	3	1	1	1	..	1	1	19	19

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following table shows the details of Isle of Ely cases treated for venereal disease during 1945 at the Clinics at Cambridge, King's Lynn and Peterborough :—

Year	Total New Cases attending for Consultation	New cases of				Total Out-Patient Attendances
		Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonorrhœa	Non-venereal Conditions	
1919	35	12	..	16	7	..
1920	48	26	..	16	6	416
1921	41	17	..	23	1	341
1922	26	7	..	10	9	265
1923	29	10	1	16	2	288
1924	19	9	..	7	3	280
1925	40	12	..	21	7	293
1926	12	3	..	8	1	278
1927	21	4	..	14	3	244
1928	47	20	1	21	5	564
1929	56	15	..	32	9	827
1930	53	13	1	31	8	603
1931	40	7	..	30	3	797
1932	52	11	1	31	9	629
1933	71	17	1	29	24	843
1934	84	22	..	34	28	1475
1935	102	28	1	45	28	2770
1936	83	10	..	37	36	1502
1937	58	16	..	25	17	1280
1944	90	15	..	16	59	1278
1945	72	8	..	13	61	988

Of the total cases attending the clinic at Cambridge (including cases from areas other than the Isle of Ely 11% ceased treatment before their cure was completed.

Of those attending at Peterborough (again including cases from areas other than the Isle of Ely) 4% ceased treatment before their cure was completed.

Of those attending at King's Lynn (again including cases from areas other than the Isle of Ely) 7% ceased attendance before completion of treatment.

Regulation 33b.

During the year 8 cases were notified on Form 1 in accordance with Regulation 33b.

No efforts were made outside the scope of the Regulation to follow up any of these cases.

ALMONERS.

An almoner was appointed at Cambridge in April, 1945, and one at Peterborough in October, 1945.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

On 31st December, 1945, there were 142 names on the register. 76 persons were in receipt of necessitous grants and 5 Home Workers were receiving augmentation of wages. 12 other persons were employed and received no assistance. One brush maker was employed by the Norwich Institution for the Blind.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DISTRICT REPORTS.

I.—URBAN

CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT.

Area 13,719 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 16.68. Death Rate, 14.07. Infantile Mortality, 60.24. Illegitimacy Rate, 60.24.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—4,975.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT.

Area 14,764 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 15.05. Death Rate, 13.67. Infantile Mortality, 68.70. Illegitimacy Rate, 106.87.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—8,705.

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT.

Area 19,777 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 18.16. Death Rate, 11.02. Infantile Mortality, 30.56. Illegitimacy Rate, 52.4.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—12,600.

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Area 23,362 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 16.58. Death Rate, 11.68. Infantile Mortality, 60.6. Illegitimacy Rate, 113.64.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—7,960.

WISBECH MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.

Area 4,666 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 18.30. Death Rate, 13.06. Infantile Mortality, 28.98. Illegitimacy Rate, 188.4.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—15,080.

II.—RURAL

ELY RURAL DISTRICT.

Area 65,999 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 20.82. Death Rate, 13.08. Infantile Mortality, 52.04. Illegitimacy Rate, 85.5

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—12,920.

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

Area 26,088 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 17.42. Death rate, 11.68. Infantile Mortality, 12.19. Illegitimacy Rate, 85.37.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—4705.

THORNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Area 21,796 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 23.94. Death Rate, 9.04. Infantile Mortality, 37.74. Illegitimacy Rate, 56.5.

Estimated mid-year (1945) population—2,213.

The Medical Officer reports that 41.2% of children under 5 years and 79.02% of those between 5 and 15 years of age have been immunised.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT.

Area 49,798 acres.

1945 Statistics :—Birth Rate, 17.65. Death Rate, 10.39. Infant Mortality, 23.9. Illegitimacy Rate, 167.46.

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