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Contributors

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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 1955,

by

M. E. HOCKEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Printers:
Sharman & Co. Ltd,
High St., March



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ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY HEALTH COMMITTEE

PAYNE, H. (Chairman).

ANTHONY, T. W.	NEWELL, G. W.
ARMIGER, J. C.	NORMAN, J. A.
BANCROFT, H.	NURSE, W.
BAYLIS, F. H. G.	OGDEN, F. K.
CRANE, J. H.	ROWE, L. W. H.
CURSTON, R. G.	SNEESBY, J. M.
DARBY, F. G. W.	TASH, H.
FRISBY, J. H.	TEBBUTT, J. (Miss)
GRAY, A. F.	WALKER, H. E.
GREEN, J. H. S.	WRIGHT, B. G.
KING, F. E.	

Number 22. Quorum 5.

Co-opted—Drs. P. H. FLOCKTON, K. S. MAURICE SMITH,
Mrs. H. V. FAIRWEATHER, Mrs. O. L. INGLETT, H. BURN
and E. J. WRIGHT.

Staff.

County Medical Officer of Health

M. E. HOCKEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers of Health.

M. J. DUNN, M.B., Ch.B.

J. M. MATTHEW, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chest Consultant.

C. E. P. DOWNES, M.R.C.P. (Joint appointment with R.H.B.)

Public Analyst.

S. GREENBURGH, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Superintendent Nursing Officer.

G. M. SANDERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Asst. M. HARRIS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

(a)—County Council (whole-time).

E. CORNISH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

M. A. DANIELS, S.R.N., H.V. Cert. (appointed 1/4/55)

B. M. GUDGEON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

D. NIELD, S.R.N., H.V. Cert. (appointed 22/8/55).

E. E. REDHEAD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

L. W. J. STEPHEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (resigned 30/4/55).

E. T. TAYLOR, S.R.N., S.C.M.

(b)—(part-time).

(Employed by District Nursing Associations).

C. M. BIART, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

K. M. RAILTON, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

J. PARROTT, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (resigned 2/6/55)

D. M. RUSSELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

M. E. JOYNT, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

G. WEBSTER, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

M. M. SOUTHWARD, S.R.N. S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (resigned 13/9/56)

M. NUTTALL, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
(appointed 1/11/55).

M. E. PHILIPS, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
(appointed 24/9/55).

Staff—continued.

(c)—Tuberculosis Visitor.

E. E. YOUNG, Queen's Nurse, H.V. Cert.

County Midwives.

J. B. D. BENSON, S.C.M. (undertakes part-time Health Visiting).
A. L. GUIVER, S.R.N., S.C.M. F. MILLAR, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Mental Health and Welfare Officers.

V. E. WEBB, R. A. M. REEVE (Assistant), K. ARMITAGE (Assistant)
L. J. ROBINSON and O. WRIGHT (Part-time).

Home Teacher for Mental Defectives.

G. RONEY.

Domestic Help Organiser.

E. M. SHORTEN (appointed 25/1/55).

Clerical Staff

H. A. HOUSE (Administrative Officer)
J. GIPSON A. MILLER A. W. ROBOTHAM I. R. BENSON
 A. G. BALL J. K. BOON
O. W. SKOULDING F. A. CHRISTMAS M. R. FISHER

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.	A. S. Watson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
3. March	E. A. Littler, Esq. ..	S. Governor, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.
4. Whittlesey ..	H. Kewish, Esq. ..	D. C. Logan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
5. Wisbech M.B. ..	N. E. Dewick, 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	F. Whittet, Esq. ..	C. Thomas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
3. Thorney	J. Ford, Esq.	J. R. F. Popplewell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.
4. Wisbech	R. E. Dixon, Esq. ..	J. M. Matthew, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Port.		
Wisbech	N. E. Dewick, Esq. ..	R. E. Crockatt, M.B., Ch.B.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Isle of Ely County Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the state of the public health and of the welfare services in the Administrative County of the Isle of Ely for the year 1955.

I should wish also to tender my most cordial thanks to the Chairman and Members of the County Health Committee for their unfailing interest and encouragement, to all the voluntary workers for their great help in various fields of activity, and to the whole staff of the department for their good team work and loyal service.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. E. HOCKEN,

County Medical Officer.

Administrative County of the Isle of Ely

The Annual Reports for the year 1955, 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	Date received	Style
Urban Districts	Chatteris	Report not to hand	
	Ely	Oct. 2nd, 1956	Typewritten
	March	June 7th, 1956	Typewritten
	Whittlesey	Sept. 28th, 1956	Typewritten
	Wisbech, M.B. ..	Report not to hand	
Rural Districts	Ely	Sept. 26th, 1956	Typewritten
	North Witchford ..	Sept. 7th, 1956	Printed
	Thorney	Aug. 8th, 1956	Typewritten
	Wisbech	Report not to hand	
	Wisbech Port San. Authority	Report not to hand	

STATISTICS, 1955.

Area of Administrative County (land and water)	— acres	239,950
Rateable Value 1/4/55	—	£350,888
Product of 1d. rate 1955/56	—	£1,384
Population (Census 1951)	—	89,038
Population (estim. to middle of year 1955)	—	88,700

No. of live Births in the year	{	males 642	{	Legitimate 607	
				Illegitimate 35	}
		females 695		Legitimate 654	
				Illegitimate 41	1337

Birth-rate per 1,000 population ————— 15.07

No. of Still-births in the year	{	males 17	{	Legitimate 17	
				Illegitimate —	}
		females 17		Legitimate 14	
				Illegitimate 3	34

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births ————— 24.79

Total No. of Deaths in the year	{	males 545	}		1052
		females 507			

Death-rate per 1,000 population ————— 11.86

Rate per 1,000 total Births

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	{	from sepsis	}	—
		other causes		—
		Total		—

Number dying under 1 year old	{	males 12	{	Legitimate 11	
				Illegitimate 1	}
		females 9		Legitimate 9	
				Illegitimate —	21

Infantile Mortality (rate per 1,000 Births)	{	in legitimates 15.86	}		
		in illegitimates 13.16			15.71

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ————— 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ————— 0

„ „ Enterits and Diarrhoea

(under 2 years of age) 1

England and Wales—

Birth-rate per 1,000 population	—	15.0
Death-rate „ „ „	—	11.7
Infantile Mortality-rate per 1,000 live births	—	24.9
Maternal Mortality-rate per 1,000 total births	—	0.64

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General has supplied the figure of 88,700 as the estimated mid-year population for 1955.

Statistics for the past 10 years are given for comparative purposes.

1946	83,340
1947	84,450
1948	87,613
1949	87,610
1950	88,462
1951	88,210
1952	88,000
1953	88,420
1954	88,600
1955	88,700

BIRTHS.

There was a fall in the birth rate during 1955, the figure being 15.07 as against 15.68 last year.

The number of illegitimate births fell during 1955, being 76 as compared with 88 in the previous year.

The births in the Urban Districts numbered 832 (385 males and 447 females), this being a birth-rate of 15.26 per thousand of population.

In the Rural Districts the births numbered 505 (257 males and 248 females), the rural birth-rate being 14.78 per thousand.

The total births for the County numbered 1,337 (642 males and 695 females), a birth-rate of 15.07 per thousand. This compares with a birth-rate for England and Wales of 15.0 per thousand.

The illegitimate births in the Urban Districts numbered 56, a rate of 67.31 per 1,000 births. Of this 56, 28 were males and 28 females, giving rates of 72.72 and 62.64 respectively.

For the Rural Districts there were 20 illegitimate births, a rate of 39.6. Of these, 7 were males and 13 females, giving rates of 27.36 and 52.42 respectively.

Taking the County as a whole, the illegitimate births numbered 76, or a rate of 56.84. There were 35 male and 41 female illegitimate births, and this gives rates of 54.52 and 58.9 respectively.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

Year	Illegitimate Births
1946	142
1947	117
1948	102
1949	90
1950	99
1951	71
1952	88
1953	92
1954	88
1955	76

DEATHS.

The death rate in the Isle of Ely has risen slightly. In 1955 the figure for the Isle of Ely was 11.86 as against 11.53 in 1954. That of the country as a whole was 11.7 against 11.3 in 1954.

The deaths in 1955 numbered 1,052, compared with 1,022 in 1954. Of these 1,052 deaths (545 males and 507 females), 777 occurred in the urban areas and 275 in the rural.

The birth and death-rates for the Isle for the past 10 years are shown in Table 1. together with the rates for England and Wales.

TABLE I.

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	Isle of Ely	England and Wales	Isle of Ely	England and Wales
1946	19.03	19.1	12.05	11.5
1947	21.57	20.5	12.42	12.0
1948	18.73	17.9	10.85	10.8
1949	18.55	16.7	12.14	11.7
1950	17.16	15.8	11.42	11.6
1951	16.37	15.5	11.64	12.5
1952	16.73	15.3	10.26	11.3
1953	16.99	15.5	12.16	11.4
1954	15.68	15.2	11.53	11.3
1955	15.07	15.0	11.86	11.7

TABLE II.

DISTRICT	AREA IN ACRES	POP. 1951 CENSUS	POP. Mid. 1954 (estimated)	BIRTHS			DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR		DEATHS			ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS	
				No.	Rate (crude)	Rate (corrected)	No.	Rate per 1,000 live births	No.	Rate (crude)	Rate (corrected)	No.	Rate per 1,000 live births
URBAN													
Chatteris	13,719	5,528	5,590	81	14.49	14.49	1	12.35	51	9.12	8.21	4	49.38
Ely	14,659	9,989	9,910	133	13.42	13.29	4	30.07	209	21.08	19.39	9	67.67
March	19,786	12,993	13,160	196	14.89	15.34	2	10.2	116	8.81	8.9	8	40.82
Whittlesey	23,263	8,609	8,710	151	17.34	17.51	3	19.88	87	9.98	10.08	6	39.74
Wisbech MB ..	4,617	17,430	17,160	271	15.79	15.63	6	22.14	314	18.29	15.55	29	107.01
Aggregate of Urban Districts ..	75,044	54,549	54,530	832	15.26	15.41	16	19.23	770	14.12	13.13	56	67.31
RURAL													
Ely	66,082	14,716	14,520	232	15.98	16.62	3	12.9	107	7.37	6.63	9	38.79
N. Witchford ..	26,088	5,023	4,830	64	13.25	13.78	1	15.63	51	10.55	9.81	2	31.25
Thorney	22,895	2,352	2,460	35	14.23	14.79	—	—	13.	5.28	6.24	3	85.71
Wisbech	49,841	12,398	12,360	174	14.08	14.07	1	5.75	104	8.41	8.33	6	34.48
Aggregate of Rural Districts ..	164,906	34,489	34,170	505	14.78	15.22	5	9.9	275	8.05	7.64	20	39.6
WHOLE COUNTY	239,950	89,038	88,700	1,337	15.07	15.22	21	15.71	1,052	11.86	11.15	76	56.84

TABLE III.

ISLE OF ELY		
	Registered Births	Registered Deaths
1946	1,586	1,004
1947	1,822	1,049
1948	1,641	951
1949	1,625	1,064
1950	1,518	1,010
1951	1,444	1,027
1952	1,472	903
1953	1,502	1,075
1954	1,389	1,022
1955	1,337	1,052

INFANT MORTALITY.

Another fall in the infantile mortality rate occurred in 1955 when the rate was 15.71 per thousand births as compared with 15.89 in the preceding year.

Six deaths were due to congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.; pneumonia caused four deaths; gastritis and enteritis one; and other causes eleven.

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Year	Isle of Ely	England and Wales	Year	Isle of Ely	England and Wales
1920	69.04	80	1938	56.89	53
1921	85.13	83	1939	41.96	50
1922	60.4	77	1940	50.28	55
1923	63.57	69	1941	49.15	59
1924	58.86	75	1942	50.56	49
1925	65.66	75	1943	45.88	49
1926	60.42	70	1944	44.9	46
1927	64.91	69	1945	40.3	46
1928	58.94	65	1946	37.2	43
1929	83.3	74	1947	30.19	41
1930	52.19	60	1948	29.86	34
1931	58.11	66	1949	26.46	32
1932	53.68	65	1950	27.67	29.8
1933	57.7	64	1951	28.39	29.6
1934	58.59	59	1952	27.17	27.6
1935	46.49	57	1953	17.98	26.8
1936	60.29	59	1954	16.91	25.3
1937	58.35	58	1955	15.71	24.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No maternal deaths occurred during the year.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels including deaths from intracranial vascular disease remain the principal causes of death, accounting for 34 per cent. of all deaths in the Isle of Ely during 1955.

The percentage contributions to the total deaths made by the more important groups were as shown below :

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diseases of heart and circulatory system	36.63	36.22	34.77	39.6	33.2	34.6
Cancer, all forms	19.3	18.59	20.59	16.9	19.6	15.6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12.67	13.37	13.62	15.2	15.9	19.2
Bronchitis, pneumonia & respiratory diseases	8.01	8.95	7.6	5.8	6.9	9.5
Violent causes	4.45	3.6	3.3	4.2	6.2	4.9
Tuberculosis, all forms	1.88	.97	1.99	.74	.88	.19

The deaths among persons aged 65 years or over amounted to 77 per cent. of the total in 1955.

TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY.

Two deaths were certified as caused by tuberculosis, both males, being pulmonary and non pulmonary respectively, during 1955.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATES.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
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
1946	.227	.047	.275
1947	.308	.047	.355
1948	.262	.045	.308
1949	.205	.045	.251
1950	.181	.034	.214
1951	.09	.023	.113
1952	.159	.045	.205
1953	.068	.023	.09
1954	.079	.022	.102
1955	.011	.011	.022

County of Isle of Ely

Causes of Death in Administrative Areas, 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH	URBAN										RURAL										Total for Urban and Rural Districts		Grand Total		
	Chatteris 6.v.		Ely 6.x.		March 60		Whiteley 61		Wisbech 62		Aggregate of U.D.'s.		Ely 93		North Witchford 94		Thorney 95		Wisbech 96		Aggregate of R.D.'s.			M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Registrar's number of area.	6.v.		6.x.		60		61		62				93		94		95		96				M.	F.	05
All Causes	28	23	86	123	68	48	43	44	172	142	397	380	61	46	24	27	7	6	56	48	148	127	545	507	1052
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3. Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
4. Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	...	...	3	2	1	1	2	5	...	1	2	3	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	...	...	2	5	...	3	...	7	6	16	2	5	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	6	1	22	3	25
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	1	...	4	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	13	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	10	11	5	5	5	4	12	12	33	34	6	7	1	2	...	...	4	6	11	15	44	49	93
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	4	7
16. Diabetes	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	4	3	21	38	4	12	7	7	29	25	65	85	9	11	5	5	1	1	14	7	29	24	94	109	203
18. Coronary disease, angina	2	1	8	10	20	1	7	4	21	7	58	23	11	4	1	...	...	...	12	1	24	5	82	28	110
19. Hypertension, with heart disease	...	2	...	4	1	2	1	...	1	4	3	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	3	5	15	20

9 11 21 30 7 11 8 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

20.	Other heart disease ...	9	11	27	56	94	10	8	3	3	2	1	8	12	23	24	79	118	197
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	...	8	13	11	1	1	...	1	2	2	3	3	6	7	19	18	37
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	5
23.	Pneumonia ...	1	17	14	24	23	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	4	24	27	51
24.	Bronchitis ...	1	10	4	19	10	2	...	2	1	1	...	3	1	8	2	27	12	39
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	2	5
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	4	...	7	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	9	2	11
27.	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	2
28.	Nephritis & nephrosis	...	...	1	3	2	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7	5	12
29.	Nephritis & nephrosis	...	...	1	8	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	3	11	...	...	11
30.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
31.	Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	7
32.	Congenital malformations	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	28	22	44	33	5	2	4	10	1	1	3	3	13	16	57	49	106
34.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	1	6	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	8	3	11
35.	All other accidents	1	8	5	14	9	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	2	2	4	16	13	29
36.	Suicide	1	1	...	6	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	3	1	9	3	12
37.	Homicide & operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	1	132	139	385	447	127	105	29	35	17	18	84	90	257	248	642	695	21
	Legitimate	1	118	124	357	419	123	100	27	35	16	16	84	84	250	235	607	654	20
	Illegitimate	...	14	15	28	28	4	5	2	...	1	2	...	6	7	13	35	41	1
Live Births	Total	28	115	111	385	447	127	105	29	35	17	18	84	90	257	248	642	695	34
	Legitimate	28	111	111	357	419	123	100	27	35	16	16	84	84	250	235	607	654	31
	Illegitimate	...	4	4	28	28	4	5	2	...	1	2	...	6	7	13	35	41	3
Still-briths	Total	2	4	3	9	10	4	3	...	1	2	...	2	3	8	7	17	17	34
	Legitimate	2	4	3	9	9	4	2	...	...	2	...	2	3	8	5	17	14	31
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	3
Resident Population...	...	5,590	13,160	17,160	54,530	54,530	14,520	4,830	4,830	4,830	2,460	2,460	12,360	12,360	34,170	88,700	88,700	88,700	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
SERVICES IN THE AREA.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(Section 22).

Liaison with Other Bodies.

The maternity and child welfare scheme remains unchanged and continues to work well.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Services.

It is estimated that 1,032 confinements in the county took place in maternity homes and hospitals. The number of combined ante-natal and post-natal clinics was unchanged. The necessity of holding separate post-natal clinics has not arisen.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

	Littleport†	March†	Ely*	Wisbech*
No. of sessions	52	40	24	48
No. of women who attended	53 + 30 PN	15 + 9 PN	116 + 16 PN	115
Total attendances ..	195 + 35	50 + 9	370 + 17	412

†Combined ante-natal and post-natal clinics conducted by medical practitioners.

*Combined ante-natal and post-natal clinics conducted by midwives.

The procedure for ante-natal care given to the mothers in other areas remains unchanged, general practitioners continuing to hold special sessions for mothers at their surgeries. One firm of doctors in Wisbech has arranged an interchange of ante-natal reports of visits made by them and the midwives, thus preventing duplication of visits and having the advantage of keeping the midwives informed of any change in the patient's condition.

It is noted that the number of general practitioners taking blood specimens of expectant mothers is increasing and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

Infant Welfare Centres.

In July a new centre sponsored by the local district nursing association was opened at Newton.

The clinics at Christchurch, Manea, and Mepal are the only ones provided directly by the local health authority. 19 voluntary clinic committees receive grants from the county council. The work of the ladies voluntary committees in assisting in the running of the clinics, in the distribution of welfare foods, and in arranging the social side of the clinics is of considerable help not only to the council but to the mothers who attend the clinics.

Local general medical practitioners attend the clinics held at Doddington, Friday Bridge, Manea, Mepal, Thorney, Sutton, Whittlesey, and Wisbech; at the Wisbech clinic an assistant county medical officer also attends. In order to encourage the attendance of pre-school children at clinics toddlers scales have been purchased in several cases. The clinics are well attended and the immunisation rate of infants at the clinics remains high. Vaccination is carried out by the local general medical practitioners at two of the clinics.

Health visitors attend the clinics regularly and give individual advice to small groups of mothers. The lack of suitable accommodation in which most clinics are held makes the holding of regular classes on mothercraft difficult.

Three "mothers' clubs" are held regularly and give added interest to the mothers who attend.

Supply of Welfare Foods.

Thirteen centres are run in conjunction with infant welfare centres, while nineteen are administered by local shopkeepers or private householders. To these voluntary workers I tender my thanks for their work in this capacity.

During the year 1955, the following issues were made:—

National Dried Milk	.....	.....	55,668 tins.
Cod Liver Oil	.....	.....	9,155 bottles
A & D Tablets	.....	.....	3,361 packets.
Orange Juice	.....	.....	44,332 bottles.

The distribution of proprietary welfare foods at infant welfare centres remains unchanged.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

CLINIC	PLACE HELD	DAY AND TIME	Dr. in attendance
BLACK HORSE DROVE	Community Centre	.. 4th Wednesday, 2.30—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance
CHATTERIS	Seymour House	.. .. Friday, 2—4.30 p.m.	Dr. in attendance alternate Fri.
CHRISTCHURCH	Parish Room	.. .. 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 2.30—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance once monthly
COATES	Public Hall	.. .. 1st & 3rd Thurs., 2.30—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance first Thursday
DODDINGTON	Church Rooms	.. .. 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance
ELM	Fridaybridge		
& FRIDAYBRIDGE..	Church Hall	.. .. 4th Wednesday, 2—4 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance
ELY	St. Mary's Clinic	.. .. Wednesday, 2—4.30 p.m.	Dr. in attendance 1st & 3rd Wed.
GUYHIRNE	Village Hall	.. .. 3rd Thursday, 2.30—4 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance
HADDENHAM	Baptist Church Hall	.. .. 2nd & 4th Tues., 2.30—4.30 p.m.	Dr. in attendance 4th Tuesday
LEVERINGTON	Parish Hall	.. .. 2nd Tuesday, 2.15—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance
LITTLE DOWNHAM	Parish Hall	.. .. 2nd & 4th Wed., 2.15—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance 2nd Wednesday
LITTLEPORT	Y.M.C.A. Youth Club	.. .. Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance 1st & 3rd Tues.
MANEA	Church Hall, Park Street	.. .. 2nd & 4th Tues., 2.30—4.30 p.m.	Dr. in attendance once monthly
MARCH	British Legion Rooms, West End	.. .. Thursday, 2.15—4.30 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance alternate Thurs.
MEPAL	Polish Camp	.. .. 1st Tuesday, 2.15—4 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance
NEWTON	Women's Institute	.. .. 1st Thursday, 2.15—4 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance (opened July, 1955)
PARSON DROVE	Church Hall	.. .. 1st Wednesday, 2.30—4 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance
PRICKWILLOW	Women's Institute Hall	.. .. 2nd Wednesday, 2—3.30 p.m.	Dr. in attendance
SUTTON	Methodist Church Room	.. .. 4th Tuesday, 2.15—4.15 p.m. . .	Dr. in attendance
THORNEY	Old Girls' School	.. .. 1st & 3rd Thurs., 2.30—4 p.m.	Dr. in attendance
WHITTLESEY	St. Mary's Rooms	.. .. Tuesday, 2.15—4.15 p.m.	Dr. in attendance
WISBECH	Walsoken Parish Hall	.. .. Friday, 2—4.30 p.m.	Dr. in attendance

ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

	Number of centres provided at end of year 1955	Number of children who at first attendance were under 1 year of age	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances during the year made by children who were :			Total Attendances during the year
			1955	1954	1953-50		under 1 year	1 but under 2 years	2 but under 5 years	
Local Health Authority Centres	3	27	27	30	80	137	202	36	155	393
Centres Provided by Voluntary Organisations	19	752	652	587	726	1,965	8,385	2,516	2,989	13,935

Care of Premature Babies.

The number of premature babies born at home during this year was the same as in 1954 and there was an increase of 2 in the number of premature stillbirths.

The sorrento cots have been in use by the district midwives for a number of these babies.

The number of premature babies born alive at home and weighing less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. was 21; of this number 2 were transferred to hospital. 2 died within 24 hours, 19 survived over 28 days.

The number of premature stillbirths at home was 2.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

There has been no change in the present method of providing outfits for mothers. Stress has again been laid on the fact that the outfits will only be supplied by chemists in this county, on production of the official form by the mothers.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children.

The county council continues to make pro rata payments to the Ely Diocesan Association and an annual grant to the Wisbech Society for Social Service in respect of the services rendered by the two social workers.

During the year the social workers of the Ely Diocesan Moral Welfare Association and the Wisbech Society for Social Services have visited and offered advice to unmarried mothers.

The number of cases admitted to maternity homes or hostels has increased as compared with the previous year.

	1954	1955
Cases visited	44	45
Cases admitted to Homes or Hostels	13	20

Dental inspection and treatment.

The provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with regard to treatment of expectant and nursing mothers have still not been implemented, owing to lack of dental staff.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Eleven cases were notified during the year, all occurring in domiciliary practice.

Maternal Deaths.

No maternal deaths occurred during the year.

Day Nurseries.

There are no day nurseries in the Isle.

MIDWIFERY (Section 23).

Administrative Arrangements.

The Isle of Ely County Nursing Association continues to act as agent for the local supervising authority.

Staff.

County Council.			
S.R.N., S.C.M.	.....	.....	→ 2
S.C.M.	.....	.....	1
			—
	Total	.....	3
			—
County Nursing Association.			
Queen's Nursing Sisters	.....		9
S.R.N., S.C.M.	.....	.....	10
S.C.M., S.E.A.N.	.....	.....	1
S.R.N., S.C.M. (part-time)	.....	.....	1
			—
	Total	.....	21
			—

Of the 21 midwives employed by the county nursing association all undertake general nursing and 9 undertake health visiting and school nursing, 8 of these being qualified health visitors.

Housing Accommodation.

In the majority of cases furnished houses are provided by the county nursing association or district nursing associations. A few midwives have provided their own accommodation.

Transport.

Cars are provided by the county nursing association in all areas. The county council midwives provide their own cars for which the appropriate allowance is paid.

Gas and Air Analgesia.

24 midwives are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia.

22 gas/air analgesia machines are available for use.

The number of cases to whom gas/air was administered totalled 439 (80%). Of this number the medical practitioner was not present at 347 deliveries.

Administration of Pethidine.

Pethidine was given by midwives in 239 (44%) cases, the doctor not being present at 179 cases.

The number of cases booked by midwives, no doctor being engaged either privately or through the maternity services, is very small. Midwives continue to obtain pethidine for such cases from the county medical officer. Pethidine for other cases is supplied by the medical practitioner booked to attend.

Midwives' Act, 1902—1936.

The superintendent nursing officer and her assistant act as non-medical supervisors of midwives for the local supervising authority.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practice as such was 73 and as maternity nurses 4.

Summary of Work Undertaken.

Deliveries attended by domiciliary midwives:—

(1) Doctor not engaged				
(a) Not present at delivery	.....	.....	99	
(b) Present at delivery	.....	.....	5	
			—	104
(2) Doctor engaged				
(a) Not present at delivery	.....	.....	331	
(b) Present at delivery	.....	.....	105	
			—	436
				—
		Total	.....	540
				—

The following medical aid forms were issued:—

Midwifery	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Medical practitioner engaged	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
Institutional	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
					—
		Total	.....	.....	97
					—

Of the domiciliary confinements, 424 infants were being fully breast fed on the fourteenth day.

During the year 114 mothers were discharged from hospital before the tenth day, including emergency domiciliary cases who are generally discharged two or three days after admission.

The superintendent nursing officer and her assistant paid 301 visits, of which 148 were home circumstance visits made in connection with the selection of cases for admission to maternity homes or hospitals.

Postgraduate Courses.

During the year the superintendent nursing officer attended the course, organised by the Supervisors of Midwives Association, held at Bedford College, London. Three midwives have attended courses organised by the Royal College of Midwives, one at the expense of the local branches of the College, leave of absence with pay being granted.

In accordance with the instructions of the Central Midwives Board, Rule G1, arrangements will be made for each domiciliary midwife to attend a refresher course every five years, the council being responsible for fees and expenses incurred.

In consultation with the local hospital management committees, arrangements will be made for midwives employed by them to attend refresher courses, the cost of such courses being the responsibility of those committees.

General.

The total number of confinements was 1,572 of which 1,032 took place in maternity hospitals or homes in the county, and 540 at home, the latter figure being 17 more than in the previous year.

Selection of cases for admission to hospital on social grounds continues in the northern area. It is regretted that the hospital management committee in the southern area has not carried out the Ministry of Health's recommendation in this respect.

Use of Triline.

After further consideration the county nursing association decided to defer the purchase of triline apparatus for the time being.

Proposed Part II Midwifery Training School.

At the request of the Peterborough Hospital Management Committee, the county council agreed in principle, subject to the approval of the Central Midwives Board, to participate in providing domiciliary midwifery experience for pupil midwives. No further progress with this scheme was made during the year.

HEALTH VISITING (Section 24)

The shortage of health visitors has been and remains acute, making it impossible to carry out the services adequately and resulting in an added burden being placed on the remainder of the staff.

The superintendent nursing officer acts as superintendent health visitor with the help of an assistant. Six full-time health visitors with one assistant were employed at the end of the year. In addition,

the county nursing association employs seven qualified health visitors and one district nurse/midwife, granted dispensation by the Ministry of Health, who undertake generalised duties in their respective areas. All the health visitors undertake school nursing.

A further two bursaries have been made available by the council for health visitors' training, but no applications were received.

A health visitor was appointed for the Whittlesey area, occupying the flat allocated by the Whittlesey Urban District Council. It is felt that if local accommodation was made available in other areas of the county where health visitors are urgently required, suitable applicants might be attracted.

The assistant superintendent nursing officer attended a refresher course organised by the Women Public Health Officers' Association.

Vacancies at the 31st December:—

March	.....	1
Chatteris	.....	1
Wisbech	.....	1

As a result of the weekly visit of a health visitor to the March Maternity Home a breast feeding clinic has been established, mothers and babies attending for the first six weeks. The help given is appreciated by the mothers.

Summary of Health Visitors' Work.

Number of home visits paid:—

Expectant Mothers.	1st visits	.....	166
	Total visits	.....	364
Children under 1.	1st visits	.....	1,381
	Total visits	.....	8,207
Children —5 years.	Total visits	.....	11,864
Other visits including visits to old people		.....	245
	Total visits	.....	20,680
Total number of households or families visited by health visitors			5,208

There has been a fall in the number of home visits during the year partly due to shortage of staff but also due to the increase in number of school medical inspections necessitating the health visitor's attendance at schools.

Uniform.

The county council decided to change the present uniform allowance. The new allowance is £45, to cover a period of two years.

HOME NURSING (Section 25).

Summary of Staff employed at 31st December, 1955.

Superintendent Nursing Officer	1
Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officer	1
Queen's Nurse Midwives	3
Queen's Nurse Midwives with Health Visitor Cert.	6
District Nurse Midwives	8
District Nurse Midwives with Health Visitor Cert.	2
S.R.N.	1
S.E.A.N.	1
S.C.M., S.E.A.N.	1
S.R.N., S.C.M. (part-time)	1
S.R.N. (part-time)	2
S.E.A.N. (part-time)	2
	29
	—

Number of Vacancies.

Ely	1
Wisbech	2
Manea/Christchurch	1

Summary of Nurses' Work.

<i>Cases</i>		<i>Visits</i>	
Medical	1,669	Medical	30,512
Surgical	411	Surgical	8,447
Infectious diseases	1	Infectious diseases	1
Tuberculosis	10	Tuberculosis	817
Maternal complication	7	Maternal complication	54
Others	600	Others	1,307
	2,698		41,138
	—		—

Included in the number of general cases and visits are the following:—

Patients 65 years and over.

Cases — 1,036	Visits — 14,158
---------------	-----------------

Children under 5 years.

Cases — 101	Visits — 497
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Patients of all age groups who received more than 24 visits:

Cases — 407	Visits — 26,944
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The following patients have received visits for hypodermic injections:—

96 patients requiring insulin injections.

436 patients requiring injections of antibiotics.

214 patients, both medical and surgical, have been discharged from hospital in need of home nursing under the supervision of the general medical practitioner.

Transport.

One car was sold during the year. The county nursing association considered the general condition of the cars to be satisfactory and recommended that no new cars should be purchased during the year.

Uniform.

The county council decided to discontinue the present arrangement of an annual allowance of £20, and agreed that expenditure not exceeding £50 during each two year period be reimbursed on production of accounts. The nurses are given the option to purchase the uniform at an agreed figure or to return it if they leave the service of the council.

Accommodation.

Of the 27 district nurse midwives employed, 17 are living in houses provided by the county council or district nursing associations, two in a nurses' home, and the remainder rent their own houses.

The building of one nurses' house in Wisbech has been started. Until such time as a second house has been built the two nurses will remain in the present home. The general position relating to accommodation for nursing staff remains as in previous years.

The county nursing association has agreed that, for accommodation belonging either to the county council or the county nursing association, a charge should be made of £48 per annum if unfurnished, or £72 per annum if furnished. Where a dependent lives with the nurse each case is considered on its merits. This policy has been adopted throughout the county, apart from the areas of two local associations where there were exceptional circumstances.

Staff.

Shortage of full-time permanent staff in Wisbech has meant that the county nursing association has found it necessary to continue the employment of part-time nurses. In the Whittlesey area resort was had to the employment of nurses from a private agency.

One nurse completed the combined health visitor/Queen's nurse district training and one nurse her Queen's district training.

Bursaries for further courses of the above trainings were available to suitable applicants. During the year members of the nursing staff have given courses of lectures to voluntary organisations on home nursing and allied subjects.

District Nursing Associations.

The district nursing associations continue to give valuable help in the county. There are now four "foot clinics" organised by local committees and in some areas additional assistance is given to elderly people. These voluntary committees prove a valuable link with the work of the public health department.

Home Care and Nursing Service.

Twelve patients have been discharged home from Addenbrooke's Hospital to the care of their general medical practitioners and local district nurses. In each case a detailed report of the treatment and nursing required was submitted by the home care almoner. All patients made a good recovery.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (Section 26).

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The arrangements for immunisation have continued, whereby sessions are held at infant welfare centres in the county. In addition, arrangements are made as numbers accumulate to hold special immunisation sessions in school clinics or on school premises.

Propaganda.

Each registrar supplies information of the births registered in his district and a personal letter is sent to all parents as to the protection afforded and the times advised for immunisation and vaccination. Special greetings cards containing information relating to immunisation are posted to all infants on their first birthday.

The health visitors and school nurses and all other county nursing staff carry supplies of leaflets giving information regarding the facilities available for immunisation, which they distribute in the homes or at clinics. Health visitors have a special responsibility for collecting forms of consent and for completing records.

In addition to this systematic propaganda general publicity is also given to the scheme by means of handbills and posters.

Medical Arrangements.

All practitioners in the area are afforded an opportunity of taking part in the authority's arrangements for carrying out individual immunisations. The county medical staff, with the assistance of health visitors and school nurses, attend specially arranged sessions and they also carry out individual immunisations at the infant welfare centres which they attend.

Records.

Completed records are submitted by the county medical staff and general practitioners, and the latter receive payment in accordance with the approved scale of fees.

The following table shows the number of immunisations carried out in the various areas during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1955.

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5—9 yrs.	10—14 yrs.	Total	B'ster
Chatteris U.D. ..	—	17	—	—	—	1	—	18	1
Ely U.D.	8	54	10	—	1	22	1	96	182
March U.D. ..	2	64	6	—	1	28	—	101	223
Whittlesey U.D. . .	18	80	8	7	1	14	1	129	62
Wisbech M.B. ..	—	52	8	2	—	76	6	144	155
Ely R.D.	7	102	7	4	—	3	—	123	130
N. Witchford R.D.	5	34	1	—	—	2	—	42	46
Thorney R.D. ..	3	10	2	—	—	33	24	72	121
Wisbech R.D. ..	2	43	7	—	—	11	7	70	21
TOTAL ..	45	456	49	13	3	190	39	795	951

VACCINATION.

General medical practitioners have agreed to be responsible for individual vaccinations, either in the homes or at their surgeries, and no special sessional arrangements are made. Vaccination is carried out at two infant welfare centres by the practitioners in attendance.

All that has been already said with regard to propaganda and payment of fees applies to the vaccination service as well.

During the period 1st January to 31st December, 1955, the following vaccinations and re-vaccinations were performed:—

	under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2—4 yrs.	5—14 yrs.	15 yrs. & over	Total
Primary	331	15	6	12	32	396
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	2	70	72

Arrangements in the event of an outbreak of smallpox.

In the event of an outbreak of smallpox, arrangements would be made at short notice to direct the county medical and nursing staffs to assist in coping with the increased demand for vaccination and re-vaccination. If necessary, premises would be specially hired for the purpose and the assistance of general practitioners called in. The public would be fully informed of all steps taken to control the outbreak.

AMBULANCE SERVICE (Section 27)

The service continued to be operated as hitherto with the directly owned vehicles being driven, garaged and maintained by garage firms, while in three districts of the county the voluntary organisations provided the service on an agency basis. Bearing in mind the obvious limitations of a service organised in this way, it can be said that little cause for complaint was given. Nevertheless, it seems that consideration will have to be given soon to some revision of the arrangements in the southern part of the county.

Conferences were held with representatives of the hospital management committees covering both the northern and southern areas of the county to discuss arrangements for dealing with large numbers of casualties in the event of a major disaster.

A further new ambulance was ordered and when delivered will be stationed at March. Since the appointed day five new ambulances, including the one at present on order, have been purchased by the council.

The figures for the year with comparative figures for the previous years are given below, and here I should like again to pay tribute to the voluntary owner drivers who continued to assist in the sitting-case car work.

Ambulances.	1955	1954	1953	1952
Mileage	94,931	87,475	99,480	91,940
Patients	6,029	5,806	6,780	5,794
Journeys	3,687	3,495	3,766	3,538

Cars (including work undertaken by the voluntary owner drivers).	1955	1954	1953	1952
Mileage	144,923	140,365	136,719	119,455
Patients	11,495	11,813	10,563	8,588
Journeys	4,109	4,038	3,844	3,437

It will be seen that there is a slight increase in the mileage of both the ambulances and sitting-case cars.

AMBULANCES

	No. of Ambulances	Where garaged
(a) Directly owned:		
Wisbech	Three	Messrs. Denniss' Garage, Sutton Road, Wisbech.
March	Two	Messrs. Peck & Packer, Ltd., Dartford Road, March.
Ely	One	Messrs. T. H. Nice & Co., Ltd., St. Mary's Street, Ely.
Chatteris	One	Messrs. Crawley & Crawley, Chatteris.
(b) Agency service:		
Manea (Manea New Ambulance Committee)	One	Ambulance Garage School Lane, Manea.
Whittlesey (St. John Ambulance Brigade)	One	St. John Ambulance Division, Plough Road, Whittlesey.
Littleport (St. John Ambulance Brigade)	One	Private Garage, Hempfield Road, Littleport.

Note: In addition one ambulance is stationed at the Isolation Hospital, St. John's Road, Ely, to deal with cases of infectious disease and other cases in emergency.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE and AFTER CARE (Section 28).

THE CHEST CONSULTANT REPORTS:

The preventive measures outlined in last year's report continue. The sanatorium bed requirement for the region has continued to diminish and a reserve of vacant sanatorium beds has now accumulated.

Current therapeutic measures, particularly in the field of anti-tuberculous chemotherapy are improving vastly the long term prognosis in this disease. It is now safe to say that there are comparatively few patients who, provided that they co-operate fully with regard to treatment, remain infectious when treatment has been concluded.

Unfortunately, there is always a small number of persons who as contacts of a known case of tuberculosis, refuse to accept medical

examination, which obviously hinders the ultimate aim of eradicating this disease. While the number of such unco-operative contacts is small, it is not uncommonly thought that available evidence points to them as the source cases. It is to be hoped that as the efficiency of treatment becomes more widely understood among the public, the number of contacts refusing examination will progressively decline.

C. E. P. DOWNES.

During the year 53 patients were recommended for sanatorium treatment, and at the end of the year 54 patients had been admitted to the following sanatoria:—

Papworth Hospital, Cambridge	.....	.....	10
Nayland Sanatorium	.....	.....	10
Holt Children's Sanatorium	.....	.....	6
Newmarket General Hospital	.....	.....	15
Kelling Sanatorium	.....	.....	8
Bourne Isolation Hospital	.....	.....	1
East Dereham Isolation Hospital	.....	.....	1
St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich	.....	.....	1
Saffron Walden Isolation Hospital	.....	.....	1
Hardwick Hospital, King's Lynn	.....	.....	1

Fifty-four notifications have been received during the year, forty-nine of which were pulmonary and five non-pulmonary.

Tuberculosis Visitor.

The tuberculosis visitor and social worker attended 229 clinic sessions during the year, and home visits to 1,058 cases were paid.

Rehabilitation.

Two female patients were admitted and 1 male patient discharged from the colony at Papworth Village Settlement during the year, leaving a total of 4 male patients and 3 female patients in the colony at the end of the year.

Shelters.

Five shelters are provided by the council for use by patients living in overcrowded conditions or under insanitary circumstances.

Mass Radiograph Unit.

The unit visited Chatteris in March, Whittlesey in April, and Wisbech during May.

The following details regarding attendances have been submitted to me:—

	Chatteris			Whittlesey			Wisbech		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
General public	378	421	799	685	668	1,353	519	748	1,267
Industry	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,216	1,036	2,252
Special requests by doctors	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	30	54
Contacts	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	7
Hospital and Nursing Staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	54	71
School children	81	97	178	203	224	427	707	872	1,579
School teachers and domestic staff	6	19	25	17	37	54	42	95	137
Other groups	—	—	—	2	6	8	—	—	—

MENTAL ILLNESS.

The number of patients using the council's aftercare service continued to show a steady increase; 1955 shows a 28.5% increase over the previous year.

During the year, in order to enable the officers discharging the statutory duty of after-care to give more specialised attention to the peculiarities pertaining to rehabilitation in certain areas of the county, the duties of the mental health staff were re-arranged with the result that they were able to devote more time to patients and to obtain a better knowledge of prospective employers; this has proved invaluable in the rehabilitation of persons discharged from hospital.

Social after-care visits during the year totalled 413 and the following analysis indicates when the cases arose:—

Patients discharged from mental hospitals in	1947	.....	1
“ “ “ “ “ “	1949	.....	2
“ “ “ “ “ “	1950	.....	14
“ “ “ “ “ “	1951	.....	15
“ “ “ “ “ “	1952	.....	31
“ “ “ “ “ “	1953	.....	29
“ “ “ “ “ “	1954	.....	68
“ “ “ “ “ “	1955	.....	129
<hr/>			
Total dealt with during	1955	289
Cases closed during	1955	96
<hr/>			
Cases on register on 31st December,	1955	193
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Of the 129 patients discharged from hospital during the year, in respect of whom after-care was undertaken, it was found necessary for only 10 to return to hospital for further treatment.

OTHER TYPES OF ILLNESS.

Medical Loans.

The Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Branch of the British Red Cross Society and the March Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continue to supply medical equipment, free of charge, to persons in different parts of the county. The items, loaned on behalf of the council, numbered 56, and included a wide range of equipment as required for home nursing.

DOMESTIC HELP (Section 29)

At the end of the year 57 home helps, all but one of whom were part-time, were being employed and 232 households had been assisted. The types of cases assisted were as follow:—

Maternity (including expectant mothers	.....	27
Tuberculosis	.....	5
Chronic sick (including aged and infirm)	.....	164
Others	.....	36

The number of maternity cases has increased during the year, but the greater portion of the time is devoted to the aged and infirm.

The service has enabled a number of persons, who would otherwise have required institutional accommodation, to remain in their own homes.

One case was referred by Addenbrooke's Hospital for help under the home care scheme.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (Section 51)

The local authority's responsibilities for the initial care of persons suffering from mental illness and the supervision of mental defectives are carried out by the mental health and welfare officer and four assistants (two part-time), all duly authorised officers, one assistant having been appointed duly authorised officer during the year.

The council's first full-time occupation centre was opened at Wisbech in October; those attending initially are of high and medium grades drawn from Wisbech and the immediate vicinity; there are nine persons at present receiving training, but the centre provides for a full complement of 24.

Meals are provided by arrangement with the local education authority, the serving of them being carried out by the supervisor, her assistant and a part-time domestic.

The four part-time occupation centres at Ely, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech continue to provide training in basketry, knitting, lamp-shade making, rug-making, stool-making and weaving. The home teacher, in addition to teaching, in their own homes, defectives unable to travel, supervises these centres with the help of voluntary workers who assist in giving individual attention and tuition to defectives.

Articles made by defectives are sold to the public, whenever possible, at prices which provide for small payments to be made to the defectives, thus providing additional incentive. The number of defectives now in attendance at these centres is 60.

Particulars of the part-time centres (known as Blue-Bird Clubs):

CENTRE	PREMISES	DAY	CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE
Ely	The Clinic, St. Mary's St.	Friday	Lady Brackenbury, 97, Cambridge Road, Ely
March	"Oakwood House" Youth Centre, West End	Wednesday	Mrs. F. Sole, "Woodcroft," The Avenue, March.
Whittlesey	The Youth Centre, Inhams Road	Thursday	Mrs. W. E. Morton, 8, Market Place, Whittlesey
Wisbech	The Women's Institute Hall, Alexandra Rd.	Tuesday	Mrs. S. J. Poole, 3, Wilberforce Road, Wisbech

Statistics.

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS 1890—1930 AS AMENDED BY THE

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

HEALTH SERVICE PATIENTS IN MENTAL HOSPITALS.

	Certified			Voluntary			Total
	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	
(a) In Mental Hospitals on 31/12/54	62	87	—	38	42	—	229
(b) Admissions	26	33	—	40	56	1	156
(c) Discharges	15	9	—	51	64	1	140
(d) Deaths	1	5	—	3	6	—	15
(e) Reclassifications							
(i) Certified to voluntary	14	13	—	14	13	—	—
(ii) Voluntary to certified	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
(f) In Mental Hospitals on 31/12/55	60	93	—	36	41	—	230

ANALYSIS OF ADMISSIONS.

Aged	MALES.			FEMALES.			Grand Total
	Under Order	Vol.	Total	Under Order	Vol.	Total	
Under 16	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
16—20	2	1	3	—	1	1	4
20—30	4	8	12	4	12	16	28
30—40	4	9	13	6	10	16	29
40—50	7	10	17	11	12	23	40
50—60	1	6	7	1	12	13	20
60—70	4	2	6	9	8	17	23
70—80	2	4	6	2	1	3	9
80—90	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
	26	41	67	33	56	89	156

Summary of case work.

Cases investigated	183
Removed to mental hospitals on Summary Reception Orders (Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890)	22
Removed to designated hospitals on Duly Authorised Officers' Three-Day Orders (Section 20, Lunacy Act, 1890)	32
Removed to designated hospitals on Justices' 14-day Orders (Section 21, Lunacy Act, 1890)	2
Admitted to mental hospitals as voluntary patients (Section 1, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)	97
Admitted to mental hospitals as temporary patients (Section 5, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)	—
Admitted to mental hospitals on Urgency Orders (Section 17, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)	3
No admission effected	27

Transport.

Conveyance to mental hospitals was arranged as follows:—

By the mental health staff in their own cars	118
By the council's car/ambulance service	5
Voluntary patients making their own arrangements	33

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT, 1913-38.

I. PARTICULARS OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES AS ON 1ST JANUARY, 1955.

	M.	F.	T.
(1) Number of ascertained mental defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with"			
(a) In hospitals (including cases on licence therefrom)			
Under 16 years of age	9	3	12
Aged 16 years and over	67	57	124
(b) Under guardianship (including cases on licence therefrom)			
Under 16 years of age	—	1	1
Aged 16 years and over	1	3	4
(c) In "places of safety"	—	—	—
(d) Under statutory supervision (excluding cases on licence)			
Under 16 years of age	11	7	18
Aged 16 years and over	58	63	121
Total ascertained cases found to be "subject to be dealt with"	146	134	280
	M.	F.	T.
Number of cases awaiting removal to a hospital	7	7	14
(2) Number of mental defectives not at present "subject to be dealt with" but over whom some voluntary form of supervision is maintained			
Under 16 years of age	1	—	1
Aged 16 years and over	30	31	61
Total number of defectives (1) plus (2)	177	165	342
(3) Number of mental defectives receiving training			
(a) In full-time occupation centre			
Under 16 years of age	3	1	4
Aged 16 years and over	5	—	5
(b) In part-time day training centres			
Under 16 years of age	6	4	10
Aged 16 years and over	15	35	50
(c) At home			
Under 16 years of age	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over	4	10	14

II. PARTICULARS OF CASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR 1955.			
(1) Ascertainment		M.	F. T.
(a) Cases reported by local education authorities (Section 57, Education Act, 1944)		8	3 11
(b) Other ascertained defectives reported and found to be "subject to be dealt with"		7	— 7
<hr/>			
Total ascertained defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with"		15	3 18
(c) Other reported cases ascertained who are not at present "subject to be dealt with"		—	1 1
<hr/>			
Total number of cases reported during the year		15	4 19
<hr/>			
(2) Disposal of cases reported during the year		M.	F. T.
(a) Ascertained defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with"			
(i) Admitted to hospital		6	— 6
(ii) Placed under guardianship		—	— —
(iii) Placed under statutory supervision		9	3 12
<hr/>			
Total ascertained defectives found to be "subject" to be dealt with		15	3 18
(b) Cases not at present "subject to be dealt with"			
(i) Placed under voluntary supervision		—	1 1
(ii) Action pending		—	— —
<hr/>			
Total (a) and (b)		15	4 19
<hr/>			

III. NUMBER OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES IN INSTITUTIONS UNDER COMMUNITY CARE INCLUDING VOLUNTARY SUPERVISION OR IN "PLACES OF SAFETY" ON 1ST JANUARY, 1955, WHO HAVE CEASED TO BE UNDER ANY OF THESE FORMS OF CARE DURING 1955.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Ceased to be under care	3	1	4
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	7	5	12
<hr/>			
Total	10	6	16
<hr/>			

V. SUMMARY

	MALES						FEMALES										
	In Hospitals		On Licence		Under Guardianship		Under Supervision at Home		In Hospitals		On Licence		Under Guardianship		Under Supervision at Home		
	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	under 16	16 & over	
Feeble-minded persons ...	1	31	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Imbeciles ...	5	25	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Idiots ...	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moral defectives ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	9	61	—	6	—	1	—	12	88	3	48	—	9	1	3	7	94

TOTAL 342 (Males : 177 — Females : 165).

IV. OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES KNOWN TO THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1955	—	1	1
(b) Number who have married during 1955	2	1	3

V. NUMBER OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES FOR WHOM TEMPORARY CARE WAS ARRANGED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY,

	M.	F.	T.
In hospitals of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board	1	2	3

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION (Sections 21—28).

At the end of the year the plans for an old persons' home at Money Bank, Wisbech, were in the final stages of preparation and it was expected that building would commence in 1956.

The council's old persons' homes, St. Mary's Lodge at Ely and Coronation Close at March, and the reservation of beds at Tower Hospital, Ely, and the Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech, remained fully occupied throughout the year. At all times there was a waiting list for each type of accommodation.

Persons Provided with Accommodation.

		On 31st Dec. 1954	Recep- tions	Depar- tures	On 31st Dec. 1955
In the Council's	Men	28	19	18	29
Old Persons' Homes	Women	22	18	16	24
In Part-User Accommodation (within the County)	Men	66	28	32	62
	Women	33	10	13	30
By other Local Authorities	Men	5	2	3	4
	Women	2	4	2	4
By arrangement with Voluntary Associations	Men	5	3	1	7
	Women	7	2	1	8
	Children	1	1	1	1
TOTAL		169	87	87	169

ISLE OF ELY SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

There were 236 names on the register of blind persons at the 31st December, 1955—15 more than the previous year. 37 persons were newly registered, 4 were transferred in from other areas, there were 21 deaths and 5 were transferred out from this county.

The number on the register of partially sighted persons increased to 58. 13 new names were added to the register, 6 were registered blind and there were 6 deaths.

The new rates of augmentation to blind home workers (£2 15s. 0d. to £3 for men and £2 5s. 0d. to £2 10s. 0d. for women) as recommended by the County Councils' Association were adopted as from the 1st April, 1955. Two women are receiving augmentation of wages and one man until the 26th February, 1955, when he became unemployed.

The annual meeting of the society was held on the 8th June, 1955. Alderman J. W. A. Ollard was again re-appointed President. The committee was appointed in accordance with the constitution.

The home teaching service with the two home teachers is being most conscientiously carried out. Some consideration has been given to a third home teacher becoming necessary, owing to the numbers on the blind and partially sighted registers, but an appointment has been postponed for the present.

Classes for the blind are held monthly in Wisbech, March, Ely and Whittlesey. We are grateful to members of the Rotary Clubs for transporting blind persons to and from the classes in Wisbech, Ely and Whittlesey.

Sales of work were held at Christmas time in Ely and Wisbech with very good results.

Mrs. E. M. Brown, the senior home teacher, attended a refresher course for home teachers at Oxford in March.

Miss S. C. Hammond, the second home teacher, who deals with cases in the southern part of the county was given permission to reside in Ely.

The secretary and home teachers attended a conference, arranged by the Southern Regional Association for the Blind, in London, on the 3rd May and the subject was Social and Industrial Rehabilitation. Mr. Drake, Principal of the Royal National Institute for the Blind Rehabilitation Centre at Torquay, a blind man, emphasised the importance of training newly blind persons to use their hands in the early stages of blindness by reading embossed type or doing handicrafts. Another conference on the 8th November was on the

Blind Pre-School and School Child. Miss Audrey Russell, the B.B.C. commentator, at the same conference spoke on "How to make visual events come alive to those who can only listen."

One partially sighted man has been to Torquay for a course of industrial rehabilitation and later received training in engineering at Letchworth. One blind woman went to Bridgnorth for a course of social rehabilitation.

The county council grant to the National Library has been increased from £2 to £2 10s. 0d. per annum for each blind reader.

The county council has purchased the premises known as "Croylands" at Ely to be extended and adapted as a residential home for the blind.

The day outings to the sea on the 4th, 8th and 11th July were again very successful. Five coaches were required and a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade accompanied each coach.

Christmas gifts of £1 were given to each registered blind person living in their own homes and gifts to the value of 15/- to those in homes and hospitals, 15/- was given to registered blind children.

A number of Braille watches and clocks have been supplied to blind persons.

During the year 42 blind persons and 26 guides from the Isle of Ely have spent a holiday at our holiday hostel at Hunstanton. From other areas we have entertained 79 blind persons and 25 guides. Two welfare cases have also been to the hostel.

From subscriptions, box collections, donations, miscellaneous collections, flag days, envelope collections, whist drives, concerts, Christmas appeal, and sales of work £1,927 8s. 4d. was received into the voluntary fund during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

The Care of Children Committee set up in 1948 has continued to be responsible for the following:—

- (a) Parts II and IV of Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.
- (b) Provisions relating to Child Life Protection contained in Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (c) The Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.
- (d) The Children Act, 1948.

The children's officer works in close liaison with the medical and nursing staffs of the county.

Visits in connection with child life protection to children aged 5 years and under were carried out by the health visitors.

Medical reports on children residing in the various homes maintained by the council were provided from time to time by the medical officers, together with the statutory reports on boarded-out children.

Certain advisory visits were made to the homes.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATION ACT, 1948.

Four persons remain registered as child minders on 31st December, 1955.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACTS.

March Urban District

The new sewerage scheme is now in operation, and it is hoped the conversion of vaults and pail closets will not be long delayed.

Thorney Rural District.

The water supply and sewerage system works well. No new works have been carried out.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR THE YEAR 1955.

It is the duty of the county council as the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole of the administrative county to carry into execution and enforce the following:—

1. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.
 - (a) Sections 1 to 7 (composition of food and drugs excluding milk).
 - (b) Section 32 to 36 (margarine, margarine cheese, butter and milk-blended butter).
2. Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.
 - (a) Section 8 (prohibition of sale of milk from cows suffering from tuberculosis).
 - (b) Sections 9 and 10 (composition of milk).
 - (c) Section 15 and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 (control of heat-treatment of milk).
 - (d) Sections 19 and 20 (prohibition of sales of non-designated milk in specified areas).
3. Labelling of Food Order, 1950 and 1953 (labelling of pre-packed food).
4. Food Standards Orders (prescribed standards for regulating composition of certain food).
5. Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. (prohibiting advertisements relating to medical matters and medicines).

During the year the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, received the royal assent. This Act, which comes into operation on the 1st January, 1956, consolidates the existing legislation together with the amendments provided by the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954.

COMPOSITION OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year under review 151 samples of food and drugs were sent for examination to the public analyst for the County, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge.

These may be summarised as follows:—

Biscuits	7
Bread and Butter, Rolls and Butter	22
Butter, Suet, Lard, Margarine	14
Cakes	2
Cake and Pastry Mixtures	2
Coffee Essence	2
Custard Powder	2
Fish and Chips	2
Ground Almonds	2
Iced Lollies and Ice Cream	10
Malt Vinegar	4
Marshmallows	2
Pepper	3
Preserves	5
Sauce	3
Sausages, Sausage Meat	8
Soft Drinks	5
Soups, Purees	2
Sweets	33
Table Creams, Table Jellies	5
Tea	4
Miscellaneous	12
	TOTAL 151

MARGARINE, MARGARINE-CHEESE BUTTER AND MILK BLENDED BUTTER

Premises used for wholesale dealing in margarine or as butter factories are required to be registered with the county council. 9 margarine premises and 1 butter factory are registered.

TUBERCULOUS MILK

As many samples as possible are taken from milk which is sold to the public in a raw state. Samples are submitted to the Medical Research Council, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. 36 samples were taken during the year, and found to be correct.

COMPOSITION OF MILK

94 Samples of milk were sent to the public analyst for the county. 4 samples were found to be incorrect.

HEAT TREATMENT OF MILK

The county council is responsible for the control and licensing of pasteurising and other heat-treating establishments. Two pasteurising establishments, so licensed, were inspected from time to time during the year and 29 samples were taken all of which were satisfactory. In addition 30 samples of school milk were taken, 2 of which did not reach the prescribed standards.

SALE OF DESIGNATED MILK IN SPECIFIED AREAS

The use of a special designation is to be obligatory for the purpose of all retail sales of milk in areas specified by the Minister of Food. A number of areas have been so specified in the country but at the present time none has been specified in the county.

ARTIFICIAL CREAM

The manufacture of artificial cream is restricted to premises registered with the county council, and the labelling of this product on retail sale is controlled. No premises are so registered and no artificial cream has been found on sale in the county.

LABELLING OF PRE-PACKED FOOD

The Labelling of Food Order requires, inter alia, that pre-packed food, with certain exceptions, must bear a statement of ingredients, specified in order of the proportion in which they are used. The Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations makes it an offence to give a label or advertisement which falsely describes or misleads as to the nutritional or dietary value of a food. These statements are verified by the public analyst during his examination of samples under the Food and Drugs Act. No serious infringements were detected.

PHARMACY AND MEDICINES ACT, 1941

Nothing to report.

F. W. CRABTREE,
County Inspector.

THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Incidence.

There was a fall in the number of notifications of cases of scarlet fever and whooping cough as compared with 1954, but the notifications of measles were considerably higher than in recent years.

A full list of notifications is given in the following table.

Measures for control.

These continued to operate as described in previous reports and close liaison was maintained with local sanitary authorities and their staffs, especially when an infectious disease showed any signs of epidemic prevalence. The school medical officers and school nurses continued routine investigations when cases of scarlet fever were notified among school children, followed up, if necessary, by field work based on the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. Close contact was always maintained with the general practitioners during these investigations.

Institutional Provision.

Cases are transferred from the northern half of the Isle to the Peterborough Isolation Hospital, and from the southern half to the hospital at Ely.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Facilities for treatment of patients from the Isle of Ely are provided at the Clinic, Peterborough; Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; and at the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Hospital. The provision of these arrangements is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

**Infectious Diseases Notified in the Several Districts for the Year ending
1955**

	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS					Combined Total
	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Total Urban Districts	Ely	North Witchford	Thorney	Wisbech	Total Rural Districts	
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	21	1	...	29	1	52	13	8	2	4	27	79
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	18	...	42	1	62	4	18	1	...	23	85
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	3
Poliomyelitis	2	4	1	...	9	16	5	1	...	5	11	27
Typhus Fever... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glandular Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	1	1	1	5	8	1	2	...	...	3	11
Meningococcal Inf. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	1	4	...	5	4	3	1	1	9	14
Tuberculosis												
(a) Pulmonary	3	4	3	5	15	30	7	3	...	9	19	49
(b) Other ... ..	...	...	1	2	...	3	1	...	...	1	2	5
Food Poisoning ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	3
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infectious Hepatitis	1	3	...	...	1	5	...	1	...	1	2	7
Chicken Pox	4	...	...	...	35	39	...	...	...	...	...	39
Measles	51	122	25	358	256	812	180	78	108	73	439	1251
Whooping Cough	26	...	15	37	158	236	6	7	10	56	79	315
Other diseases												
(a) Dysentery ... ..	...	1	...	...	15	16	1	...	14	1	16	32
(b) Para-typhoid ... ..	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	3
(c) Gastro enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1

GENERAL.

Medical Examinations.

During the year 109 examinations of candidates have been carried out by the council's medical officers.

Staff	54
Teachers	8
Training college entrants	47

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