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# REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 1941.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee  
of the Isle of Wight County Council.*

Lady and Gentlemen,

This report is a short one. Some of the usual statistical tables are omitted but the figures are available for future reference.

There is no evidence from the Island mortality rates that war conditions have had a detrimental effect on the health of the public.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FAIRLEY.

County Hall,  
Newport, I.W.  
July, 1942.

Throughout this Report the figures in brackets refer to those of the previous year.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1941.

Area.	Rural District.	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales : Rate per 1,000.
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population...	14'7	15'6	14'4	13'6	13'2	8'9	13'9	14'2
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ..	21'6	22'8	55'7	37'7	29'0	60'0	36'9	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births ... ..	59'8	31'0	44'0	64'4	21'9	21'3	44'8	59'0
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth—								
(a) From Sepsis ... ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	
(b) From other causes ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	4	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Crude death-rate per 1000 population	15'3	15'2	11'4	16'9	16'6	17'7	15'05	12'9

The birth rate was practically the same as in the previous year, and so also was the infant death rate, the great majority of infants deaths being ascribed as usual to causes in operation before birth. There were 91 illegitimate births as against 60 in the previous year. The total number of deaths was 175 less than in 1940 giving a crude death rate of 15.05 per 1000 (16.5). The deaths of persons over 64 years of age constituted 64.6 per cent. of the total deaths (64.1 in 1940 and 65.8 in 1939). There were 35 deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system (44) and 5 from other forms of tuberculosis (6.) Deaths from cancer numbered 162 (192). Three hundred and ninety four deaths were ascribed to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (470).

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain substantially as set out in last year's report.

## BLIND PERSONS' ACT, 1920 and 1938.

There were in all 148 blind persons in the Island at the end of 1941, of whom 2 were between 5 and 16 years of age, 31 between 16 and 50, and 115 over 50 years of age.

## NURSING HOMES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

At the beginning of the year, 29 Homes were registered under the Nursing Homes' Registration Act, and during the year two applications for registration were received. In one case the registration certificate was returned for cancellation on account of death, so at the end of the year there were 30 Nursing Homes registered, 8 for maternity cases only, 15 for maternity and other patients, and 7 for non-maternity cases.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH.

As in previous years, lectures on health matters have been given at Women's institutes by Dr. Linford and Dr. Wallace and also at Townswomen's guilds, district nursing associations, etc. Sixteen lectures in all have been given and in addition short talks have been addressed to mothers attending infant welfare centres.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TABLE II.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1941.

District.	New Milk.	Other Samples.	Total.	Remarks.
Apse Heath ...	—	—	—	
Ashey ...	2	—	2	
Bembridge ...	4	—	4	
Binstead ...	1	—	1	
Brading ...	4 (1a)	—	4	Fined £1 and 15/6 Analyst's Fee.
Brighthstone ...	2	—	2	
Calbourne ...	2	—	2	
Carisbrooke ...	8 (1a)	—	8	Case dismissed.
Chale ...	2	—	2	
Cowes ...	2	*3	5	*Summons withdrawn.
East Cowes ...	2	1	3	
Elmfield ...	2	—	2	
Freshwater ...	5	1	6	
Gatcombe ...	1	—	1	
Godshill ...	2	—	2	
Gurnard ...	4	—	4	
Haylands ...	3	—	3	
Lake ...	1	1	2	
Nettlestone ...	2	—	2	
Newport ...	11	4	15	
Northwood ...	4 (1a)	—	4	Fined £1 and 15/6 Analyst's Fee.
Oakfield ...	1	—	1	
Parkhurst ...	2	—	2	
Porchfield ...	3	—	3	
Ryde ...	9	3	12	
Sandown ...	4	1	5	
Shalfleet ...	3	—	3	
Shanklin ...	5	2	7	
St. Helens ...	1	—	1	
Totland ...	4	—	4	
Ventnor ...	6	*3	9	*Proceedings taken. Fined £1.
Whippingham ...	1	—	1	
Whitwell ...	3	—	3	
Wootton ...	3	—	3	
Wroxall ...	6 (2a)	1	7	Same Vendor. Fined £4 (including 31/- Analyst's Fee).
Yarmouth ...	4	1	5	
	*119 (5a)	21	140	

(a) Adulterated or below the minimum standard fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

\* Three of these samples of milk were broken in transit and 10 of the genuine contained dirty debris.



The number of samples examined by the Public Analyst was 140, of which 119 were milk. Three of these milk samples were broken in transit. One hundred and eleven of the milks were first samples and four of them were certified to be below the minimum standard fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, i.e., 3.6 per cent. of the first samples (7.6 per cent. in 1940 and 4.2 in 1939). Subsequent samples were taken in these cases which were certified to be non genuine and in one case this subsequent sample also was below standard. A third sample was taken and this proved genuine. Legal proceedings were taken in five cases, one was dismissed and fines were imposed in the others of £1 in two cases and £2 in the other two cases with, in each instance, 15/6 costs. Thirteen of the samples were sour when received by the Analyst. Ten of the milk samples contained dirty debris, one in marked amount.

Of the 21 non-milk samples, 6 were of beef sausages and there were 5 of lard and 10 of butter. All but two of these were certified to be genuine. Two samples of beef sausages contained boric acid preservative and legal proceedings were taken; the vendor in one case being fined £1 and in the other case the summons was withdrawn on account of a technicality.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE III.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE 53 WEEKS ENDED 3RD JANUARY, 1942. (REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES.)

	Isle of Wight Rural District.	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Totals.
Small Pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	2	5	10	3	—	21 (58)
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	2	1	—	1	4 (13)
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 (—)
Pneumonia ... ..	4	13	14	3	5	—	39 (38)
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	3	—	11	2	3	1	20 (12)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	3	5	2	3	—	—	13 (20)
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (1)
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	5	4	—	—	9 (9)
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1 (—)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	2	—	2	1	—	—	5 (5)
Measles ... ..	86	166	278	164	26	6	726 (121)
Whooping Cough ... ..	40	60	235	57	87	13	492 (7)
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1 (—)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	12	7	7	11	8	14	59 (69)
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	11	4	7	1	4	1	28 (19)
Totals ... ..	162	257	569	258	136	37	1419—(372)

The notification of infectious diseases to the various medical officers of health numbered 1419 as against 372, 299 and 287 in the three previous years. Measles was moderately prevalent with 726 notifications (121) and 1 death, and so also was whooping cough with 492 cases (7) and 4 deaths so apart from these two diseases there were but 201 notifications. There were 13 notifications of cerebro spinal fever (20) and 5 deaths, 1 fatal case of encephalitis lethargica (0) and no case of acute poliomyelitis (1). Scarlet fever notifications numbered 21 (58) and diphtheria 4 (13) and there was 1 case of paratyphoid B fever (0): 59 of pulmonary tuberculosis (69) and 28 of other forms of tuberculosis (19).

### TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE IV.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory System.		Other Forms.		Respiratory System.		Other Forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- ... ..	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	2
5- ... ..	—	—	9	3	—	—	1	—
10- ... ..	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15- ... ..	1	3	—	2	1	—	—	—
20- ... ..	5	8	—	3	—	1	—	—
25- ... ..	9	7	3	—	6	4	—	—
35- ... ..	8	5	1	—	6	3	—	—
45- ... ..	5	4	1	1	5	2	1	—
55- ... ..	6	1	—	1	4	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	4	—	1	—	2	—	—
	35	32	17	16	22	13	3	2

The new cases shown in Table IV. include all the primary notifications and also any new cases coming otherwise to the notice of the medical officer during the year. These last numbered 33, 21 being transfers from other areas (19), the death returns giving the first information in 10 and 2 cases were re-instated on the register because they returned to the Island. The primary notifications numbered 66 making up the total of 100 "new" cases, as against 100 and 114 in the two preceding years. Sixty-seven of them suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (76) and 33 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (24). In addition 1 "cured" case (pulmonary male) was re-entered on the register.

The deaths from tuberculosis numbered 40 (50). Thirty-five of these deaths were caused by pulmonary tuberculosis (44), 22 males and 13 females, and 5 by non-pulmonary tuberculosis (6).

Table V. shows that there were 470 cases on the Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 493 on the 31st December, 1941.

Number of Patients	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1940 ... ..	188	154	65	63	253	217
Added during 1941 (new cases) ... ..	24	18	10	14	34	32
Cases removed from other areas ... ..	5	12	4	—	9	12
Old cases left re-admitted ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
Old 'Cured' .. ..	1	—	—	—	1	—
<b>Gross Total</b> ... ..	<b>220</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>261</b>
Removed to other areas during 1941 ... ..	21	3	5	1	26	4
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—
Removed from the Register as being 'Cured'	1	2	—	1	1	3
Died during 1941 ... ..	19	11	—	—	19	11
Died from other diseases... ..	1	1	—	—	1	1
<b>Totals to be removed from Register</b> ... ..	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Number on Register at the end of 1941</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>242</b>

The number of observation and nursing visits paid to tuberculous patients by the district nurses was 1170 against 1122 and 1349 in the two previous years.

On the dispensary books there were 354 patients at the end of the year, 235 of whom were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 119 from other forms of the disease, 75 were children under 15 years of age and 279 were adults. In addition 51 persons were under observation at the end of the year for the purpose of diagnosis, making a total of 405 on the dispensary books.

The number of attendances at or in connection with the dispensaries was 437, and the number of new persons examined 198. Seven of these last were contacts as against 10 in the previous year. Two of the contacts were children and 5 were adults. Three were patients transferred from other areas, 3 who had been seen previously and who had been 'lost sight of' returned. Forty-five of the adults were tuberculous, 26 men and 19 women, and 10 of the children, 7 boys and 3 girls: 43 suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis and 12 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, of whom 3 were adults, 2 men and 1 woman, and 9 were children, 6 boys and 3 girls.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1942, a daily ration of milk was given to 11 patients, for periods varying from 8 weeks to 52 weeks. At the beginning of the year, 6 patients were receiving grants, 5 were added during the year, and at the end of the year 6 were in receipt of milk.

TABLE VI.—SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING 1941.

Sanatorium or Hospital	Resident at beginning of year	Admissions during year	Discharges during year (inc. Deaths)	Remaining end of year
Longford Sanatorium ... ..	32	149	141	40
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ... ..	4	4	2	6
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor ... ..	1	*10	10	1
Middleton Sanatorium, Ilkeley, Yorks. ... ..	—	1	1	—
Brompton Hospital ... ..	—	1	1	—
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>37</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>47</b>

\*Six of these were admitted for a few days only.



Details of the patients treated at Longford Sanatorium are as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In residence on 31st December, 1940 ... ..	14	8	10	32
Admitted during the year ... ..	41	42	66	149
Discharged during the year ... ..	37	32	63	132
Died during the year ... ..	5	4	—	9
In residence on 31st December, 1941 ... ..	13	14	13	40

The average duration of stay of the 132 patients discharged was 103.3 days (102.9 in 1940) but this includes the observation cases as well as the patients who were tuberculous. Sixty of the 132 were admitted for observation for the purpose of diagnosis, 8 adults and 52 children. Only 1 of these was found to be suffering from tuberculosis, a child with pulmonary disease. The other 59 were non-tuberculous. The 72 patients, who on admission were suffering from tuberculosis, remained in the Institution for 142.9 days on the average (121.9 days). Thirty-five of them were men, 26 women, and 11 were children. In 14 cases the disease was classified as quiescent on discharge; the other 58 patients still had active disease although many of them had improved.

The number of patients in the Sanatorium sent by the London County Council at the beginning of the year was 7, 38 were admitted during the year, 29 were discharged leaving 16 in the Sanatorium on the 31st December, 1941. These patients are included in the figures given above and they also include 16 children and 1 adult admitted from Portsmouth, 1 evacuee child and 1 adult, for whom the Government accepted responsibility and 1 child for whom the Southampton County Borough accepted responsibility.

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the beginning of the year 20 patients were under treatment, 15 for syphilis and 5 for gonorrhœa and during the year the number of persons attending the centre was 69 (44) of whom 29 (24) were suffering from venereal disease, 12 (10) from syphilis and 17 (14) from gonorrhœa. In addition 103 patients, of whom 94 were service patients, continued treatment here after previous treatment at other centres and 3 old cases were re-admitted. Apart from the 40 persons who were not suffering from venereal disease, the total number of patients receiving treatment during the year was 155. Seventy-five were suffering from syphilis and 80 from gonorrhœa. At the end of the year 48 patients were under treatment, 40 syphilis and 8 gonorrhœa and 1 person was under observation for diagnosis. The number of out-patients attendances at the medical officers' sessions was 864 (364) and the total number of attendances was 880. Service patients attending the Treatment Centre are attended by the Army Medical Officer; their numbers are included in these figures. Four patients suffering from venereal disease were admitted to St. Mary's Hospital for treatment, 1 male and 3 females. Their period of residence totalled 272 days of which 169 were up till the 31st December.

For years there has been little venereal disease on the Island but recently, owing to war conditions, there has been a slight increase and while the number of cases is still small there is evidence of infectious cases communicating the diseases to a series of others. It seems unfortunate, particularly at the present time, that there are no powers in this Country to compel a person suffering from infectious venereal disease to undergo treatment for the safety of others when efforts to persuade them to accept treatment in their own interests have failed.

### CANCER.

#### Extent of Radium and Deep X-Ray Treatment at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

Seventeen patients were admitted to the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital for radium or deep x-ray therapy; these were all new cases. One was admitted to the Park Prewett Hospital and later transferred to the Middlesex Hospital. The gross cost to the Council was £311 17s. 6d. and the nett cost £273 2s. because contributions amounting to £38 15s. 6d. were required from seven of the patients. The remaining 11 patients were not in a position to make any contribution.

Sixteen patients received out-patient treatment, the attendances numbering 121. The charges in respect of this out-patient treatment amounted to £30 5s. The Hospital Savings Association paid 5s. 0d. in respect of 1 patient and contributions amounting to £13 10s. 0d. were required from 9 others so the nett cost to the Council was £16 10s. 0d.

The nett cost to the rates of this service has therefore been £289 12s. 0d. (£265 9s. 6d.).

The Radium Officer from the Southampton centre holds a clinic at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, Ryde, on the afternoon of the fourth Friday of every month, at 3.15 p.m.

### PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

There were 1,237 specimens examined during the year as follows :— Sputum for tubercle bacilli 447, 202 positive, 245 negative, other specimens for tubercle bacilli 13, 5 positive and 8 negative, 8 for culture for tubercle bacilli, 2 positive, 6 negative, swabs for diphtheria bacilli 191, 14 positive, 177



negative, bloods for widal reaction 11, 1 positive, 10 negative, smears for Gonococci 363, 64 positive, 299 negative, and other examinations 204.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**Midwifery and Maternity Services.**—No changes have been made in these services as described in last year's report.

Fifty midwives were in regular practice on the Island throughout the year, of whom 3 were employed at Parkhurst Institution, 29 were employed by the district nursing associations and 18 were in independent practice: 12 of these last were engaged entirely in nursing homes and not in domiciliary midwifery. In addition, 20 other midwives practised here for part of the year only. The total number notifying their intention to practise was 71. In supervising the work of these midwives, Dr. Linford made 117 routine and 3 special visits of enquiry.

The midwives notified 10 still-births, 1 death of child, 14 artificial feeding, 3 performing last offices, and 25 liability to be a source of infection, and they also sent notices of having summoned medical help in 251 instances. An analysis of the 251 cases shows that 34 were for the child, 214 were for the mother, and 3 were for both. Of these last, 68 were for complications arising during pregnancy, 21 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage, and 47 for other causes during pregnancy; 116 were for causes arising during labour, 46 of these being for obstructed or delayed labour, 4 for abnormal presentations, 1 for hæmorrhage, 61 for ruptured perineum and 4 for other causes during labour; and 33 were for causes arising after labour.

Financial assistance was granted towards the payment of home helps in 16 cases (13).

**Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care.**—There were 912 expectant mothers seen by the district nurse midwives, an average of 5.9 times each and the independent midwives paid 1849 visits to 380 expectant mothers which was an average of 4.8 visits per case.

The number of expectant mothers who attended Dr. Linford's ante-natal clinics was 357 and a further 103 (131) mothers were seen by her apart from the clinics.

**Maternity Cases at St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst.**—Patients are admitted to St. Mary's Hospital as is found necessary for ante-natal treatment as well as for their confinements. The total number of maternity admissions during the year was 140, of which 23 were Public Assistance cases and 117 were through the Public Health Committee. Twelve of the patients admitted for ante-natal treatment were discharged from the hospital before confinement and 8 of these were re-admitted for their confinements; the other 4 having their confinements at home. There were 125 births in the hospital during the year of which 3 were still births and 122 live births. Six infants died within 10 days of birth. The average duration of stay in hospital of all the patients (confinement cases and ante-natal) was 18 days.

One mother with her baby, was sent by your Committee to the Harriet Guy and Cowes War Memorial Convalescent Home at Gurnard, their treatment lasting 21 days.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—Twenty-one notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received during the year compared with 12 and 22 respectively in the two previous years. There were 12 cases in the Newport district, 3 each in Sandown-Shanklin and the Rural District, 2 in Ryde and 1 in Ventnor. Four cases occurred in nursing homes, 4 in St. Mary's Hospital and 13 at home. Four of the cases which occurred at home were transferred to the Fairlee Infectious Diseases Hospital. These patients remained there for periods varying between 16 and 37 days and averaging 25 days. One patient died after 16 days' treatment in hospital.

**Maternal Deaths.**—There were 5 maternal deaths on the Island; although only 4 are included in the official figures of the Registrar General. Two died in Newport, and 1 each in Ryde, Cowes and the Rural District. The official maternal mortality rate is 4.1 (nil in 1940). Three of the deaths occurred in the County Hospital, due to placenta prævia, sepsis following abortion and toxæmia and eclampsia. One due to toxæmia occurred at home and 1 puerperal case died in hospital, as already mentioned, from pulmonary embolism.

**Dental Treatment.**—During the year there has been an interruption in the Council's dental service owing to difficulty in obtaining dental surgeons. Normally the time of 1½ dentists is occupied in County Council work. The County was without any dentist at all for approximately four months. The whole-time Dentist left at the end of March and was succeeded by another Dentist in June, who resigned at the end of four months. Another Dentist was not appointed until the 10th December, 1941. The Dentist who is employed half time by the Newport Education Authority and half time County Council resigned at the beginning of May, 1941 and since then urgent work has been carried out by a part-time Dentist employed by the Newport Education Authority.

The number of expectant mothers receiving dental treatment was 107. Some of these required extractions only, the number of fresh applications for dentures during the year being 45. In addition 2 mothers had dentures repaired, 1 had dentures re-made and 3 had extractions only. Of these 51, your Committee required contributions towards the cost of the dentures in 39 and in the remaining 12 the financial circumstances were such that no contribution was required. Fifty-four individual dentures were supplied and 306 attendances were made by the mothers.

**Infant Welfare Centres.**—The work of these centres was continued as usual.

An orthopædic clinic is held each month, with the exception of August, at the County Hall, Newport and at the County Hospital every month, and during the financial year ended 31st March, 1942, 91 attendances were made by children under school age.

At the beginning of 1941, there were 2 children in Alton Hospital, 1 girl with congenital dislocation of the hip and a boy with hydrocephalus. Both of these children were discharged during the year after 20 months' and 5 months' treatment respectively. One child was admitted during the year on account of cleft palate and was discharged after 12 weeks' treatment. There were no children under 5 years of age in Alton Hospital at the end of the year for which the Public Health Committee is responsible.

**Visual Defects.**—Three children under school age attended the eye clinics of whom 2 were fresh patients and 1 attended for re-examination twice. Two were supplied with spectacles for the first time and in the other case spectacles were not required.

**Infant Life Protection.**—The changes in the Children Act Register during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1941, are as follows :—

On Register 1st January, 1941	...	...	...	12
Added during the year 1941	...	...	...	27
				—
				39
Removed during 1941	...	...	...	8
To care of relations	...	...	...	4
Legally adopted	...	...	...	—
To Ryde Borough	...	...	...	—
Left Island	...	...	...	3
Over 9 years of age	...	...	...	1
				—
On Register 31st December, 1941	...	...	...	31
				—

These numbers are for the whole Island except the Borough of Ryde. During the year 110 visits of inspection were made to these children, 42 by the medical officers, 68 by the health visitors.



