

[Report 1971] / Medical Officer of Health, Kent County Council.

Contributors

Kent (England). County Council. n 50045898

Publication/Creation

1971

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/fqgbx49x>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1971

A. ELLIOTT, M.D., D.P.H.
County Medical Officer of Health
Principal School Medical Officer



SENIOR STAFF – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER, PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
A. Elliott, M.D., D.P.H.

DEPUTY COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
D.M. Lyon, O.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICERS

M.A.G. Ward, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.	.. .. .	Thanet
G.P. Wallace, M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.	.. .. .	Mid Kent
V. Mary Collins, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.	... ..	West Kent
Eirwen Griffith, M.B., B.S.	.. .. .	Medway Towns
Ann B. Gray, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., D.P.H.	.. .. .	North West Kent
Ethel M. Allen, M.B., B.S., D.Gbot., R.C.D.G.	.. .. .	South East Kent

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER
E. Millward, L.D.S.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES
Dora E.C. Bradley, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D.

DIVISIONAL NURSING OFFICERS

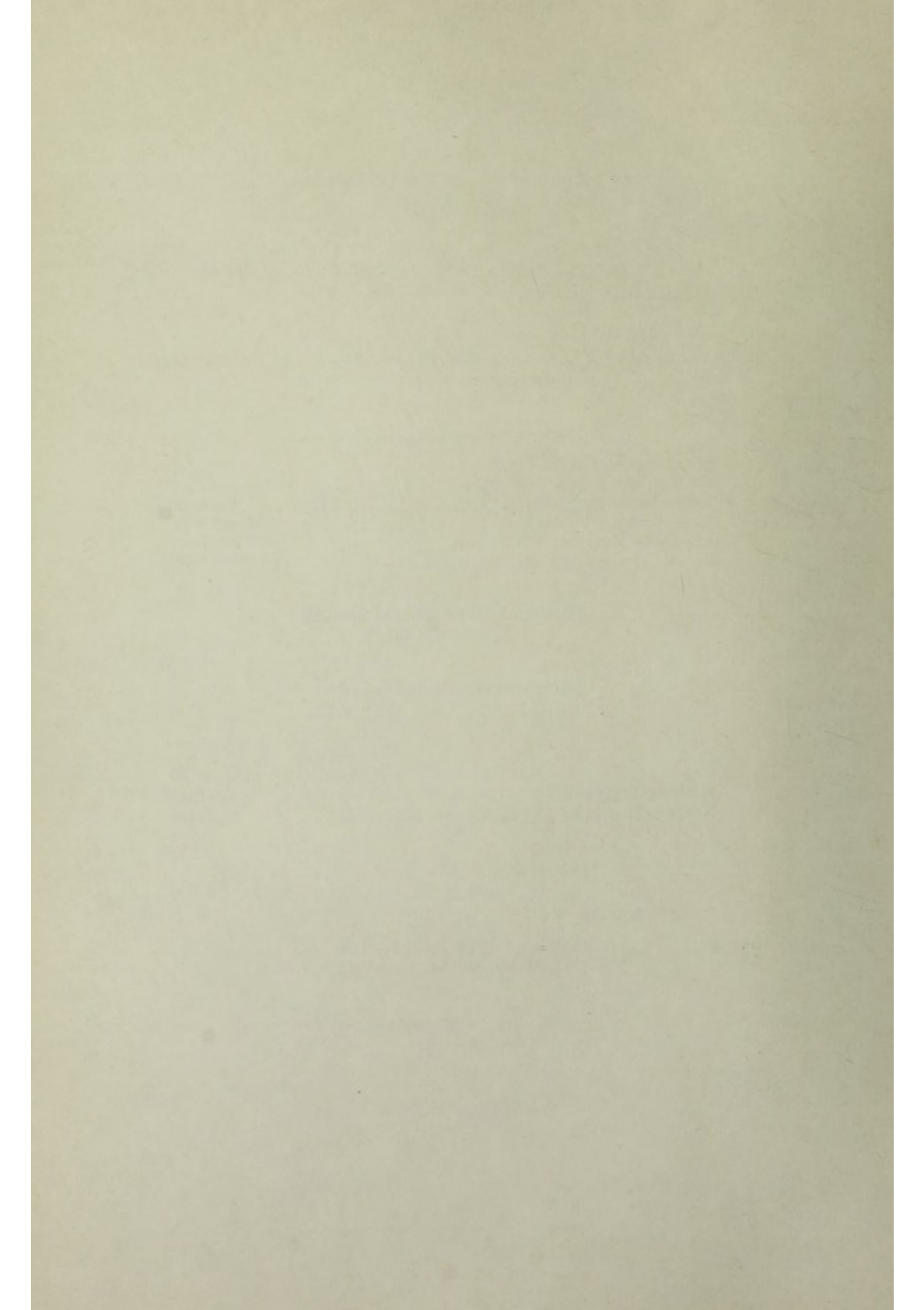
Kathleen G.R. Craven, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., N.D.N.Cert	.. ..	East Kent
Brenda M. Walker, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., N.D.N.Cert	.. ..	West Kent

PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
F.C. Woodruffe, T.D., M.I.S.W.

COUNTY HEALTH INSPECTOR
E.A.P. May, M.R.S.I., A.I.MECH.E.

AMBULANCE OFFICER
J.A. Gillin

PRINCIPAL CHIROPODIST
C.H. Wicks, M.CH.S.



CONTENTS

Prefatory Letter	4
VITAL STATISTICS	5
NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES	6
IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION	8
PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE	8
DRIVING LICENCES – CASES REFERRED BY TAXATION LICENCES OFFICER	10
CHIROPODY	11
CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN	11
HEALTH VISITING	12
FAMILY PLANNING	12
NURSING SERVICES	12
AMBULANCE SERVICE	14
STATISTICAL TABLES	16
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE	21
GENERAL INFORMATION	21
SCHOOL CLINICS	21
STAFF	22
MEDICAL INSPECTIONS	23
MEDICAL TREATMENT	23
CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE	24
SPEECH THERAPY	24
DENTAL SERVICE	24
HANDICAPPED PUPILS	25
STATISTICAL TABLES	26

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SPRINGFIELD,
MAIDSTONE.

6th September 1972.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kent County Council

I present my Annual Reports as County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer for
1971.

A. ELLIOTT M.D., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

Vital Statistics

POPULATION – The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Administrative County at the middle of 1971 was 1,373,290 and this population is the basis of the rates quoted in this Report. Table 1 at the end of the Report shows the population in each area in the County: and from that Table it will be seen that 920,490 persons were resident in the urban areas, and 452,800 in the rural districts.

BIRTHS – The births of living children, registered during 1971, totalled 22,101. Male births numbered 11,440 female births 10,661.

The crude* birth-rates for the year were 16.2 (comparable rate † 17.66) in the urban districts, 15.8 (comparable rate 16.59) in the rural districts and 16.1 (comparable rate 17.23) in the County as a whole. The figure for England & Wales was 16.0.

The number of births, and the birth rates, in each sanitary district of the County, are set out in Table 1 at the end of this report.

The excess of births over deaths was 5,469–3,241 males and 2,228 females.

The sex-ratio of the births, on the figures shown above, represents a proportion of slightly more than 107 males to 100 females.

STILL-BIRTHS – The number of still-births recorded during the year was 254. This number represents a proportion of 11 per thousand of all births in the County. This proportion may be compared with the rate for England and Wales of 12.

The rate of still-births (per thousand total live and still births) was 11 in urban and 11 in rural districts, and 11 in the County as a whole.

The number of still-births in each sanitary district of the County is shown in Table 1 at the end of this report.

INFANTILE MORTALITY – There were 293 deaths of infants under one year of age in Kent during the year, which represents an infantile mortality rate (number of deaths among children under one year of age per thousand live births) of 13. The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births is 13 and per 1,000 illegitimate births is 21.

These deaths of infants formed just under 2.0 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY – There were 207 deaths of infants under four weeks of age during the year, which represents a neo-natal mortality rate (number of deaths among children under four weeks of age per thousand related live births) of 9.

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY – There were 178 deaths of infants under one week during the year, which represents an early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) of 8.

PERINATAL MORTALITY – There were 432 stillbirths and deaths under one week combined during the year, which represents a perinatal mortality rate (deaths under one week and stillbirths combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) of 19.

Of the 22,101 births in the County, 1,513 were illegitimate, being 6.8 per cent. of the total.

MATERNAL MORTALITY – There were 3 maternal deaths (including abortion) which represents a maternal mortality rate (maternal deaths per 1,000 total births), of 0.1.

The rates in the different sanitary district will be found in Table 1 at the end of this report.

DEATHS – The number of deaths registered in the County (i.e. the number of deaths of persons resident in Kent) during 1971 was 16,632. Male deaths totalled 8,199 female death 8,433.

Crude death-rates were 12.6 for the urban areas, 11.0 for the rural districts, and 12.1 for the whole Country.

The number of deaths in each sanitary district, and the deaths in age-groups, and by cause, are shown in Tables at the end of this report.

* Crude birth and death-rates are the number of births or deaths per 1,000 of the population.

† For explanation see page .

The principal causes of death in order of importance show little variation from year to year, and the following table shows the order of the principal causes in 1971, the number of deaths under each heading, the death-rate, and the percentage of each group to the total number of deaths from all causes:—

Cause of death	1971		
	Number of Deaths	Number of deaths per 1,000 population	Percentage to the total number of deaths from all causes
Heart Disease	5,188	3.78	31.19
Cancer (all sites)	3,342	2.43	20.09
Other Circulatory Diseases	3,256	2.37	19.58
Pneumonia	1,236	0.90	7.43
Bronchitis and Emphysema	794	0.58	4.77
Violence (all forms)	530	0.39	3.19
Hypertensive Disease	308	0.22	1.85
Other Diseases of respiratory system	176	0.13	1.06
Peptic Ulcer	134	0.10	0.81
Diabetes	160	0.12	0.96
Tuberculosis (all forms)	31	0.02	0.19
Nephritis and Nephrosis	46	0.03	0.28
Asthma	37	0.03	0.22
Influenza	16	0.12	0.10
TOTALS	15,254	11.11	91.71

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifications of infectious diseases in each of the sanitary districts in Kent is shown in Table 2 at the end of this report.

SMALLPOX — Once again no cases occurred during the year. It is now twenty-five years since the last case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER — There were 505 cases notified.

DIPHTHERIA — There were no cases of diphtheria reported in the County.

MEASLES — There were 4,886 cases reported. One death occurred in a child under the age of five years.

WHOOPIING COUGH — 458 cases were reported.

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS — There were no cases reported in the County.

Year	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Notifications Paralytic ..	4	2	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Non-Paralytic ..	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
DEATHS ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM — Eight cases were reported during the year.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM

The following table shows the mortality from cancer recorded in Kent during the year.

Kent								% of Total Deaths from Cancer
URBAN								
<u>Category</u>								
		Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	..	..	..		26	1.1
		" " Oesophagus	..	..	..		69	2.8
		" " Stomach	..	..	..		219	9.0
		" " Intestine	..	..	..		295	12.2
		" " Larynx	..	..	..		18	0.7
		" " Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..		639	26.3
		" " Breast	..	..	..		275	11.3
		" " Uterus	..	..	..		72	3.0
		" " Prostate	..	..	..		88	3.6
		Leukaemia	..	..	..		69	2.8
		Other Malignant Neoplasm	..	..	..		629	25.9
		Benign and unspecified Neoplasm	..	..	..		25	1.0
TOTAL							2,424	
DEATH RATE							2.6	
RURAL								
<u>Category</u>								
		Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	..	..	..		18	1.8
		" " Oesophagus	..	..	..		24	2.4
		" " Stomach	..	..	..		85	8.4
		" " Intestine	..	..	..		147	14.5
		" " Larynx	..	..	..		3	3.0
		" " Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..		267	26.4
		" " Breast	..	..	..		104	10.3
		" " Uterus	..	..	..		32	3.2
		" " Prostate	..	..	..		50	4.9
		Leukaemia	..	..	..		25	2.5
		Other Malignant Neoplasm	..	..	..		243	24.0
		Benign and unspecified Neoplasm	..	..	..		14	1.4
TOTAL							1,012	
DEATH RATE							2.2	
TOTAL							3,436	
DEATH RATE							2.5	

The age-sex distribution of the deaths is shown below

		All ages	Per-centage	Under 1	1 to under 5	5 to under 15	15 to under 45	45 to under 65	65 and over
1971	M ..	1,797	52.30	3	7	8	54	552	1,326
	F ..	1,639	47.70	—	4	5	77	512	888
TOTAL ..		3,436	100.00	3	11	13	131	1,064	2,214

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The routine vaccination against smallpox of children between the age of one and two years was stopped at Child Health Clinics at the end of July 1971 following advice from the Department of Health and Social Security that vaccination should no longer be recommended as a routine procedure in early childhood.

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS IMMUNISATION

Facilities for immunisation were available at Child Health Clinics, doctors' surgeries and schools. The number of primary courses of triple antigen, diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus, completed in 1971 was 20,045; there were also 744 primary courses against diphtheria/tetanus and 1,570 against tetanus.

23,626 children received a reinforcing injection and of the children born in 1970 just over 65% had been immunised by the end of the year.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Facilities continued to be made available at County Clinics and by general practitioners and wherever possible the primary course is now given at the same time as the triple antigen, diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus, starting at six months of age, followed by reinforcing doses at school entry and on leaving school.

During the year 22,144 children received a primary course of vaccination against poliomyelitis and 20,645 had a reinforcing dose. Of the children born in 1970, just over 68% were immunised by the end of the year.

VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES

During the year 15,437 children were vaccinated against measles either at the nearest Child Health Clinic or by their own doctors, just over 70%.

VACCINATION AGAINST RUBELLA

Consent forms were again distributed to all thirteen year old children in schools offering vaccination against rubella either at school or by their own doctors. By the end of the year 8,380 children had been vaccinated, (71%).

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The various services provided under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, have been maintained during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS

During the year 206 persons were notified as suffering from tuberculosis. On the 31st December, 5,882 persons remained on the registers of medical officers of health. Summaries of notifications will be found on page .

PROVISION FOR EXTRA FOODS

623 recommendations were made by chest physicians, of which 586 were approved, the remainder not being approved as, at the time of recommendation, the patients' financial circumstances brought them outside the application of the Council's assessment regulations.

REHABILITATION

Persons suffering from inactive tuberculosis who are fit enough to undertake five hours' work a day can, on the recommendation of the chest physician, be admitted to rehabilitation units established at Preston Hall, Maidstone and Papworth Hall, Cambridge. At the end of 1971, 3 were receiving rehabilitation;

KENT COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

This Council has continued to afford assistance to patients and their dependants in the form of extra milk, beds and bedding, clothing, holidays, materials for diversional therapy, finding suitable employment fares to visit patients in sanatoria and hospitals, re-housing and removal expenses. The County Council make an annual grant for administrative expenses only.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

During 1971, 15,533 schoolchildren aged 13 years and over were skin tested, 14,005 were found to be negative and 13,924 were vaccinated. All tuberculin positive children were referred to the chest physician concerned for further investigation.

As in former years, precautionary investigations of schoolchildren who had been in contact with known cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were continued, 432 children from 5 schools were skin tested of whom 44 were tuberculin positive and referred to the chest physician. Members of school staffs were also given an opportunity of attending for X-ray.

ASCERTAINMENT OF CONTACTS

Contacts of persons known to be suffering from tuberculosis are persuaded by the health visitor to attend the chest clinics for examination.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Sputum positive cases are not generally encouraged to return to work but if they do, every precaution is taken to ensure that there is no spread of infection. Where the previous employment is not considered suitable, the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour, endeavours to find alternative employment or in certain cases the patient will undertake a course of training for work suitable to his condition.

ILLNESSES GENERALLY

RECUPERATIVE CARE

Recuperative residential care is provided under Sections 22 and 28 of the Act. This is restricted to instances where a child under 16 years has suffered from an illness which has been treated either in a hospital or at home and whilst needing further medical and / or nursing care of the type that can be provided by a general practitioner and home nurse, cannot have that care at home. One application was received and approved.

NURSING REQUISITES

The increasing demand for equipment is for chronic sick or severely handicapped persons who are partially or wholly confined to bed and for short-term acute illnesses. By the end of the year the total number of items of equipment on loan to patients had again increased by over 2,000.

Demand for the special pads made in County Training Centres for the home nursing of incontinent patients continues to increase and over 500,000 are now used in a year. Pants for incontinent patients together with disposable inners, are also supplied.

The types of special equipment in use at the end of the year and the costs are:—

	<u>No. Issued in 1971.</u>	<u>Total on Loan 31st December, 1971.</u>	<u>Cost £</u>
Hoists	199	221	
Lifting Poles	139	289	
Hospital Beds	99	144	
Walking Aids	276	462	
Walking Frames	1,500	2,386	
Toilet Seats	351	652	
Toilet Aids	353	675	
Commodes	174	234	
Sani-Cushions	6	8	
Ejector Seat & Chairs	175	284	
Bath Seats and Boards	1,083	1,977	
Bath Rails	602	1,349	
Bath Mats	800	1,673	
Cot Beds	53	55	
Ripple Beds	792	319	
Special Chairs (Amesbury etc.)	11	38	
Egerton Beds	3	17	
Easinurse Mattresses	—	1	
Foam Mattresses	191	177	
Bed Blocks	48	77	
Fracture Boards	64	111	
Sheepskins	26	30	
	<u>6,945</u>	<u>11,179</u>	

RENAL HAEMODIALYSIS

Thirty seven premises have been converted or were in the course of conversion for the installation of artificial kidney machines of which eleven were completed in 1971. Eleven have been dismantled.

Nine were in the course of construction, fourteen were completed before 1970, and seven have been dismantled.

FLUORIDATION

No action has been taken by the County Council to raise to one part/million the level of fluoride in public water supplies as a measure of preventive medicine to reduce the incidence of dental disease in children.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Two woman social welfare workers are attached to the venereal disease clinics in the County. They are responsible for tracing contacts of patients attending the clinics and following up those who do not maintain attendances for treatment. In the year 432 such persons were visited of whom subsequently 371 attended clinics.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Reliance continued to be placed usually on personal approaches by County staff such as doctors, dental surgeons, health visitors, midwives, nurses, welfare officers, etc. in the normal course of their duties. Lectures on various aspects of health education were given at schools by Assistant County Medical Officers, and on request to various organisations.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

By the end of 1971, 22 clinics all of which are staffed by members of the District Nursing Service who were trained in this work by senior staff, had been provided for the taking of cervical smears from women aged between 35 and 65 years. In general, the demand for the service from women has not been great since during the year 7,306 smears were taken, of which 15 were positive. Many women do, of course, have their smears taken by their own doctors or at Family Planning Clinics.

DRIVING LICENCES – CASES REFERRED BY TAXATION LICENCES OFFICER

During the year 381 cases were reviewed where doubts arose as to the suitability, by reason of medical conditions, of the persons concerned to hold driving licences. In considering this number regard should be had to the issue in the year by the Council of 214,619 driving licences. A classification of the conditions reviewed is:—

<u>Epilepsy:</u>	(Issued	164
	210 – (Refused	35
	(Revoked	11
<u>Diabetes Mellitis:</u>	(Issued	41
	43 – (Revoked	
	(Refused	2
<u>Cardiac Disease:</u>	(Issued	7
	9 – (Revoked	2
<u>Mental Illness:</u>	(Issued	6
	10 – (Refused	3
	(Withdrawn	1
<u>Giddiness and Fainting:</u>	(Issued	52
	59 – (Refused	7
<u>Mental Subnormality:</u>	2 – Issued	2
<u>Unclassified:</u>	(Issued	34
	(Refused	5
	48 – (Revoked	4
	(To take driving test	4
	withdrawn	1

381

CHIROPODY SERVICE, 1971

The Chiropody Service provided 69,560 treatments during the year, an increase of 7% over the previous year. 12,201 of these treatments were provided in the homes of patients, an increase of 16% on 1970.

The staff of:—

The Principal Chiropodist,
18 full-time chiropodists, and
16 part-time chiropodists,

provided a service in 39 County clinics for priority categories of patient.

The demand for this service is increasing each year and far exceeds available facilities, a greatly increased number of cases being referred from medical practitioners.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

The notifications of births for women resident in Kent in 1971 were:—

			Domiciliary	Hospital Nursing Homes
Live Births	..	..	4,606	17,663
Still Births	..	..	<u>12</u>	<u>142</u>
			<u>4,618</u>	<u>17,805</u>

CENTRES AND CLINICS

At the end of 1971 the 231 Child Health Clinics were staffed by medical officers thus:—

17	Full-time Departmental Medical Officers
8	Part-time Departmental Medical Officers
116	Doctors in general practice engaged on a sessional basis
11	Medical Officers engaged on a part-time basis
<hr/>	
152	

Attendances were:—

<u>Child Health Clinics</u>			
Infants under 1 year	..	..	179,893
Children 1 - 2 years	..	..	43,461
Children 2 - 5 years	..	..	44,701
Total Attendances 268,064 (In 1970 267,078)			
Total number of such children attending during the year	..	..	59,570
Number of infants under 1 attending for the first time	..	..	20,133

County Midwives – Ante-Natal Clinic

Total attendance 9,396

Relaxation and Mothercraft Classes

Attendances 16,038

HEALTH CENTRES

On 18th January, 1971, Woodlands Health Centre, Paddock Wood, became operational and was the first Health Centre to be built in Kent. This provides for three general medical practitioners' consulting suites and the County Council's child health, dental and chiropody services.

INCIDENCE OF CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS

All congenital malformations apparent at birth of children, whose home addresses are in the County and who are born in the County or elsewhere, are recorded. The object of the scheme, which includes still-births as well as live-births, is to enable the Registrar General to compile statistical information from which it should be possible to detect any national or regional variation in the incidence of malformations.

During 1971 the Registrar General was given information about 380 children having one or more congenital malformations.

HEALTH VISITING

At the end of the year there were 207 health visitors in post including 22 part-time and 21 student health visitors.

Health visitors' home visits were:—

To expectant mothers	.. .. .	2,448	
To infants under 1 year	.. .. .	137,476	
To children aged 1 and under 2 years	.. .. .	60,517	
To children aged 2 and under 5 years	.. .. .	116,182	
To patients with tuberculosis	.. .. .	2,393	
Other visits (hospital care, care of old people, etc.)	.. .. .	84,358	
		<hr/>	
	TOTAL VISITS	403,374	(In 1970 377,554)

Health visitors made one home visit for every notified birth with subsequent visits on a selective basis according to needs.

Health visitors continued to give screening tests of hearing to children under five years of age. During the year they tested 19,189 children and of that number 205 were re-tested by a Senior Medical Officer and the Senior Teacher of the Deaf. If this further test suggested impaired hearing, the child's general medical practitioner was consulted and an Otologist's opinion was subsequently obtained before discussion by one of the Council's assessment panels.

FAMILY PLANNING

The County Council has, since the 1st April, 1967, made an annual grant to the Kent Branch of the Family Planning Association for women requiring advice for medical reasons from the 1st April, 1971, a more formal arrangement for 1971/72 was made with the National Association in accordance with the National Family Planning Agency Scheme. In addition to payments made under the Agency Scheme, the County Council has provided free accommodation for the Kent Branch to hold clinic sessions in County-owned buildings and in 1971 18 clinic premises were involved.

The number of patients accepted for financial responsibility by the Council increased considerably after the 1st April, 1971, because of the introduction by the Family Planning Association of a standard definition of 'medical case' which included reasons of 'social burdens'. Whereas in 1970 395 patients were accepted for grant purposes, the figure for the period 1st April, 1971, to the 31st December, 1971, for payment under the National Agency Scheme rose to 2,926.

Towards the end of the year the Health Committee reported to the County Council its conclusion that the Council's scheme should be expanded to include the provision of free contraceptive advice to women for non-medical, or social, reasons. Having regard to the considerable increase in County expenditure that would be involved, the Committee said that such increase could be provided for in the 1972/73 budget, this service should be directly managed by elected Members.

NURSING SERVICES

STAFF

In 1971 the professional staff establishment for the management of the integrated nursing services was:—

- 1 Director of Nursing Services
- 2 Divisional Nursing Officers
- 2 Area Nursing Officers with special responsibilities for nurse training, and health education
- 13 Area Nursing Officers, including one officer concerned solely with the management of nursing services delegated to the Borough Council of Gillingham.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The numbers of domiciliary midwives practising at 31st December, 1971, with the corresponding figures for 1970 in brackets were:—

County Midwives and Nurse/Midwives in post	..	..	..	..	214 (219)
Other Domiciliary Midwives	..	..	..	..	2 (2)

The number of deliveries attended by domiciliary midwives during the two years 1970 and 1971 were:—

					1970	1971
By County Midwives and Nurse/Midwives	..	..	..	..	5,181	5,251
By other Domiciliary Midwives	..	..	..	..	3	3

The Midwives Act, 1951 requires the Council to exercise supervisory duties over all practising midwives and at the end of 1971 such duties covered midwives practising in the following establishments (the figures in brackets are for 1970):—

In N.H.S. Hospitals	..	..	..	..	264 (253)
In Private Nursing Homes	..	..	..	..	6 (6)

DOMICILIARY CARE OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS

The continuing demand for hospital care necessitates the discharge of a considerable number of patients to the care of domiciliary midwives within the first ten days of the puerperium, in many instances shortly after the delivery. In 1971 there were 6,202 maternity patients transferred early from institutional to domiciliary care, compared with 4,986 in 1970.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

A maternal death is one due to or associated with pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. As part of a continuing national enquiry, it is the practice to investigate the circumstances of each death ostensibly due to or associated with maternal factors and the deaths during 1971 of three women were so investigated.

DISTRICT TRAINING OF PUPIL-MIDWIVES

All pupil-midwives must have training in district midwifery. They receive instruction from district midwives approved as teachers by the Central Midwives Board and at the end of the year 73 County midwives were so qualified.

During the year 182 pupil-midwives completed their domiciliary training with County midwives, the corresponding figure for 1970 being 187.

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION FOR MIDWIVES

The Rules of the Central Midwives Board require midwives who are in regular practice to attend a residential midwifery refresher course at five yearly intervals and 41 of the Council's midwives and nurse-midwives attended such a course during the year.

In 1924 the Council commenced non-residential refresher courses of one week's duration for midwives. Apart from the war years and three subsequent years, the courses have been held annually, the 39th in 1971.

EMPLOYMENT OF DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES IN HOSPITAL

A pilot scheme was established in 1967 for County midwives to accompany certain of their patients into the West Kent General Hospital in Maidstone, there deliver them and, following their early discharge, to continue with their care in their own homes. Similar arrangements were concluded with various hospital management committees. During 1971 the number of hospitals involved rose to 11 and negotiations were commenced for the inclusion of two more.

THE ATTACHMENT OF DOMICILIARY NURSING STAFFS TO, OR THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH GENERAL PRACTICES

Where attachment of domiciliary staff to, or alignment with, general practice is the objective, it is necessary to examine the position created by the disparity between the number of such staff in a particular area and the greater number of doctors with whom they may have to work. Another consideration is that, unlike the general practitioners, each of the domiciliary nursing staff will have been working within a defined district.

To secure closer working association of the domiciliary staff with general practices, discussion took place in 1971, as in previous years, between the doctors and the senior midwifery and nursing staff. Whilst a few areas remain where some form of attachment arrangements with individual doctors or groups of doctors has yet to be achieved, the extent to which arrangements had been made by the end of 1971 for attachment or alignment of whole-time staff, is shown by the following figures:

Health Visitors	65%	District Nurse/Midwives	75%
District Midwives	95%	District Nurses	90%

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER HEALTH SERVICES

In a number of areas within the County arrangements were made in 1971 by the area nursing officers with their counterparts in the hospital service for domiciliary nursing staff to visit hospitals – the maximum period being one week – and for hospital nurses to see the working of the community care services, but no formal arrangements were created.

In one area arrangements were made with the local general practitioners to assist with the establishment of a geriatric screening clinic, in conjunction with the general arrangements for attachment of domiciliary nursing staff.

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

In 1971, district nurses made 747,175 nursing attendances to 35,216 patients, as compared with 694,203 nursing attendances to 29,024 patients in 1970. Of the patients attended, 20,848 were sixty-five years of age or over, and the nursing attendances to them formed 64.9% of the total; the corresponding figures for 1970 were 18,827 and 63.2% respectively. There were 9,521 patients who received 171,326 visits solely for injections, as compared with 7,789 patients who received 159,329 such visits in 1970.

POST-REGISTRATION TRAINING

In 1971 the Council held its 21st non-residential refresher course for district nurses; such a course had been held each year from 1950 with the exception of 1967.

DISTRICT NURSE TRAINING

Courses of instruction in district nursing are provided for the National Certificate in District Nursing. The training is for a maximum of sixteen weeks, but this period is reduced to one of twelve weeks in the case of candidates with particular experience and qualifications. It includes the adaptation of hospital nursing techniques to nursing in the home, the nursing of illnesses met infrequently in hospital, sufficient knowledge of the social services to recognise when one or more of these services might be necessary for the patient's welfare, the teaching of home care to relatives of the patient and the use of opportunities for health education. The Council held three courses during the year, making a total of 21 and of 62 candidates, from its own staff and of other local health authorities 61 were successful in the examinations for the National Certificate.

INTEGRATED TRAINING SCHEMES

During 1971, members of the Council's senior nursing staff had further meetings similar to those held in 1970 with their counterparts in 7 nurse training schools in the County to arrange for the introduction of facilities for training student nurses in the provision of community care services, to meet the changed syllabus of the General Nursing Council. Discussions were also held with the staff of 2 hospital midwifery training schools about single period of midwifery training and a scheme for this training to be provided in conjunction with one former Part II training school commenced during the year.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

Of the 46 County district councils in Kent, 24 exercised by delegation the County Council's functions for the registration and inspection of nursing homes. In the remaining 22 districts there were 23 homes registered by the Council at the end of the year, only 1 of which received maternity patients.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The service is provided from seventeen ambulance stations. These include one small voluntary station operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade under agency arrangements and a station in Canterbury from which the service is provided jointly by the City Council and the County Council for Canterbury and the surrounding County area. Supplementary transport for sitting patients is provided by the Hospital Car Service.

On 23rd February 1971 the new ambulance station to serve the Dartford area was brought into use, replacing the agency service provided by the Greater London Council since 1st April, 1965, and the new Cranbrook station was opened on 13th April, 1971.

On two occasions helicopters were used to take patients with serious injuries which precluded them from being taken by road or rail to specialist hospitals, such as Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Bucks. The cost was £246.50.

The radio network has seven main static stations, 216 two-way sets in ambulances and 80 in midwives' cars.

Courses of instruction were provided at the County Council's training schools at Maidstone and Canterbury for 71 ambulancemen who attended two weeks' courses for new entrants to the Council's service, 51 ambulancemen who attended two weeks' refresher courses and 56 officers attended courses of one week's duration in ambulance aid and administration. In addition, 63 ambulancemen attended mandatory six weeks' courses to enable them to qualify for the Proficiency Certificate issued by the Department of Health and Social Security. (42 at the Kent schools and 21 at the Area Training School in Surrey).

The total number of emergency calls rose from 20,737 in 1970 to 22,200 in 1971, an increase of 7.1% — the same rate of increase as for 1970.

The Hospital Car Service, organised as an integral part of the Ambulance Service, carried 33,209 patients, an increase of 4,250 or 14.6% on 1970.

The total number of patients carried in 1971 was 744,109, an increase of 9.1% from 1970.

The following was the vehicle position at the end of 1971:—

	<u>Stretcher</u> <u>Ambulances</u>	<u>Sitting case</u> <u>Ambulances</u>	<u>Dual-Purpose</u> <u>Ambulances</u>
Vehicles operated by the County Council	36	73	115
County vehicles allocated to Canterbury Joint Service	3	2	5
County vehicles operated by St. John Ambulance Brigade	1	—	—
	<u>40</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>120</u>

The work of the Service is summarised thus:—

Ambulance Service Vehicles

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Total mileage	3,524,902	3,901,328
Number of patients carried	652,959	710,900
Number of emergency patients	19,676	21,866
Number of emergency calls	20,737	22,200

Hospital Car Service

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Total mileage	550,273	652,633
Number of patients carried	28,959	33,209

Whole Service

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Total mileage	4,075,175	4,553,961
Number of patients carried	681,918	744,109
Average miles per patient	6.0	6.1
Patients conveyed by rail	4,160	4,538
Patients conveyed by air	5	2
Babies born in ambulances	18	25

The average time from receiving an emergency call to reaching the scene was 6.8 minutes for the 22,200 calls involved.

TABLE 1
Showing Deaths, Births and Infantile Mortality in the different Urban and Rural Districts of the County of Kent in the year 1971

DISTRICT	Mid-year Home Population 1970 (as estimated by the Registrar-General)	DEATHS			BIRTHS					INFANT MORTALITY				
		Number of deaths at all ages	Deaths per 1,000 of the population	Comparable deathrate *	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Births per 1,000 of the population	Comparable birthrate *	Still-births	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 Births
URBAN														
Ashford U.	35,680	349	9.8	1.07	670	40	710	19.9	19.3	6	9	-	9	13
Broadstairs U.	21,110	376	17.8	.48	180	19	199	9.4	16.0	2	3	-	3	15
Chatham B.	57,760	516	8.9	1.18	1,229	103	1,332	23.1	21.3	17	24	2	26	20
Dartford B.	45,110	611	13.5	.80	653	37	690	15.3	14.1	8	7	-	7	10
Deal B.	25,770	366	14.2	.87	297	31	328	12.7	14.4	2	6	-	6	18
Dover B.	34,210	446	13.0	.95	390	50	440	12.9	14.2	8	7	1	8	18
Faversham B.	14,830	248	16.7	.60	224	13	237	16.0	17.6	4	2	-	2	8
Folkestone B.	44,810	686	15.3	.73	593	75	668	14.9	18.0	7	6	1	7	10
Gillingham B.	88,480	834	9.4	1.10	1,664	96	1,760	19.9	21.5	18	13	2	15	9
Gravesend B.	53,600	510	9.5	1.16	870	64	934	17.4	16.0	16	10	2	12	13
Herne Bay U.	25,370	585	23.1	.53	233	29	262	10.3	14.5	2	6	1	7	27
Hythe B.	11,870	186	15.7	.52	104	8	112	9.4	14.3	1	-	-	-	-
Lydd B.	4,340	36	8.3	1.19	66	10	76	17.5	23.5	-	-	-	-	-
Maidstone B.	71,250	794	11.1	.96	1,092	71	1,163	16.3	16.6	13	6	2	8	7
Margate B.	49,680	933	18.8	.60	520	86	606	12.2	16.2	6	8	2	10	17
New Romney B.	3,470	47	13.5	1.09	65	5	70	20.2	22.8	1	-	-	-	-
Northfleet U.	26,660	277	10.4	1.22	457	27	484	18.2	16.9	7	2	-	2	4
Queenborough-in-Sheppey B.	31,050	424	13.7	.95	438	51	489	15.7	18.2	5	4	1	5	10
Ramsgate B.	39,770	618	15.5	.75	455	62	517	13.0	15.5	3	6	1	7	14
Rochester B.	55,700	545	9.8	1.09	969	80	1,049	18.8	18.2	16	14	2	16	15
Sandwich B.	4,500	62	13.8	.85	52	4	56	12.4	14.6	-	1	-	1	18
Sevenoaks U.	18,280	188	10.3	.83	179	12	191	10.4	11.8	2	1	-	1	5
Sittingbourne U.	31,180	355	11.4	.93	626	27	653	20.9	24.0	4	9	-	9	14
Southborough U.	9,680	94	9.7	.79	103	6	109	11.3	12.9	1	1	-	1	9
Swanscombe U.	9,490	88	9.3	1.21	158	5	163	17.2	16.7	4	1	-	1	6
Tenterden B.	5,880	88	15.0	.59	57	5	62	10.5	14.4	-	1	-	1	16
Tonbridge U.	31,110	294	9.5	.97	537	25	562	18.1	17.7	5	5	-	5	9
Tunbridge Wells B.	44,610	677	15.2	.54	640	57	697	15.6	17.2	9	8	4	12	17
Whitstable U.	25,240	408	16.2	.59	302	24	326	12.9	20.0	5	3	-	3	9
TOTALS IN URBAN DISTRICTS	920,490	11,641	12.6	.83	13,823	1,122	14,945	16.2	17.7	172	163	21	184	12
RURAL														
Ashford, East	13,180	147	11.2	.78	156	9	165	12.5	14.8	1	2	-	2	12
Ashford, West	16,000	241	15.1	.57	210	21	231	14.4	13.5	4	5	-	5	22
Bridge-Blean	27,070	339	12.5	.58	396	20	416	15.4	17.7	6	1	-	1	2
Cranbrook	17,520	182	10.4	.88	202	18	220	12.6	15.9	3	2	1	3	14
Dartford	64,730	711	11.0	1.09	938	54	992	15.3	14.5	12	17	-	17	17
Dover	15,740	218	13.9	.72	264	14	278	17.7	26.0	1	7	-	7	25
Eastry	24,760	390	15.8	.71	340	25	365	14.7	16.6	5	6	5	11	30
Elham	11,820	182	15.4	.42	127	7	134	11.3	15.1	2	2	-	2	15
Hollingbourn	21,190	226	10.7	.96	318	11	329	15.5	17.1	2	10	-	10	30
Maidstone	28,830	345	12.0	.80	554	28	582	20.2	21.8	7	6	2	8	14
Malling	54,280	538	9.9	1.19	983	52	1,035	19.1	18.1	14	14	-	14	14
Romney Marsh	6,640	74	11.1	.88	70	7	77	11.6	15.8	1	1	-	1	13
Sevenoaks	45,560	482	10.6	.99	564	29	593	13.0	13.9	9	9	1	10	17
Strood	42,070	288	6.8	1.50	757	37	794	18.9	16.6	6	9	1	10	13
Swale	23,420	211	9.0	1.02	336	24	360	15.4	16.3	4	-	-	-	-
Tenterden	8,470	117	13.8	.87	104	9	113	13.3	15.7	1	2	-	2	18
Tonbridge	31,520	300	9.5	.85	446	26	472	15.0	15.5	4	5	1	6	13
TOTALS IN RURAL DIST'S.	452,800	4,991	11.0	.90	6,765	391	7,156	15.8	16.6	82	98	11	109	15
TOTALS IN URBAN DIST'S.	920,490	11,641	12.6	.83	13,823	1,122	14,945	16.2	17.7	172	163	21	184	12
TOTALS IN COUNTY	1,373,290	16,632	12.1	.86	20,588	1,513	22,101	16.1	17.2	254	261	32	293	13

* Comparable rates are calculated in respect of each district, by applying to the crude-rate factor which enables true comparison to be made with other areas after allowing for variations of age and sex in the constitution of the population.

TABLE 2

Showing the number of cases of Infectious Disease among the Civil Population, notified in each of the DISTRICTS in the County of Kent during the year 1971

DISTRICT	Acute Encephalitis	Acute Meningitis	Acute Poliomyelitis	Anthrax	Cholera	Diphtheria	Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary)	Infective Jaundice	Leprosy	Leptospirosis	Malaria	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Paratyphoid Fever	Plague	Relapsing Fever	Scarlet Fever	Smallpox	Tetanus	Tuberculosis	Typhoid Fever	Typhus	Whooping Cough	Yellow Fever	Food Poisoning
URBAN DISTRICTS																									
Ashford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	224	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	24	-	1
Broadstairs	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-
Chatham	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	115	4	-	-	-	67	-	-	8	-	-	10	-	-
Dartford	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	291	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	10	-	-	15	-	-
Deal	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	-	-	-	196	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
Dover	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	30	-	-
Faversham	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	234	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Folkestone	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	-	142	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	6	-	-	22	-	-
Gillingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	17	-	-	28	-	-
Gravesend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	15	-	-	36	-	-
Herne Bay	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	22	-	-	-	85	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	3	1	-
Hythe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-
Lydd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Maidstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	118	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	10	-	-	33	8	-
Margate	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	6	-	-	10	-	-
New Romney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Northfleet	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	12	-	-
Queenborough in Sheppey	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	224	-	-	-	-	23	-	1	2	-	-	3	1	-
Ramsgate	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	8	-	-	17	-	-
Rochester	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	12	-	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	7	1	-	25	5	-
Sandwich	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Sevenoaks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	11	1	-
Sittingbourne	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	194	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	-
Southborough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	15	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Swanscombe	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Tenterden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	1	-
Tonbridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	399	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
Tunbridge Wells	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	136	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	6	-	-	9	2	-
Whitstable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS IN URBAN DISTRICTS	3	23	-	-	-	-	22	79	-	-	-	3,428	5	1	-	-	348	-	1	142	2	-	342	-	20
RURAL DISTRICTS																									
Ashford, East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-
Ashford, West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	19	1	-
Bridge-Blean	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	151	3	-	-	-	40	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	-
Cranbrook	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Dartford	1	4	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	-	175	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	15	-	-	14	-	-
Dover	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	61	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
Eastry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	9	-	-	13	-	-
Elham	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hollingbourn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	21	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-
Maidstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-
Malling	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	42	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	13	-	-	2	2	-
Romney Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Sevenoaks	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	6	-	-	1	117	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	4	-	-	7	5	-
Strood	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	8	-	-
Swale	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	208	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-
Tenterden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Tonbridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	-
TOTALS IN RURAL DISTRICTS	2	15	-	-	-	-	67	39	-	-	2	1,458	3	1	-	-	157	-	-	57	-	-	116	-	15
TOTALS IN URBAN DISTRICTS	3	23	-	-	-	-	22	79	-	-	-	3,428	5	1	-	-	348	-	1	142	2	-	342	-	20
TOTALS IN COUNTY	5	38	-	-	-	-	89	118	-	-	2	4,886	8	2	-	-	505	-	1	199	2	-	458	-	35

REPORT OF THE
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

on the
HEALTH of the SCHOOL CHILD

GENERAL INFORMATION

Particulars of schools on 31st December, 1971.

	No. of Schools or Departments	No. of Pupils on the Rolls
Primary Schools	584	134,543
Secondary Schools	145	89,558
Nursery Schools	1 + 13 classes	351
Special Schools	29	2,432
		<u>226,884</u>

SCHOOL CLINICS

On 31st December, 1971, the Committee maintained the following number of Clinics:—

School Clinics	29
Dental	42
Dental (Mobile)	4
Ophthalmic	21
Speech Therapy	14
Child Guidance	7

STAFF ENGAGED IN THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

AT THE END OF 1971

		Proportion of whole-time allocated to School Health Service %
<u>Central Office</u>		
Principal School Medical Officer:		
A. Elliott, M.D., D.P.H.		20.0
Deputy Principal School Medical Officer:		
D.M. Lyon, O.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.		40.0
Principal Medical Officers:		
Ethel M.M. Allen, M.B., B.S.		65.0
V. Mary Collins, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.		75.0
Ann B. Gray, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., D.P.H.		10.0
Eirwen Griffith, M.B., B.S.		75.0
Principal School Dental Officer:		
E. Millward, L.D.S.		75.0
Orthodontic Dental Surgeons:		
R.J. Rose, B.D.S.		100.0
J.S. Spencer, L.D.S.		100.0
Senior Speech Therapist:		
Mary La Frenais, L.C.S.T.		100.0
<u>Excepted District of Gillingham</u>		
Medical Officer of Health:		
Helen E. Mair, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.		25.0
	No. of Officers	Aggregate of time given to School Health Service in terms of whole- time officers
<u>Other Staff</u>		
Departmental Medical Officers	34	24.3
Dental Surgeons	31	30.6
Educational Psychologists	12	5.0
Psychiatric Social Workers	3	3.0
Social Worker in Child Guidance Clinic	7	5.0
Psychotherapists	2	2.0
Speech Therapists	11	10.6
Dental Auxiliaries	3	2.9
Dental Surgery Assistants	34	34.0
Health Visitors	195	40.6
Physiotherapists	1	1.0
<u>Sessionally engaged (including staff employed by R.H.B.)</u>		
Departmental Medical Officers	8	2.5
Dental Surgeons	6	2.1
Dental Auxiliaries	1	0.1
Dental Surgery Assistants	4	1.0
Ophthalmologists and Refractionists	13	2.2
Psychiatrists	8	3.6
Psychiatric Social Workers	2	0.4
Social Worker in Child Guidance Clinic	1	0.1
Psychotherapists	2	0.8
Speech Therapists	8	2.7
Physiotherapists	1	0.3
Occupational Therapists	2	0.8

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Arrangements are for pupils to be examined on entry to school, on admission to secondary schools, and before leaving. Pupils aged eight years have tests of vision and hearing only, the latter being by audiometry. These children have a full medical examination if such need is suggested by their previous history, or if requested by a parent or teacher.

The number of children examined during 1971 in the routine age groups was 66,994, which represents 29.5 per cent of the pupils on the school rolls. This figure includes 17,349 pupils aged 8 years, of whom 442 had a full examination and 16,907 tests of vision and hearing only. In addition 17,195 pupils found to have defects were re-examined.

FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Table II on page 27 shows the principal defects found at medical inspections.

At the inspections of routine ages 11,616 children (17.3 per cent of the children examined) were found to have defects requiring medical treatment.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION

Two categories are provided, i.e., "Satisfactory" and "Unsatisfactory". It will be seen from the figures given in table I(A) on page 26 that during 1971 only 0.39 per cent of the children examined in the routine age groups were considered to be "unsatisfactory".

FOLLOWING UP

Where the parents attend at the routine medical inspection, advice is given and any defect is discussed by the doctor. Where necessary, Health Visitors visit homes to ensure that the advice of the doctor is carried out.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Table III on page 28 gives details of the amount of treatment given during the year.

- (a) School Clinics – Advice was given by the Health Visitors under the direction of the medical officers for 1,223 defects.
- (b) Visual Defects – The number of children examined by the Ophthalmologists under the Council's arrangements was 12,404 and Spectacles were prescribed for 4,639.
- (c) Orthopaedic Defects – Physiotherapy has been provided at special schools as follows:—

School	No. of children treated			No. of treatments given
	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	
Spring Gardens, Rusthall	6	5	6	193
Laleham and Gap House	76	77	66	2,298
St. Anthony's, Margate	13	14	13	105
Valence, Westerham	69*	68*	61*	2,098

(* – No. of children seen by orthopaedic surgeon)

- (d) Enuresis – Under the supervision of Departmental Medical Officers or Child Guidance Clinics electrical appliances for the treatment of bed-wetting are loaned to the parents of affected children, and of the 122 children who completed courses of treatment during the year, 43 were cured and 27 improved.

CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE

The number of children seen in 1971 showed an increase of over 350 as compared with the previous year. This was achieved despite continuing difficulty in the recruitment of professional staff because of national shortages. The Regional Hospital Board has where possible helped by appointing locum psychiatrists pending permanent appointments, and it has been possible to make small increases in other grades of professional officers. Despite these, however, the waiting lists still continue to increase.

Clinic	No. of Patients sent during 1971	No. of Patients Diagnosed	Total Number of Interviews	Number Discharged				
				Consultation only	Condition unchanged	Condition improved	Failed to attend	Transferred to other Authority
Bexleyheath	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	158	103	2,217	15	2	76	6	12
Chatham	173	109	2,712	37	2	153	24	52
Dartford	78	36	669	—	5	33	19	8
Dover	171	146	1,725	33	6	61	26	16
Gravesend	158	78	537	2	2	46	13	5
Maidstone	430	388	4,304	121	—	66	32	10
Ramsgate	198	105	2,089	29	—	63	9	8
Tunbridge Wells ..	169	117	1,380	74	2	24	2	2
Total	1,235	1,085	15,633	311	19	522	131	113

Total attendances: 9,052

SPEECH THERAPY SERVICE

The number of children seen by Speech Therapists during 1971	1,729
The number awaiting appointments at the end of 1971	777
	2,506

The national shortage of speech therapists continued to be reflected in the inability to maintain a full establishment of speech therapists, i.e. eighteen therapists including the Senior. At the end of 1971 the total number of staff was equivalent to 14.3 full-time therapists.

During the year six of the speech therapists gave a total of 33 talks on various aspects of linguistic development. Their audiences included Health Visitors, Midwives, Pre-School Play Group Leaders and mothers. An increasing number of pre-school children are being referred for developmental assessments of speech. In each case where speech is considered to be unduly retarded, the child's progress is kept under review and parents are given guidance on language stimulus. Very often such children achieve normal standards of speech without having to receive regular clinical treatment. It is increasingly recognised that speech therapists have this role to play in the cases of young and mentally handicapped children. The development of this approach within the County Therapy Service should help to reduce the number of children on the clinic waiting lists.

DENTAL SERVICE

Mr. E. Millward, Principal School Dental Officer, reports;—

The staffing position during the year has shown some improvement as on 31st December, 1971, there were the equivalent of 34.3 whole-time officers as against 32.2 a year before. The staff at the end of the year was:—

1 Principal School Dental Officer	1 Part-time Dental Auxiliary
2 Whole-time Orthodontic Dental Surgeons	1 Chief Technician
29 Whole-time Dental Surgeons	4 Senior Technicians
6 Part-time Dental Surgeons, working the equivalent equivalent of 2.3 whole-time officers	2 Apprentice Technicians
3 Whole-time Dental Auxiliaries	34 Surgery Assistants (whole-time)
	4 Surgery Assistants (part-time) — equivalent to 1 additional whole-time assistant.

The number of children attending County Schools having again increased during the year, the ratio of Dental Officers to children has shown only a small improvement, being now 1 Dental Officer to every 6,615 children.

The number of children receiving dental inspection fell from 99,738 in 1970 to 92,631 in 1971, but the percentage requiring treatment still remained at about half this. Since the number of children accepting treatment rose, this explains why there was a reduction in the number of inspections that could be made. The number of children accepting orthodontic treatment also declined, partly due to the two orthodontic specialists concentrating on those cases where their special skills were particularly required, and partly because more children completed treatment which, in many cases, requires long and assiduous periods of care.

The work done at the two dental laboratories in the year was:—

<u>Dentures</u>	<u>Denture Repairs</u>	<u>Orthodontic Appliances</u>	<u>Orthodontic Repairs</u>	<u>Crowns, Bridges, etc.</u>
187	39	947	87	75

With the exception of a small number of special appliances for which it is uneconomic for the County Laboratories to keep the necessary equipment, all the work was done by the Council's own staff.

The fact that more treatment is required for each child points to the depressing fact that the dental condition of the majority of the children remains poor and, whilst this situation continues, with recruitment still very slow, little hope can be seen in the future outlook unless some measure, such as fluoridation, is adopted. This policy, if adopted, would show little benefit for a number of years, but at least with the knowledge that the water being drunk by the children did contain the optimum 1 part per million of fluoride, one could look forward to the future with some hope for improvement. The topical application of fluoride, a treatment now being given to some children with their parent's consent, by some members of our staff, does bring a tiny ray of light into an otherwise dark picture, but this treatment is time consuming and can only be done at the expense of other dental treatment insofar as professional time is concerned. It is also far more costly, and certainly would be if carried out on all children, than the addition of the desired amount of fluoride to the drinking water.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

Table V on page 30 gives details of handicapped pupils requiring education at special schools or/in boarding homes.

DEAF AND PARTIALLY HEARING

Visiting Teachers of the Deaf and Partially Hearing

During 1971, teachers under the supervision of the Teacher in Charge of Educational Services for the Deaf and Partially Hearing visited 596 children to give individual auditory training, and help with lip-reading and speech development as well as parental guidance.

Assessment

Teams consisting of a Medical Officer and a Visiting Teacher of the Partially Hearing tested the hearing of 452 children.

Any school child with impaired hearing who was causing concern was retested and, if necessary, referred to an assessment panel. There is now a regular monthly hearing assessment clinic at Ashford, Canterbury, Chatham, Dartford, Maidstone, Rochester, Swanley, Swanscombe and Tonbridge, in addition to the continuance of home visits where necessary by one of the five doctor/teacher assessing teams.

Combined Assessment Panels

The work of the two panels continues. 43 children have been assessed and 140 reviewed by the Maidstone panel, and 29 children assessed and 105 reviewed by the Canterbury panel. These panels make recommendations as to treatment, the issue of hearing aids, and the provision of special educational treatment.

TABLE 1
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
(including Nursery and Special) SCHOOLS

Age groups inspected (by years of birth)	(A) Physical Conditions of Pupils Inspected									Number of pupils who has tests of vision and hearing only		
	Number of Pupils inspected			Number Satisfactory			Number Unsatisfactory					
	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total
(1)	(2)		(3)			(4)			(5)			
1967 and later ..	75	319	394	73	316	389	2	3	5	—	—	—
1966	755	9,341	10,096	749	9,327	10,076	6	14	20	3	—	3
1965	713	8,591	9,304	710	8,552	9,262	3	39	42	8	103	111
1964	129	1,316	1,445	128	1,312	1,440	1	4	5	3	880	883
1963	38	218	256	37	215	252	1	3	4	27	10,360	10,387
1962	14	172	186	14	171	185	—	1	1	16	5,504	5,520
1961	10	200	210	9	200	209	1	—	1	5	851	856
1960	66	6,602	6,668	65	6,582	6,647	1	20	21	7	157	164
1959	753	6,295	7,048	735	6,278	7,013	18	17	35	2	23	25
1958	375	1,976	2,351	366	1,974	2,340	9	2	11	2	1	3
1957	597	4,526	5,123	589	4,509	5,098	8	17	25	4	3	7
1956 and earlier ..	971	4,977	5,948	959	4,967	5,926	12	10	22	4	2	6
Total ..	4,496	44,533	49,029	4,434	44,403	48,837	62	130	192	81	17,884	17,965
Percentage of column (2)				98.66	99.71	99.61	1.34	0.29	0.39	—	—	—

(B)
Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Age group inspected	For defective vision (excluding squint)			For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II			Total individual pupils		
1967 and later	—	9	9	1	31	32	1	37	38
1966	17	403	420	111	1,316	1,427	120	1,616	1,836
1965	18	486	504	96	1,286	1,382	114	1,662	1,776
1964	3	176	179	8	218	226	11	360	371
1963	1	789	790	—	501	501	1	1,212	1,213
1962	1	477	478	1	269	270	2	698	700
1961	1	108	109	1	69	70	2	163	165
1960	5	695	700	9	627	636	13	1,243	1,256
1959	62	671	733	35	783	818	95	1,369	1,464
1958	42	228	270	24	268	292	60	453	513
1957	69	424	493	19	549	568	88	904	997
1956 and earlier ..	115	801	916	63	533	596	170	1,217	1,387
Total	334	5,133	5,467	368	6,450	6,818	677	10,939	11,616

(C) Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	1,651	4,625	6,276
Number of Reinspections	1,119	15,996	17,195
Total	2,850	20,621	23,471

(D) Infestation with Vermin

Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurse or other authorised persons	9,178	137,346	146,524
Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	147	1,214	1,361
Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944).	—	125	125
Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944).	—	—	—

TABLE II
DEFECTS FOUND AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

NOTE:— All defects noted at medical inspection as requiring treatment are included in this return whether or not treatment was begun before the date of the inspection.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS												TOTAL																	
		ENTRANTS				LEAVERS				OTHERS				SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS																	
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation														
		of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham	of Gillingham														
		Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area	Remainder of Area														
		"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District	"Excepted" District														
		Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total														
4	Skin	22	294	316	20	124	144	26	212	238	13	44	57	15	423	438	16	72	88	63	929	992	49	240	289	17	25	42	11	9	20
5	Eyes (a) Vision (b) Squint (c) Other	35	1074	1109	91	1103	1194	184	1225	1409	107	318	425	115	2968	3083	71	1155	1226	334	5267	5601	269	2576	2845	173	455	628	37	214	251
6	Ears (a) Hearing (b) Otitis Media (c) Other	11	142	153	160	677	837	4	32	36	28	61	89	2	303	305	34	812	778	17	477	494	222	1516	1738	109	262	371	243	303	546
7	Nose and Throat	52	393	445	133	581	714	10	182	192	22	91	113	9	315	324	29	185	214	71	890	961	184	857	1041	37	33	70	36	40	76
8	Speech	5	214	219	59	465	524	-	14	14	1	14	15	-	88	88	5	110	115	5	317	322	65	589	654	22	92	114	23	67	90
9	Lymphatic Glands	2	31	33	12	188	200	-	4	4	1	10	11	-	10	10	4	28	32	2	45	47	17	226	243	-	4	4	-	7	7
10	Heart	5	25	30	29	141	170	2	9	11	18	34	52	-	33	33	9	78	87	7	67	74	56	253	309	8	11	19	12	21	33
11	Lungs	11	246	257	43	208	251	1	54	55	13	55	68	3	218	221	15	80	95	15	518	533	71	343	414	9	22	31	39	33	72
12	Developmental-(a) Hernia (b) Other	3	66	69	8	37	45	-	13	13	-	2	2	-	35	35	-	10	10	3	114	117	8	49	57	1	3	4	2	6	8
13	Orthopaedic (a) Posture (b) Feet (c) Other	9	109	118	34	174	208	9	37	46	35	61	96	14	102	116	45	140	185	32	248	280	114	375	489	5	17	22	10	25	35
14	Nervous Sperm. (a) Epilepsy (b) Other	2	82	90	12	104	116	10	54	64	13	54	67	7	66	73	7	103	110	19	202	221	32	261	293	17	13	30	34	11	45
15	Psychological (a) Development (b) Stability	3	29	32	26	74	100	-	10	10	4	16	20	3	24	27	10	62	72	6	63	69	40	152	192	4	33	37	10	33	43
16	Abdomen	11	55	66	18	95	113	2	24	26	5	49	54	1	51	52	8	64	72	14	130	144	31	208	239	5	17	22	10	28	38
17	Other	7	75	80	70	129	199	3	48	51	43	76	119	-	149	149	61	192	253	10	272	282	174	397	571	9	32	41	29	30	59

TABLE III
TREATMENT OF PUPILS

	Number of Pupils Treated		
	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of Area	Total
EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT			
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	13	14	27
Errors of refraction, including squint	1,004	11,373	12,377
Total	1,017	11,387	12,404
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	409	4,230	4,639
ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS			
Pupils treated at schools for postural defects	58	209	267
DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table I (D))			
Ringworm — Scalp	—	—	—
— Body	—	—	—
Scabies	—	—	—
Impetigo	—	—	—
Other skin diseases	4	5	9
Total	4	5	9
OTHER ADVICE GIVEN			
Pupils with minor ailments	65	1,149	1,214
CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT			
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics under arrangements made by the Authority			2,673
SPEECH THERAPY			
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists under arrangements made by the Authority ..			1,027

TABLE IV
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of Area	Total
ATTENDANCES AND TREATMENT			
First Visits	1,443	28,147	29,590
Subsequent Visits	3,546	55,422	58,968
Total Visits	4,989	83,569	88,558
Additional Courses of Treatment commenced	174	2,686	2,860
Fillings in Permanent Teeth	1,469	41,301	42,770
Fillings in Deciduous Teeth	1,624	21,328	22,952
Permanent Teeth filled	1,271	36,185	37,456
Deciduous Teeth filled	1,317	19,714	21,031
Permanent Teeth extracted	91	4,301	4,392
Deciduous Teeth extracted	507	12,694	13,201
General Anaesthetics	109	11,072	11,181
Emergencies	261	3,371	3,632
Number of pupils x-rayed	152	3,547	3,699
Prophylaxis	158	9,529	9,687
Teeth otherwise conserved	529	7,723	8,252
Number of teeth roots filled	3	277	280
Inlays	1	9	10
Crowns	2	136	138
Courses of treatment completed	1,791	22,820	24,611
<u>Orthodontics</u>			
Cases remaining from previous year	36	946	982
New cases commenced during year	19	396	415
Cases completed during year	12	341	353
Cases discontinued during year	6	40	46
Number of removable appliances fitted	23	891	914
Number of fixed appliances fitted	—	33	33
Pupils referred to Hospital Consultant	1	18	19
<u>Prosthetics</u>			
Pupils supplied with full upper or full lower dentures (first time)	1	1	2
Pupils supplied with other dentures (first time)	6	139	145
Number of dentures supplied	7	143	150
<u>Anaesthetics</u>			
General anaesthetics given by Dental Officers	—	2,405	2,405
<u>Inspections</u>			
First inspection at school +(number of pupils).. ..	3,073	71,565	74,638
First inspection at clinic +(number of pupils).. ..	396	17,597	17,993
Number of above found to require treatment	1,376	44,613	45,989
Number offered treatment	1,156	37,765	38,921
Pupils re-inspected at school clinic	129	6,037	6,166
Number found to require treatment	82	3,739	3,821
<u>Sessions</u>			
Sessions devoted to Treatment	440	10,054	10,494
Sessions devoted to Inspections	27	642	669
Sessions devoted to Health Education	—	151	151

TABLE V
HANDICAPPED PUPILS

Handicapped Pupils Requiring Education at Special Schools or Boarding in Boarding Homes

During the calendar year ended 31st December 1971 No. of handicapped pupils who	(1) Blind (2) Partially Sighted		(3) Deaf (4) Partially Hearing		(5) Physically Handicapped (6) Delicate		(7) Mal-adjusted (8) Educationally subnormal		(9) Epileptic (10) Speech Defects		Total (1)-(10)
A.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
were newly assessed as needing special educational treatment at special schools or in boarding homes	4	5	14	29	21	55	120	398	7	5	658
B.											
(i) of those included at A, were newly placed in special schools or boarding homes	1	1	9	27	7	31	33	186	6	3	304
(ii) of those assessed prior to 1st January 1970, were newly placed in special schools or boarding homes	—	1	3	5	8	20	60	114	4	4	217
Total (B)	1	2	12	32	15	51	93	298	10	7	521
No. of children previously regarded as unsuitable by reason of mental subnormality for education in school who became the Education Committee's responsibility on 1st April 1971.											637
On 20th January 1972 number of handicapped pupils who											
C. were requiring places in special schools.											
(a) day	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	293	—	—	299
(b) boarding	5	6	6	4	14	48	114	104	—	3	304
D.											
(i) were on the registers of											
(1) maintained special schools as											
(a) day pupils	—	9	—	—	1	56	—	1,461	—	—	1,527
(b) boarding pupils	1	6	13	3	63	103	106	470	—	—	765
(2) non-maintained special schools as											
(a) day pupils	9	—	11	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	22
(b) boarding pupils	37	20	50	20	46	23	31	25	23	3	278
(3) independent schools under arrangements made by the authority	—	1	22	—	15	2	174	17	—	—	231
(4) special classes and units	—	—	—	157	19	—	3	—	—	—	179
(ii) were boarded in homes and not already included under (i) above	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	18
(iii) were being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944.											
(1) in hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	21
(2) in other groups (e.g. units for spastics, convalescent homes)	—	—	—	—	5	1	33	14	—	—	53
(3) at home	—	2	—	2	48	30	26	37	2	1	148
Total (C) and (D) .	52	64	102	192	211	263	526	2,423	25	7	3,845

