

**[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Hastings County Borough.**

**Contributors**

Hastings (England). County Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1940

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/c4qvd2jw>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

AC 44143



COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1940

G. R. BRUCE, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health  
and  
School Medical Officer.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Preface .. .. .	1
2. Chairmen of Committees .. .. .	3
Public Health Officers of the Corporation .. .. .	3
3. Summary of General and Vital Statistics .. .. .	4
4. Vital Statistics .. .. .	5
5. Infectious Diseases including Report of Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases .. .. .	8
6. Venereal Diseases Clinic .. .. .	10
7. Tuberculosis .. .. .	10
8. Maternity and Child Welfare .. .. .	12
9. Mental Deficiency .. .. .	15
10. Orthopaedic Scheme .. .. .	15
11. General Sanitary Administration .. .. .	16
(1) Local Acts, Orders, Byelaws, Adoptive Acts .. .. .	16
(2) Public Health Propaganda .. .. .	16
(3) Registration of Nursing Homes .. .. .	16
(4) Water Supply .. .. .	17
(5) Baths Establishments .. .. .	17
(6) Drainage and Sewerage .. .. .	17
(7) Scavenging .. .. .	17
(8) Sanitary Inspection of District .. .. .	17
(9) Inspection and Supervision of Food .. .. .	17
(a) Milk Supply of District .. .. .	17
(b) Meat Inspection .. .. .	18
(c) Shops Acts - Inspection of Foodstuffs, Restaurants, etc. .. .. .	18
(d) Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Poison Rules 1852-1933 .. .. .	18
(e) Merchandise Marks Acts 1887-1926 .. .. .	19
(f) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts 1928 .. .. .	19a
(10) Factories, Workshops, Workplaces .. .. .	19
(11) Camping Sites .. .. .	19
(12) Disinfestation of Houses .. .. .	19
(13) Disinfecting and Cleansing Station etc. .. .. .	19
(14) Report on Common Lodging Houses .. .. .	19
(15) Housing .. .. .	19
12. Local Government Act, 1929 .. .. .	20
13. Meteorology .. .. .	20
14. Summary of Provision of Health Services for the Area .. .. .	21

-----

P R E F A C E.

Health Department,  
44, Wellington Square,  
Hastings.

September 1941.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, AND TO THE ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Health Department for 1940, again much curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and slightly belated, pending the issue of the Registrar-General's tables. Much of the usual statistical material, although prepared to ensure continuity of records, has been omitted from the report.

The past year was complicated by a variety of circumstances which rendered a comprehensive and continuous review of the health services a somewhat difficult matter. During the first four or five months, Hastings was a reception area with thousands of additional residents, particularly school children. In mid-summer, voluntary evacuation of over 50 per cent of the local school children and certain special classes, e.g. expectant mothers, took place, followed in a few weeks by a more general voluntary evacuation which included elderly people, women and children and some additional school children. For a short period the population of the town was much depleted, but towards the end of the year there was a definite drift back both of the school children and the general population.

For statistical purposes the Registrar-General has estimated the population at 58,040 and it is assumed that deaths and births, belonging properly to Hastings, are so registered in the case of the evacuated population.

It is obvious that the violent fluctuations of the population must constitute a factor of some difficulty in the vital statistics for the year and should be taken into account in connection with any unusual figures.

The corrected death rate 14.21 per 1000 shows a rise from 11.3 per 1000 in 1939. The birth rate was 11.4 per 1000 as in 1939. The infantile mortality rate, 39.8 per 1000 births, though higher than the record low rate of last year, namely 27, remains substantially lower than the rate for the large towns, 61. The maternal mortality rate, 3 deaths or 4.6 per 1000 births, as in 1939 is higher than the now falling rate for the whole country, but over a period of years still compares favourably. The tuberculosis death rate, .88 per 1000, shows a slight rise over that of 1939. The sharp rise in tuberculosis mortality at the end of the last war demands a close watch on this disease and the institution of practical preventive measures with all possible energy.

There was no serious outbreak of any epidemic disease in 1940, in spite of the difficult local circumstances as outlined. Our share in the nation wide epidemic of cerebro-spinal fever (spotted fever) was not high, 17 notified cases. All these cases and others admitted from surrounding districts made a good recovery at the Isolation Hospital, thanks to modern chemo-therapy and general care and nursing. Ten years ago there might have been a mortality of 50-80 per cent.

In spite of the difficulties of the year all the essential health services have been available and have been maintained at an effective level, although in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, after voluntary evacuation, part of the staff of Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors was transferred to reception areas.

The Casualty Service, in association with the other branches of the A.R.P. Service, went into action in the autumn of 1940. It was the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to be responsible for its local development and, as agent for the Ministry of Health, to deal with all matters in connection with the three local casualty hospitals.

The scheme includes -

1. The First Aid Parties - now centred round three depots, where are
2. The Ambulance Services, and
3. The Mobile First Aid Post.
4. The First Aid Posts, one at each hospital, and the Public Cleansing Centres.
5. The three Casualty Clearing Hospitals (with 400 beds earmarked).
6. The Casualty Bureau.
7. The Emergency Mortuary Service.

The total personnel of the Casualty Services, largely volunteer, with a nucleus of full time paid staff, approaches 300, of the hospitals about 400 persons.

Without going into details, when the need came, the casualty services in all departments were ready and I would like to pay my warmest tribute and appreciation to all staff, volunteer and paid, male and female, for their splendid work during this period and for their no less praiseworthy devotion during the long and tedious days of waiting and training. In this tribute I most sincerely include all the hospital staffs, medical, nursing and lay, in the town.

I beg to thank the Council, the Chairmen and members of the various committees for their continued support and acknowledge with much gratitude the good and loyal work of my staff in these very difficult days.

I have the honour to remain,  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

G. R. BRUCE.

Medical Officer of Health.

2. CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Committee - Councillor A. Honnor.  
 Sub Sanatorium etc. Committee - Councillor A. Honnor.  
 Education Committee - Alderman F.W. Morgan.  
 Children's Care Sub-Committee - Councillor P. Banks.  
 Mental Deficiency Committee - Councillor G.S. Cavey.  
 Maternity and Child Welfare Committee - Councillor Mrs. A.W. Farnfield.  
 Housing and Improvements Committee - Councillor S.W. Thorpe.  
 Public Assistance and Sub-Committee - Alderman H. Burden, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

See list as fully set out in report of 1938. The following alterations in staff are recorded in 1940.

Name of Officers	Offices held
Resigned 1940. ( I.M.S. Marshall, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. . . ( R.A. Williams ( K.N. Kirby . . .	Temporary Assistant Medical Oc Officer.  Assistant Sanitary Inspector.  Do.
Retired on super-annuation ( Miss S.A. Myers ( Mrs. A.E. Eshelby . . .	Health Visitor and School Nurse.  School Nurse.
New appointments (1) Miss D. Dawe (2) Miss E. Footner  F. G. Bradley . . .	Health Visitor and School Nurse.  Clerk, School Medical Service.  Assistant Sanitary Inspector,
Seconded to Reception Areas ( W.D. Penfold . . . ( N.J. Arney . . . ( Miss H.A. Hobbs	School Dental Officer.  Assistant Sanitary Inspector.  Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

(1) Seconded to reception area.

(2) Resigned 1940.

3. SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS 1940.

Area of Borough	.. .. .	7,770 acres.			
Population, Census 1931	.. .. .	65,207			
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1940 for the purpose of Vital Statistics	.. .. .	58,040			
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	.. .. .	20,388			
Rateable value (end of 1939)	.. .. .	£782,576			
Sum represented by a penny rate (end of 1939)	.. .. .	£3,073			
Live Births, 1940	(Legitimate (Illegitimate)	Total 621 42	Male 308 22	Female 313 20	663
Birth Rate, 1940, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	.. .. .	11.4			
Still Births	.. .. .	23			
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.. .. .	11.8			
Deaths 1940	.. .. .	1182			
Death Rate, 1940, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	(a) crude (b) corrected	.. .. . .. .. .	20.3 14.21		
Deaths from puerperal causes :-					
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.			
No. 29 - Puerperal Sepsis	1 .. ..	1.5			
" 30 - Other Puerperal causes	<u>2</u> .. ..	<u>3.0</u>			
	Total <u>3</u> .. ..	<u>4.6</u>			
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age .. .. .					
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	39.8			
(b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	40.9			
(c) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	24.4			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	159			
" " Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil			
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil			
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.. .. .	Nil			

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

(1) Population.

The population, 1931 census, was 65,207. For 1940, the Registrar-General estimates the population for statistical purposes as 58,040, this figure being used throughout the report.

In fact, during the first four to five months of 1940, the normal population was considerably increased owing to the presence of several thousands of London school children and other visitors. From July to September there occurred first a voluntary evacuation to reception areas of several thousand school children and special groups; later the voluntary evacuation of considerable numbers of adults and children under school age, under the Government voluntary evacuation scheme. Towards the end of the year there was a definite stream of returning evacuees to Hastings, both school children and others. All these changes in the population for 1940 renders comparable statistics very difficult.

(2) Deaths.

Total deaths registered	..	1182	..	males 508
				females 674
Crude death rate	..	..	..	20.3
Corrected death rate	..	..	..	14.21
Factor for correction	..	..	..	0.70

The total deaths and the death rate, based on the Registrar-General's figures, are the highest recorded for many years. In this connection the note with regard to the fluctuations of the population should be considered. The difficulties and trials of evacuation may have accelerated the fatal issue in some feeble and aged persons and chronic invalids, of whom there were many in Hastings and of course there were also factors more directly concerned with the war.

(3) Births.

Total net births registered, 663, as compared with 737 in 1939. Birth rate 11.4 per 1,000 of population, exactly as in 1939. Deaths in 1940 exceeded births by 519.

(4) Main causes of deaths.

(a) Circulatory diseases.

Total deaths were 553 (compared with 537 in 1939), 46.7 of the total deaths.

(b) Cancer.

The total deaths were 159, as compared with 169 in 1939, or one in every seven deaths, age distribution being :-

<u>Years</u>		<u>Cases</u>
25-35	.. ..	2
35-45	.. ..	5
45-55	.. ..	12
55-65	.. ..	21
65-75	.. ..	52
75 and over	.. ..	67
		<u>159</u>
	Total	159

In recent reports full details have been given as to existing facilities for treatment at the local hospitals, including the use of the small store of Radium maintained at the Royal East Sussex Hospital and the urgent necessity of an adequate X-Ray equipment.



In accordance with Circular 2062 of the Ministry of Health, the planning of regional arrangements under the new Cancer Act has been postponed for the present. Any difficulties with regard to specialised treatment only available in the London hospitals, will be met as far as possible by reference to facilities now being arranged through the regional headquarters.

(c) Respiratory diseases.

Including influenza, but excluding pulmonary tuberculosis, total deaths from respiratory diseases in 1940 were 136, as compared with 134 in 1939. Influenza, with 26 deaths, was not epidemic at any period.

Year	Total deaths	Influenza	Pneumonia	Other respiratory diseases
1940	136	26	88	22
1939	134	26	88	20

The total deaths and the death rate from respiratory diseases in 1940 were 136 and 1.1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 134 and 1.1 per 1,000 in 1939. The increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in 1940 is due to an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in the London area.

The total deaths from respiratory diseases in 1940 were 136, as compared with 134 in 1939. The increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in 1940 is due to an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in the London area.

(d) Other diseases.

(i) Other diseases.

Total deaths were 136, as compared with 134 in 1939. The increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in 1940 is due to an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in the London area.

(ii) Other diseases.

The total deaths were 136, as compared with 134 in 1939. The increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in 1940 is due to an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia in the London area.

Year	Total deaths	Influenza	Pneumonia	Other respiratory diseases
1940	136	26	88	22
1939	134	26	88	20

Total 136

In recent reports this data has been given as an estimate for treatment of the local hospitals, including the use of the Royal Free Hospital at the Royal Free Hospital and the urgent necessity of an adequate X-ray equipment.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents, whether occurring within or without the district										Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-Residents' in institutions in the District		
	All ages	0-1 yrs.	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-55 yrs.	55-65 yrs.		65-75 yrs.	75 upwards
All Causes (Certified)	1179	24	2	7	12	18	32	37	71	140	307	529	713
All Causes (Uncertified)	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Influenza	26	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	5	4	12	4
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	47	2	-	-	-	5	11	6	10	7	5	1	46
Other tuberculous diseases	4	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease	159	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	12	21	52	67	109
Diabetes	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	149	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	17	56	72	94
Heart Disease	356	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	7	25	93	226	170
Aneurysm	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Other Circulatory Diseases	45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	20	16	20
Bronchitis	51	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	8	5	35	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	82	5	1	1	1	1	2	2	9	14	12	34	67
Other Respiratory Diseases	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	3	4
Peptic Ulcer	17	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	5	3	4	14
Appendicitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	5
Cirrhosis of Liver	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	28	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	4	12	9	16
Puerperal Sepsis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Puerperal Causes	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations etc.	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Suicide	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	3	-	3
Other Deaths from Violence	65	2	1	1	4	5	9	6	9	8	9	11	33
Other Defined Diseases	98	3	-	4	1	2	2	7	9	12	28	30	88
Totals .. ..	1182	25	2	7	12	18	32	37	72	140	307	510	715

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following table summarises the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases in 1940, there being no case of small-pox, cholera, plague, typhus, relapsing or continued fever, poliomyelitis, ophthalmia neonatorum, polio-encephalitis, encephalitis lethargica, malaria, dysentery or trench fever.

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	28	27	1
Erysipelas	26	10	-
Scarlet Fever	83	71	1
Enteric Fever	4	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	24	7	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	17	17	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	56	28	47
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	21	16	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	45	7	3
Influenzal Pneumonia	10	1	2
Measles	114	15	-
Whooping Cough	19	1	-

REMARKS.

(1) Scarlet Fever.

The incidence 83, compared with 96 in 1939, was under the average, the type mild and sporadic; the proportion, 71 out of 83, admitted to hospital, high. There was one death due to relapse with cardiac complications.

(2) Diphtheria.

The incidence, 28 with one death, remained remarkably low, and, generally, the type was, with a few exceptions, not very severe.

While many districts in this part of the country were equally fortunate, in others there was evidence of a considerable increase both in numbers and in virulence of diphtheria cases. There is therefore at this stage all the more reason to encourage the national campaign for diphtheria immunization, as in due course we may expect the wave of increased incidence to reach this locality. Every application to the Health Department for diphtheria immunization can be dealt with promptly. During 1940, in spite of interruption by the voluntary evacuation, approximately 200 local and 300 evacuee children were immunized.

(3) Enteric, including Paratyphoid Fever.

Of the 4 cases, all were paratyphoid B, three being definitely sporadic with no common source of infection, and the fourth case probably due to contact infection.

(4) Erysipelas.

Twenty-six cases were notified, 10 being removed to the Isolation Hospital.

(5) Infectious Diseases of the Central Nervous System.  
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Seventeen cases were notified from civilian and service sources, and, including rural cases, 27 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Thanks to modern treatment, particularly chemotherapy (the drug popularly known as "693" was most generally used) all these cases recovered and were discharged, to be fit eventually for work or military service. Most of them were entirely sporadic, but in two instances, where there were two associated cases in one family, it was possible to trace a positive carrier.

(6) Pneumonia - 15 cases with 3 deaths.  
Influenzal Pneumonia - 10 cases with 2 deaths.

The incidence was well below the average.

(7) Non-notifiable Diseases.

The incidence was slight judged by figures available from school records, and admission to the Borough Sanatorium, viz:-

German Measles	..	..	..	31
Mumps	..	..	..	10
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	15

(8) Isolation Hospital.

The bed accommodation remained as follows :-

- (Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, 70
- ( with 10 emergency beds.
- (Smallpox Hospital, Brede, 20 beds.

Altogether there were 287 admissions during the year, including 31 cases from rural districts, and 55 members of the Forces. In addition, during the period of voluntary evacuation, as a temporary measure, 20 chronic invalids were admitted and treated with considerable relief to the pressure on the Municipal Hospital.

The policy of admitting all types of infectious diseases, both notifiable and non-notifiable, was fully maintained, with much advantage.

Owing to the closure of the Cleansing and Disinfecting Station, it has been necessary to use the disinfector at the Borough Sanatorium for general public disinfection, and a spare ward and bathroom as a cleansing centre for scabies and verminous conditions, particularly among evacuees, and later, on examination prior to evacuation.

(9) Smallpox Vaccination Returns 1939-1940.

Births	..	..	..	1007
Successful Primary Vaccinations				292
Conscientious Objections				508
Percentage of infants vaccinated				28.9

(10) Report on Public Health Bacteriological Work.

This work was carried out in the laboratory of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, under Dr. P. Lazarus-Barlow, Pathologist to the Hospital, the following being a summary for 1940.

Source of Specimens	Nature of Specimens	No.
A. General Practitioners, Borough Sanatorium, Medical Officer of Health	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	113
	Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	438
	Widal Examinations for Typhoid group	19
	Miscellaneous	435
B. School Medical Service	Throat swabs for Diphtheria, etc.	24
C. Tuberculosis Dispensary	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	102
	Miscellaneous	2
D. Municipal Hospital	Miscellaneous	236
	Total Specimens examined	1369

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN - Supplies are kept at the Health Department and at Police Stations, and issued on request to the medical practitioners of the town.

6. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC, ROYAL EAST SUSSEX HOSPITAL.

During 1940, as compared with 1939, new cases of syphilis fell from 10 to 9, of gonorrhoea from 23 to 6 - figures remarkably low when compared with the incidence of venereal disease during the early years of the municipal clinic.

All the facilities of the Clinic were at the full disposal of the military and rural Forces.

Social work was also fully maintained.

7. TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) Register.

At the end of 1940, the tuberculosis register contained 502 names :-

Males 236, Females 168, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Males 41, Females 57, suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

(b) Notifications, 1940.

Notifications are shown in the following table :-

Age period	New Cases				Deaths of cases notified			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1 year	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 10 years	1	-	5	2	-	-	1	-
10 - 15 "	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-
15 - 20 "	5	1	2	1	2	-	-	-
20 - 25 "	7	6	3	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	3	8	1	3	-	1	1	-
35 - 45 "	11	4	-	4	3	1	-	-
45 - 55 "	6	3	-	1	3	2	-	-
55 - 65 "	10	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 upwards	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals	47	27	14	12	13	7	3	-
Grand Totals	100				23			

(c) Mortality.

The total deaths from tuberculosis were 51, including 4 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, yielding a death rate of .89 per 1,000, showing a slight rise in the figure for 1939, .69 per 1,000.

(d) Tuberculosis Dispensary etc. at the Royal East Sussex Hospital.

The work at the Dispensary has been fully described in previous reports. On the register there were at the end of 1940, 238 cases, who made 907 attendances for diagnosis, observation, contact examination and treatment, X-ray examination etc. After the period of voluntary evacuation the dispensary sessions were reduced from three to two each week.

The tuberculosis health visitor paid 997 home visits, the following articles being provided for the use of patients :-

Bottles of Disinfectant	..	..	80
Sputum Mugs and Flasks	..	..	4

(e) Institutional Treatment.

All arrangements available were fully utilised, admissions during the year being :-

Darvell Hall Sanatorium	..	..	43
Royal East Sussex Hospital (for surgical cases)	..	..	5
		Total	<u>48</u>

In addition cases continued to be maintained at the Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey, Papworth and the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate. The Municipal Hospital remained available for chronic, or advanced cases, also as required for early cases, awaiting observation, diagnosis or later sanatorium treatment.

(f) The Tuberculosis Care Committee.

This committee continued to function exactly as in former years, and maintained its grants of extra nourishment, milk and eggs, financial help, gifts of clothing, etc. to patients, and if necessary, their dependents during sanatorium treatment.

(g) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken in 1940.

(h) Possibility of increase in tuberculosis during war time.

I repeat the note of warning of my previous report. During 1940 there was local evidence of a slight rise both in incidence and certainly in the mortality, as compared with the past few years. During the first six months of 1941, this rise has been increasingly maintained. It is understood that other districts are having similar experiences. In the last war, 1914-1918, the increase became most noticeable toward the end of the war and immediately after peace was declared. It is obviously necessary at this stage of the present war to do everything possible to reduce the increasing ravages of tuberculosis by maintaining the food supply at as high a level as possible, both in amount and vitamin value, and to do whatever is possible to improve the ventilation of blacked out bedrooms and workplaces, and shelters during the long winter evenings and nights.

8. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(1) Vital Statistics.

(a) Notification of births.

The total births reported in 1940 were 728, including 22 still births - a considerable reduction due to voluntary evacuation - as compared with 1056 births in 1939.

(b) Infantile mortality.

The infantile mortality, 25 infant deaths under one year out of 663 registered births, was 39.8 per 1,000 births, a figure which compares favourably with the average local figure, and with the figure 61 for 1940 in the large towns. No less than 15 out of 25 deaths were due to causes operating before, at, or immediately after birth, e.g. prematurity, congenital malformations, birth injuries, etc. There were five deaths from pneumonia, two from surgical tuberculosis, none from bronchitis or infantile diarrhoea.

(c) Maternal Mortality.

Three deaths were recorded, yielding a maternal mortality of 4.6 per 1,000 births. The particulars on the death certificates were :-

- No. 1. Puerperal septicaemia.
- No. 2. Cardiac failure.  
Post Partum haemorrhage.  
Anaemia. Necrosis of jaw.

No. 3.            Embolus.  
 Thrombosis of veins of leg.  
 Patrutition. Child born 3.30 a.m.  
 on day of death.

The rate was above the national rate for 1940, 2.16 per 1,000 births, which now shows a tendency to fall. All the special services bearing on this problem were fully operative in spite of the difficult conditions, e.g. ante natal and post natal clinics, consultants for cases of difficult labour, hospital beds etc. Although this rise may seem disappointing, a truer perspective, in a town with a limited and low birth rate, should cover a period of years, and this compares satisfactorily with the national rate.

(2) Inspection of Midwives.

(a)	No. of midwives on register	..	..	..	9
	No. of visits	..	..	..	32
	Midwives' notifications	..	..	..	115
	Other official notifications	..	..	..	24
	Births notified by midwives	..	..	..	401

Results of inspection and the average standard of work were very satisfactory.

(b) Midwives Act, 1936. Domiciliary Midwifery.

	<u>District Nursing Association</u> <u>Midwives.</u>	<u>Municipal</u> <u>Midwife.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Cases conducted	253	27	280
2. Post Natal visits	3854	522	4376
3. Ante Natal visits	1291	185	1476

For a period of several months, the municipal midwife and two of the District Nursing Association midwives were transferred to reception areas to assist, the former in a special home for transferred expectant mothers, the latter in district midwives' work. For this and various other reasons connected with the evacuation scheme there was some diminution of the work all round.

(c) Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations, 1926.

All the existing arrangements continued, e.g. hospital accommodation, home nursing, consultants, bacteriological and general investigations, etc. A summary of the cases was as follows :-

Delayed and difficult labour	..	..	3
Breast infections	..	..	2
Incomplete abortion	..	..	2
Influenza etc.	..	..	2
Other conditions	..	..	9
No ascertained cause	..	..	6
		<u>Total</u>	<u>24</u>

(3) The work of the Health Visitors.

	<u>Home Visits</u>
First visits	940
Second or further visits	6277
Infectious Disease	37
Infant Protection	341
	<u>Total</u>
	<u>7595</u>



(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Total attendances were as follows :-

Infant Welfare Centres	..	..	11269
Ante Natal Clinics	..	..	601
Medical Consultations	..	..	4393

(5) Maternity and Child Welfare work in 1940 in relation to the war.

During the first six months of 1940, all the normal arrangements were available, and in fact, to meet the needs of evacuees in the town, additional staff and special clinics were necessary. With the voluntary evacuation of school children, expectant mothers and children under five after midsummer, and later of other elements of the general population, various members of the staff of health visitors and school nurses etc. were made available in the reception areas, and the number of clinics was reduced in accordance with the population to be served. Four sessions each week at the Halton and Park View Clinics were arranged for maternity and child welfare or school medical service purposes, so that a mother could bring, if necessary by appointment, at one time, a baby, a child under five and a school child - a great convenience under the special circumstances. Special arrangements were made for medical ante natal and post natal examinations, either in the homes of the patients or the doctor's consulting room; also for special contraceptive treatment on medical grounds. Later it was possible to open two ante natal clinics. In addition the ante natal clinics at the Municipal Hospital and that of the District Nursing Association continued to operate. All other normal services, e.g. distribution of milk, dental treatment for children under school age, and expectant and nursing mothers, orthopaedic and light treatment, hospital beds for difficult labour or complicated ante natal cases etc. remained fully available. Home visits also were fully maintained by the health visitors; whose excellent work under trying conditions is hereby emphasised.

(6) Contraceptive Clinic for Married Women.

Treatment only for medical conditions.

New cases	..	..	18
Old cases	..	..	49
		Total	<u>67</u>

(7) Distribution of Milk, Nutritive Foods etc.

Fresh Milk	..	..	..	11052 pints
Dried Milk	..	..	..	410 lbs.
Nutritive Foods	..	..	..	1600 ozs.

The national milk distribution scheme of the Ministry of Food, under which milk, fluid or dried, at half price, or free, for those under the income scale, is available for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5, did not come into operation until the end of the year. The Maternity and Child Welfare Department still remains responsible for the distribution of special brands of dried milk and specialised nutritive foods etc.

(8) Dental Treatment.

Children under school age at School Clinics	22 cases
Expectant and Nursing Mothers at Royal East Sussex Hospital	13 cases

(9) Orthopaedic and Light Treatment (see special note).

(10) Treatment of Toddlers.

All facilities at School Clinics for examination and treatment are available. 22 children made 52 attendances.

(11) Anti-Diphtheritic Inoculation. (see note on infectious diseases).

---

9. MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The total number of mental defectives on the books of the Local Authority increased from 163 to 175 in 1940. Of these, 60 are in institutions, 49 under guardianship, and 36 under statutory supervision. The recently appointed mental health worker is responsible for ascertainment, home supervision, particularly of home guardianship cases, preparation of case papers for certification, escort duty, co-ordination with the work of the clinic for nervous disorders, etc.

As a result of voluntary evacuation, about mid year 1940, a considerable number of the statutory supervision and home supervision cases left for reception areas. Most of these have now returned, but in all cases efforts have been made to obtain periodical reports as to their condition and progress in reception areas and to solve any difficulties.

The Occupation Centre for lower grade cases was also closed at the same time. The supervisor arranged special classes for the Municipal Hospital pupils at the hospital and home teaching sessions in their own homes for the other defectives who previously attended the Centre.

This arrangement still continues, though it is earnestly hoped that the Athelstan Road Open Air School, acquired by the committee, may be adapted and re-opened as an all day occupation centre as soon as conditions permit.

Co-ordination with the local Education Authority was continued, particularly in relation to supervision of children discharged from the Special School, and more recently to special school children who were not evacuated.

Co-operation is also fully maintained with the weekly Clinic for Nervous Disorders at the Royal East Sussex Hospital by means of the Mental Health Worker - new cases 89, total visits 397.

---

10. ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME 1940.

All the usual facilities were available throughout the year for children under and of school age and for cases of tuberculosis at all ages, including -

- (a) Diagnostic Clinic and supervision - Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (b) Treatment - Exercises - Appliances - X-ray - Light Treatment - Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (c) In-patient treatment - Operations for short period stay - Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (d) Prolonged institutional treatment with education - Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey.

With the conditions prevailing at and after the period of voluntary child evacuation, it was inevitable that a sharp decline should occur in all the work of the Orthopaedic Scheme.

Cases attending the Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital, on December 31st 1940.

(a) School Medical Service	..	..	2
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	..	..	1
(c) Tuberculosis	..	..	1
			<u>4</u>

<u>New cases 1940.</u>		<u>Orthopaedic</u>	<u>Sun Ray</u>
(a) School Medical Service	..	28	5
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	..	19	8
(c) Tuberculosis	..	1	2
Total	..	<u>48</u>	<u>15</u>

Total attendances 1940.

Orthopaedic	..	..	..	1,885
Sun Ray	..	..	..	596
				<u>2,481</u>

Cases receiving residential treatment at Chailey, December 1940.

Tuberculosis	..	..	4
Other conditions	..	..	6
			<u>10</u>

After-care of cases on discharge from the Orthopaedic Clinic by the School Medical Officer and the Health Visitors and School Nurses is of special importance to prevent recurrence. Of equal importance is the diagnosis of early postural defects. The general mass inspection of evacuee children revealed many such at a stage when treatment by simple exercises with the help of the School Medical Officer and the teacher would secure complete recovery.

11. GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) Local Acts, Orders, Byelaws, Adoptive Acts.

No additions or amendments were reported in 1940.

(2) Public Health Propaganda.

For the time being "Better Health", the propaganda journal, has been discontinued.

Much propaganda work, e.g. as to hygiene in the black out, in the shelter, on war dietary, diphtheria immunization, etc. has been carried out during the year.

(3) Registration of Nursing Homes.

As a result of voluntary evacuation, several of the nursing homes have removed as a temporary measure. Inspections and supervision by the Medical Officer of Health and his deputy have been fully maintained. It was not necessary to take any action during the year.

Total Nursing Homes registered	..	..	..	25.
Beds available	..	Maternity	..	55
		Others	..	179
		Total	..	<u>234</u>

(4) Water Supply.

All water in domestic use is adequately chlorinated. A certain amount of work is still in progress in connection with the important new undertaking for an additional large surface reservoir at Mountfield.

Bacteriological Analysis, 16th December 1940.

"This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. These results indicate an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for the purpose of public supply".

(5) Baths Establishments (Swimming and Medical).

These were closed as a temporary measure during 1940.

(6) Drainage and Sewerage.

The important new sewerage scheme has been suspended during the war. A considerable amount of inspection and repair work continued to be carried out under the direction of the sanitary inspectors.

(7) Scavenging.

Collection and disposal by means of controlled tipping at Pwbsham Farm are carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer. The Health Department co-ordinates, particularly in replacement of defective dust-bins and in the investigation and remedying of any nuisances.

(8) Sanitary Inspection of District.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Summary of Statistics 1940.

The details of table are omitted.

As a result of voluntary evacuation in the early autumn and local conditions due to the war, the number of occupied houses was for the time being very considerably reduced, particularly in those areas situated near the centre of the town and the front.

With regard to housing repairs, owing to the difficulty in obtaining building materials and their expense, shortage of labour, etc. it was not possible to insist to the same extent upon structural alterations and improvements hitherto required in many cases, but premises under notice were made at the least weatherproof and left in other respects reasonably comfortable for the occupiers.

(9) Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply of District.

Retail Purveyors of Milk on Register 1940	..	106
Wholesale Traders or Producers 1940	.. ..	14
Producers of "Accredited" Milk 1940	.. ..	4
Purveyors of "Tuberculin Tested", "Accredited", or "Pasteurised" Milk 1940	.. ..	14
Pasteuriser's Licences to sell milk as "Pasteurised"		5
Supplementary Licences 1940	.. ..	4
Samples for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli		11
Samples under Milk (Special Designations) Orders,		85

viz :-

Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	17	- all up to standard.
Accredited	..	31	- all up to standard.
Pasteurised	..	37	- four samples not up to standard.

Of the four unsatisfactory pasteurised milk samples, three were from one firm in the town and were apparently due to staff changes. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The remaining sample was obtained from a licensed dairyman without the town and the Licensing Authority was communicated with, with satisfactory results.

Of the eleven samples of raw milk taken, all proved negative to the test for tuberculosis.

(b) Meat Inspection.

Government controlled slaughtering in three slaughterhouses was continued during the greater part of the year, but subsequently use of one of these slaughterhouses was discontinued.

The improvements requested by the Medical Officer of Health to one slaughterhouse were in hand at the end of the year.

The meat inspection service performed by the Council's staff covered an area comprising the County Borough of Hastings, the Borough of Bexhill and the Rural District of Battle, and this has caused an increasing amount of work (as shown by the following figures) necessitating attendance at the slaughterhouses during certain evenings, Sundays and Public Holidays by the depleted staff.

Carcases Inspected.

	<u>Cattle</u> (Excluding cows)	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
1939	534	228	829	3,763	3,024
1940	1,962	1,296	1,450	10,222	3,234

Practically all animals killed were examined at or soon after slaughtering under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations by a Sanitary Inspector, and appropriate action taken as regards carcasses condemned in part or in whole, the figures being as follows :-

Percentage of cattle, whole or part carcasses, affected with tuberculosis	..	...	..	..	15.44%
Percentage of cows, whole or part carcasses, affected with tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	29.70%
Percentage of pigs, whole or part carcasses, affected with tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	1.94%

(c) Shops Acts. Inspection of Food Stuffs, Restaurants, etc., Pharmacy and Poisons Act, etc. 1852-1933.  
Merchandise Marks Act 1887-1926.

The tables dealing with sundry food stuffs and fish condemned, also giving details of all the work carried out under the above named Acts are omitted.

The number of shops on the register was considerably reduced during the year, particularly those businesses conducted as restaurants and cafes etc. From various restrictions on public lighting, etc. the majority of shops closed well before the statutory closing times and no complaints were received. Work under the Acts was, however, continued, the number of shops inspected being 15, revisited 140, total 155 visits. 68 contraventions were noted and notices served. Actually with notices outstanding, 137 defects were remedied, all by informal notices.

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts, 9 inspections were made.

Merchandise Marks Act 1887-1926.

No. of Inspections	Contraventions found	Informal Notices		
		Served	Complied with	Outstanding
93	25	25	25	--

(10) Factories, Workshops, Work places.

Inspection of Factories etc.	..	..	..	12 visits
Written Notices	..	..	..	Nil
Defects found	..	..	..	Nil
Defects remedied	..	..	..	2
Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	..	..	..	Nil

(11) Camping Sites.

These have all been closed until the end of the war.

(12) Disinfestation of Houses and other Premises.

Council Houses	..	..	..	8
Other houses	..	..	..	17

(13) Disinfecting and Cleansing Station, etc.

In early summer the Corporation disinfecting and cleansing station, which I have recommended should be condemned and eventually replaced by new premises, was closed and thereafter all public disinfection was carried out at the Borough Sanatorium or the Municipal Hospital disinfecting stations; also the cleansing of verminous persons and persons suffering from scabies. Whenever necessary, particularly during the re-evacuation of the London school children and prior to the evacuation of our own, severe cases of scabies, or cases not responding well to out-patient treatment, were admitted for short period intensive in-patient treatment. This emergency service has functioned well under considerable difficulty and pressure.

Articles disinfected	..	..	..	9,438
Number cleansed for vermin	..	..	..	140
Number of baths for scabies	..	..	..	160
Sets of clothing disinfected	..	..	..	189
Premises disinfected	..	..	..	351

(14) Report on Common Lodging Houses, 1940.

The two registered common lodging houses in the Borough are kept under the close supervision of the sanitary inspector.

Both houses were free from notifiable infectious diseases during the year and were kept in accordance with the regulations.

(15) Housing.

Routine house to house inspection has been suspended for the time being. On receipt of any complaint with regard to the condition of a house or as a result of routine or special district supervision, all necessary inspections are carried out (354 in 1940) and action taken in the usual way. The housing statistic tables for 1940 are omitted in detail.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts 1928.

During the year 153 samples were taken and submitted to the Borough Analyst at the Laboratory, Hastings, with the following results :-

Milk. 35 samples taken, 28 genuine, 7 adulterated or below the legal standard. These 7 samples were all from Producers in the East Sussex County districts and the analyses were referred to the County Medical Officer of Health for investigation and necessary action.

As regards samples of other foods and drugs, the following were adulterated :-

- 1 sample Mercury Ointment      Sold as Blue Mercury Ointment. Incorrectly described as "Mercury Ointment" on sampling label.
- 1 sample Magnesia                Sold as Magnesia Carbonate. Incorrectly described as "Magnesia" on sampling label.
- 1 sample Ammoniated Quinine Tablets      Withdrawn from sale.