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COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1947.

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

Medical Officer of Health
and
School Medical Officer.



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1. P R E F A C E.

Public Health Department,
44 Wellington Square,
HASTINGS.

September 1948.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1947, again curtailed by direction of the Ministry of Health, as compared with pre-war reports. The statistical tables, omitted from the report, are filed for future survey.

The public health services, clinical, hospital and environmental, were fully maintained during 1947.

The crude death rate for 1947 was 16 per 1,000, corrected by the pre-war factor of correction, 10.72 per 1,000. This rate was practically the same as in 1946 and now approximates closely with the rate prevailing prior to the war.

The birth rate for 1947 was 19.7 per 1,000 compared with 19.5 in 1946. The marked increase in the birth rate during the past three years has, therefore, been fully maintained in 1947. In terms of births, this means an increase of about 400 each year, or 50 per cent more than in the year immediately preceding the war. Apart from the social importance of this considerable increase, there are and will be repercussions in connection with school places, both in nursery classes and infant schools, also in the provision of hospital and medical services. This factor must operate whatever the future of the birth rate, even if it tends to fall considerably in the next few years.

The infant mortality rate was 26.6 per 1,000 live births as compared with 35.3 per 1,000 in 1946 and 47 per 1,000 in the large towns in 1947. The illegitimate births were 86, or approximately 1 in every 14, with an infant mortality of 46.5 per 1,000. Special attention continues to be given by the Health Visitors to the after-care of illegitimate infants.

The death rate from tuberculosis again fell significantly from .55 per 1,000 in 1946 to .38 per 1,000 in 1947, the lowest rate yet recorded in Hastings. A full recovery has been made from the war time increase in the death rate of tuberculosis and the tendency to fall before the war has been again continued. Reference is made in the body of the report in some detail to this matter.

The incidence of infectious diseases continued to be low: scarlet fever 39 cases as compared with 38 in 1946; diphtheria 5 cases as compared with 4 in 1946. Out-breaks of measles and whooping cough occurred in considerable numbers, but fortunately with only one fatality. For the seventh year there has been no death from diphtheria. In the report I have dealt with diphtheria immunisation and its importance in bringing about this happy result. It is extremely important that a diphtheria immunisation rate of approximately 75 - 80 per cent amongst all children up to the end of school

life should be obtained and, further, maintained by re-inforcing injections every 5 years until the end of school life.

The national epidemic of anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) naturally affected Hastings in the late summer and autumn of 1947, altogether there being 30 cases, including 3 of the severe cranial type known as polio-encephalitis. There were 2 fatal cases. A detailed note of the out-break and its management will be found under Infectious Diseases.

The report which follows deals with the work of the Health Department for 1947, but naturally much thought and energy were given to preparations in connection with the inauguration of the National Health Service Act in July 1948. Various references are made, however, in the body of the report, particularly with regard to developments in the welfare services under Part III of the Act, and also in connection with the hospital and clinical services, which have passed over to the Regional Board and the District Hospital Management Committee.

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 difficult days.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G.R. BRUCE

Medical Officer of Health

2. CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Committee - Councillor A.T. White.

Sub-Sanatorium Committee - Councillor A.T. White.

Education Committee - Alderman Mrs. G. Foxon, J.P.

Mental Deficiency Committee - Counc. Mrs. A. Farnfield J.P., M.B.E.,

Social Welfare (and Sub) Committee - Counc. Mrs. A. Farnfield J.P.,
M.B.E.

Maternity & Child Welfare Committee - Councillor Mrs. V.B. Alexander.

Housing and Improvements Committee - Councillor S. Thorpe.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

See list as set out in Report of 1938.

The following additional alterations in staff are recorded in 1947.

Name of Officer	Office Held
Miss J. Barling, (Resigned January 1947)	Clerk, School Medical Service.
N.G. Clark, (Resigned January 1947)	Junior Clerk.
Miss Y.A. Pearce, (Appointed January 1947)	Clerk, School Medical Service.
D.J. Stillwell, (Appointed February 1947)	Junior Clerk.
Miss M. Flint, (Returned from War Service April 1947)	School Nurse.
Miss C.Y. Bailey, (Resigned June 1947)	Health Visitor & School Nurse.
Miss B.M. Reed, (Appointed July 1947)	Health Visitor & School Nurse.
Miss M. Hodgson, (Appointed August 1947)	Health Visitor & School Nurse.

3. SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS 1947.

Area of Borough	7,770 acres
Population - Census 1931	65,207
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1947 for the purpose of Vital Statistics	62,740
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	20,307
Rateable Value	£773,193
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,900 (est.)
Live Births 1947 (legitimate (illegitimate)	Total 1,117 86	Male 586 29	Female 531 57	= 1,203
Birth rate 1947 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.1
Still births	36
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	19.7
Deaths 1947	1,005
Death Rate, 1947 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:- (a) crude X (b) corrected	16.0 10.72
Deaths from puerperal causes:-				
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
No.29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil	Nil	
No.30 Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-				
(a) All Infants per 1,000 live births	26.6
(b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.0
(c) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	46.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	153
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

X Assuming the continued use of the pre-war
factor of correction 0.67.

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

1. Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 1947 19.1
2. Death rate (corrected) per 1,000 of population, 1947 10.75

Comparative Table.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.	
		Crude	Corrected X
1938	11.1	15.4	10.3
1939	11.8	16.9	11.3
1940	11.4	20.3	13.7
1941	13.3	20.3	13.7
1942	16.5	21.4	14.4
1943	15.7	23.8	15.9
1944	16.7	21.4	14.3
1945	14.9	18.1	12.12
1946	19.5	16.4	10.98
1947	19.1	16.0	10.72
X Factor for correction 0.67.			

For 1947 the crude death rate fell slightly from 16.4 per 1,000 to 16.0; the corrected death rate from 10.98 per 1,000 to 10.72; thus maintaining the fall which has been progressive since 1943. Of the 1,005 deaths registered, no less than 774, or 70 per cent of the total, occurred in persons over the age of 65 years. A high crude death rate amongst elderly people must normally be expected in Health Resorts owing to the special sex and age type of their population. This feature will be emphasised during coming decades in view of the fact that the average expectation of life is still steadily increasing.

The care and welfare of the aged involves many problems, none greater than that of suitable accommodation. A certain proportion no doubt are comfortably situated, either living independently or with their own relatives, but unfortunately there are many who cannot in these difficult days be suitably accommodated either economically or owing to their physical condition. Such persons require admission to voluntary homes for the aged, private nursing homes, or accommodation to be provided under the National Assistance Act, 1948, by the local authority.

With regard to the birth rate, the war time increase was almost maintained. With 1,203 births, the birth rate was 19.1 per 1,000 as compared with 19.5 in 1946. It should be noted that before the war the number of births was substantially below the number of deaths. Now the situation is reversed, the number of births being considerably over the number of deaths.

The number of illegitimate births was 86, equivalent to one in every 14 births.

3. Main Causes of Death:

(a) Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels.

The total deaths from the various associated causes amounted to 532 or 53 per cent of the total deaths.

(b) Cancer.

The total deaths from cancer were 153 as compared with 156 in 1946. The death rate of 2.4 per 1,000, or one death in every 6.9, remains higher than in the country as a whole, but this can be explained as a result of the high average age constitution of the people living in Hastings.

The scheme for in-patient treatment and out-patient consultations and general supervision at the Westminster Hospital was continued successfully; this also includes provision of transport for patients and if necessary responsibility for free boarding and lodging for out-patient treatment in London. The scheme has operated smoothly, with great advantage to the patients, and has materially assisted the local voluntary hospitals in obtaining specialised treatment for these cases.

It should be noted that, with the commencement of the National Health Service Act, financial responsibility for this service is now undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board.

The following is a note of the cases treated at the Westminster Hospital during 1947:-

(i) Number of new cases referred through the Public Health Department by Hospitals and Medical Practitioners	26
(ii) Number who received out-patient treatment only			14
(iii) Number who received in-patient treatment	...		12
(iv) Total number of attendances made by new and old out-patients and in-patients		...	164

(c) Respiratory Diseases.

The total deaths from respiratory complaints were 103. There was no epidemic of pneumonia or influenzal pneumonia during the year.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

No cases of the following notifiable infectious diseases were reported:-

Smallpox, cholera, plague, typhus fever, relapsing or continued fever, encephalitis lethargica or trench fever.

The following table summarises the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases during 1947:-

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	5	5	Nil
Erysipelas	19	4	Nil
Scarlet Fever	39	28	Nil
Paratyphoid B.	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	3	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	2	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	92	37	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	17	14	1
Polio-myelitis	27	27	1
Polio-encephalitis	3	3	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	19	Nil	4
Malaria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	Nil	Nil	Nil
Influenzal Pneumonia	4	Nil	Nil
Measles	553	4	1
Whooping Cough	123	7	Nil

REMARKS

(a) Scarlet Fever - The incidence was low, 39 cases as compared with 38 in 1946, the cases being on the whole mild and sporadic.

(b) Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation - The incidence of diphtheria was again extremely low, 5 cases being notified throughout the year with no deaths.

The incidence and deaths since 1938 are shown in the following table:-

Year	No. of Cases	Deaths.
1938	31	3
1939	49	1
1940	28	1
1941	6	Nil
1942	7	Nil
1943	13	Nil
1944	13	Nil
1945	11	Nil
1946	4	Nil
1947	5	Nil

The local reduction (which corresponds broadly to the national reduction), both in incidence and death rate during the past seven years is noteworthy, the average number of cases being 8 without a death during the period. Undoubtedly, credit should be given for this to the diphtheria immunisation campaign, both local and national. It should, however, again be emphasized that the target percentage for the national campaign is from 75 to 80 per cent of all children up to the end of their school life, and that this should be sustained by re-inforcing or "boosting" injections every five years. The number of "boosting" injections being carried out has steadily increased in Hastings.

The immunisation results during 1947 were as follows:-

720 children were immunised, 675 under the age of 5 years, 45 over 5 years of age, 265 re-inforcing injections being given.

Every effort is made to publicise the importance of diphtheria immunisation, through the press, posters, school clinics, teachers, infant welfare centres, health visitors, district nurses, etc.

The immunising agent still remains A.P.T., the dosage .2 and .5 c.c.s at four weekly intervals, a special test (Schick test) to show whether immunity is complete being carried out in a small proportion of the immunised children or at the request of any parent. The re-inforcing or "boosting" injection is now T.A.F. .2 c.c..

Diphtheria immunisation is available free of all charge at the immunisation Clinics of the local authority and in addition, under the National Health Service Scheme, all children who are registered can be immunised free of charge by their own doctor.

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.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

No alteration occurred in the available accommodation.

- (a) Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, Hastings - 70 beds.
- (b) Smallpox Hospital, Brede - 20 beds.

The Smallpox Hospital at Brede remains available, along with Sedgebrook Smallpox Hospital, near Chailley, for cases occurring throughout the County of Sussex. These arrangements will continue until the Regional Board takes over all hospitals under the National Health Service Act in July 1948.

Total admissions to the Borough Sanatorium in 1947 were 192, including 22 cases from the Rural District of Battle and the Borough of Rye, 32 cases from the Borough of Bexhill, and 4 service cases, leaving 134 cases from Hastings. (See previous table which refers to notifiable diseases only). It was not necessary to open the Brede Smallpox Hospital.

The Borough Sanatorium receives patients from the County Borough of Hastings, Bexhill Municipal Borough, Rural District of Battle and the Borough of Rye, the total population to be served being in the neighbourhood of 120,000. When negotiations were completed before the war with the Bexhill Municipal Borough to receive their fever cases, it was stipulated that an additional cubicle block for 10 beds should be erected in the grounds at the Borough Sanatorium for the Bexhill patients. Owing to the war this cubicle block was not built, but it still remains necessary to receive Bexhill patients. Fortunately the existing accommodation of 70 beds has proved sufficient for all needs, including the frequent admission of minor non-notifiable infectious diseases such as mumps and chicken pox for special reasons. As a rule, except under special circumstances, all the cases have been nursed in two out of the four blocks. The question of utilising one block at the Borough Sanatorium for cases of chronic or advanced tuberculosis to relieve the existing situation at the Municipal Hospital, particularly on the women's side, has been under consideration, but the absence of the cubicle block raised considerable difficulties in this matter. If it is considered that a block could be set aside for this purpose, combined with the erection of a cubicle block, the Regional Hospital Board may consider that the scheme has much to commend itself.

Shortage of nursing staff has remained an important difficulty, but fortunately it has never been such as to require refusal of important and serious cases of infection.

The Disinfecting Station has remained available for general disinfecting purposes along with the Disinfecting Station at the Municipal Hospital; if necessary the in-patient treatment of scabies can be carried out, particularly in bad cases. This will remain necessary in view of the fact that the Disinfecting Station at Rock-a-Nore is derelict. The question of erecting a new Disinfecting and Cleansing Station has been put up to the Ministry of Health, but the present view is that, owing to the general housing shortage, it would not be possible to give consent, and the Ministry recommends that the Regional Board be asked to continue the present arrangements for the time being.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS) AND POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.

During the summer, autumn and early winter of 1947, Hastings had its share of the national out-break. The first case was notified on the 27th July and the last on the 14th November 1947, the total number of notified cases being 30, and the out-break at its height in August and September. The cases occurred singly in different families, except in one instance when two children in one family were attacked.

The public were kept fully informed in the local press as to the progress of the out-break, also as to general measures to reduce risk of infection. In addition operations at the local hospital for removal of tonsils and adenoids were suspended, also Saturday morning performances at the local cinemas for children, and certain precautions were put in hand at the indoor and outdoor swimming baths.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, a special medical team was set up, including in addition to the Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy, a Consulting Physician (Dr. J.M. Harker) and an Orthopaedic Surgeon (Mr. D.N. Wilson) to deal with all medical aspects, diagnosis, treatment, and after-care, and I take this opportunity of recognising the valuable assistance received from these two consultants. Circulars dealing with technical aspects of the disease were issued to the medical profession, who also had an opportunity of seeing the Ministry of Health special film.

Practically all the cases, including three from Bexhill and the Battle Rural District were dealt with at the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases. All cases requiring orthopaedic treatment were transferred to the Royal East Sussex Hospital as in-patients or out-patients as soon as they were free from infection, several of these later on being transferred for prolonged treatment with education to the Heritage Craft Schools and Hospital, Chailey. The following is a summary of the cases treated at the Borough Sanatorium:-

Anterior Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.

Definite Cases	Description	Deaths
3	Bulbar or polio-encephalitis	2
8	Severe or definite paralysis	1
8	Moderate or slight paralysis	-
19	Mild or abortive with little or no involvement of muscles	-
<hr/> 38	Total	<hr/> 3

Note: Of these cases 5 were visitors.
1 from Holland
3 from Bexhill
5 from Rural District of Battle.

<u>Observation Cases</u>	<u>- Eventual Diagnosis.</u>
2	Pyrexia of unknown origin
1	Influenza
1	Tonsillitis
1	Diarrhoea and Vomiting
1	Glandular Fever
1	Bell's Palsy (facial nerve)
1	Rheumatism
1	Virus Pneumonia
1	Pneumonitis
1	Tuberculous Meningitis.
<u>11</u>	

VACCINATION RETURN 1946.

Births	1,547
Successful Primary Vaccinations			768
Conscientious Objectors	506
Percentage of births vaccinated	49.6

The percentage of children now being vaccinated has risen substantially from about 30 per cent to practically 50 per cent.

It should be noted that compulsory vaccination disappears when the National Health Service Act comes into force and its place will be taken by voluntary vaccination on the same lines as diphtheria immunisation.

REPORT ON PUBLIC HEALTH BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

This work was carried out under Dr. P. Lazarus Barlow, Pathologist, in the Laboratory of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, which was incorporated in the Emergency Pathological Laboratory Service in May 1947.

The work included specimens of public health importance sent in by general medical practitioners, all specimens from the Public Health Department and the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, the School Medical Service, Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Municipal Hospital.

6. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC, ROYAL EAST SUSSEX HOSPITAL

I am indebted to Dr. J. Schneider-Green, the Medical Officer in charge, for information dealing with the incidence of venereal diseases in Hastings during 1947.

The incidence of syphilis and gonorrhoea in Hastings during the years immediately before and during the war is shown in the table below:-

Year	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea
1938	8	15
1939	10	33
1940	9	6
1941	3	6
1942	7	19
1943	9	11
1944	5	12
1945	8	28
1946	23	32
1947	18	42

It will be noted that there has been a slight fall in the number of cases of syphilis, but a corresponding rise in the case of gonorrhoea. In addition 120 persons who presented themselves for examination were found not to be suffering from any venereal condition.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, the whole matter of venereal diseases, its nature and the particulars of free and confidential treatment at the Clinic have been kept before the public by posters, pamphlets and by personal instruction and advice by members of the Clinic and Public Health Department staff and otherwise. This may to some extent explain the increase in actual cases, some of whom may well have endeavoured to obtain treatment from other sources in the past and further the number of persons who attend for examination of suspected symptoms, but are found to be free from infection, is a definite proof of the effect of the propaganda.

Notifications received under Regulation 33B.

Form 1 - 1 notification received.

Form 2 - Nil.

Form 1 relates to a person suspected of causing one infection.

Form 2 requires a person suspected of causing more than one infection to attend a Clinic for examination and any necessary treatment.

The Sister of the Venereal Diseases Clinic acts as a Social Worker and Almoner on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health. If the persons named in Form 1 are not already attending for treatment, the Sister endeavours to make contact and to get them to the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

7. TUBERCULOSIS.

- (a) Register - At the end of 1947 the tuberculosis register contained 726 names.
Males 322, Females 263, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.
Males 62, Females 79 suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

(b) Notifications and deaths of cases notified in 1947.

Age Period	New Cases Notified		Deaths of Cases Notified	
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	-	-
5 - 10 "	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 "	-	3	-	-
15 - 20 "	3	2	-	-
20 - 25 "	4	11	-	2
25 - 35 "	14	12	-	1
35 - 45 "	11	3	1	-
45 - 55 "	11	4	1	2
55 - 65 "	9	-	2	-
65 upwards	1	3	1	-
Totals	53	39	5	5
Grand Totals	109		11	

(c) Incidence and Mortality.

The death rate from tuberculosis in both forms, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, .38 per 1,000, was the lowest rate recorded, as shown in the table below:-

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Rate per 1,000.
1938	54	6	60	.93
1939	43	3	46	.69
1940	47	4	51	.88
1941	38	5	43	1.22
1942	35	4	39	1.00
1943	38	6	44	1.21
1944	32	3	35	.91
1945	24	-	24	.49
1946	32	1	33	.55
1947	23	1	24	.38

The death rate from tuberculosis has tended to decrease from the commencement, and even before, of this century with variations caused by the two world wars. In both instances there was a distinct and steep rise which checked the gradual downward trend.

At the commencement of the century, the death rate in Hastings averaged 1.8, in 1914 1.4. It rose to 2.0 in 1918 and fell gradually to .93 in 1938. There was a sharp increase in the death rate from 1940 to 1942, but since that date the downward trend has been definite and even accelerated as compared with the period before the war.

On the other hand the number of early cases or suspected cases notified for investigation has been fully maintained. The public is now in the main fully conscious of the necessity for this early investigation and the medical profession throughout the country fully co-operate by getting the early case to the Dispensary. At the same time it must be remembered that tuberculosis is an insidious disease which sometimes has gained a considerable hold before the usual symptoms manifest themselves. It is in such cases that the value of mass radiography is proved, particularly in considerable aggregations of persons employed in factories or in districts which render mass radiography easily practicable. In addition modern treatment of tuberculosis does save life or prolong it considerably, particularly if associated with adequate after-care and suitable employment. All these, together with improvements in the general standard of living, may be factors in the reduction of the death rate.

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

With the return of the population, civilian and service, and the increasing attention given to diagnosis, the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary continued to extend during 1947, the total attendances being 2,202 as compared with 2,027 in 1946, new cases being 458 as compared with 414 in 1946, and contacts examined 425. Close and cordial co-operation continued with the special departments of the hospital - X-ray, Dispensary, Laboratory, Orthopaedic, etc.

(e) Institutional Treatment.

In spite of the general shortage of sanatorium beds, it was always possible to arrange treatment, without undue delay, for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis at Darvell Hall Sanatorium. It is, however, difficult to obtain adequate modern treatment for positive cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in young children or even children in the later years of school age. There is also an urgent shortage of beds for surgical tuberculosis, particularly in children and more particularly for the resultant crippling which demands a long term stay with educational facilities.

With regard to the Municipal Hospital, the accommodation for males has remained fully available, but it has been difficult to obtain accommodation and nursing staff for female tuberculous cases during part of the period.

Admissions to Institutions during 1947.

Darvell Hall Sanatorium	44	cases	pulmonary	tuberculosis.
Municipal Hospital, Hastings	37	"	"	"
Royal East Sussex Hospital	18	"	surgical	tuberculosis.
Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital	1	"	"	"

(f) Government Maintenance Allowance, etc. - Memorandum 266/T.

Although commenced as a war time measure, Government Maintenance Allowances were continued during 1947 for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, but only for persons who have to give up their work in order to undertake treatment in a sanatorium, or in their own home, with a reasonable chance of being again fitted for work. Criticism of the limitations of the scheme have been maintained, particularly in relation to chronic cases and cases of surgical tuberculosis, and it is understood that these difficulties will be overcome in the scheme in connection with the National Assistance Act of 1948. From the 1st January 1947 to the 31st December 1947 10 patients received maintenance allowances, one patient received a maintenance allowance and also a discretionary allowance, one patient received a maintenance allowance and also a special payment.

(g) Tuberculosis Care Committee.

This Committee has continued its work on the same lines as in previous years and provides one pint of pasteurised milk each day for patients who require nourishment and in special cases 3/6d per week to purchase special foods. Financial help is given where necessary, also gifts of clothing, nursing requisites, grants for railway fares and so on.

The Occupational Therapy Centre in the St. John Ambulance Hall held monthly, as described in previous reports, provides a centre for the ex-sanatorium or other patients to meet the Supervisor, whose headquarters are at Darvell Hall Sanatorium, once a month to examine articles made, to consider and arrange for new material and work; it also acts generally as a social centre. Fortunately, in spite of shortages of material, it has been possible to obtain a very reasonable amount of new material to make toys, leather articles, bags and baskets.

Consideration was given as to the future of the Tuberculosis Care Committee in relation to the National Health Service Act. It was decided that the Committee should continue its functions under the local authority's Part III Scheme, very much on existing lines, although it is possible that there may be developments in this service later on.

(h) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.
Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 72.

No action was taken in 1947.

8. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1. Vital Statistics:

(a) Infantile Mortality.

The infant mortality rate in 1947 with 32 infant deaths in 1,203 births, was 26.6 per 1,000 births, compared with 30.3 per 1,000 in 1946 and a national rate of 47 per 1,000 in the large towns, including London.

Both whooping cough and measles were prevalent during some period of the year and although there were no infant deaths directly attributed to either disease, there were 6 deaths from

bronchitis and pneumonia out of the total deaths. In addition 22 of the deaths were due to causes operating either before, at, or about the time of birth, e.g. congenital malformations, premature birth, marasmus or other birth injuries. Undoubtedly this neo-natal mortality, together with the still birth rate, 36 out of 1,303 births, remains a major problem in infantile mortality and still requires both immediate and future research and specialist arrangements in the ante-natal clinics and the maternity hospitals, as well as increased knowledge, education, and co-operation of mothers.

(b) Maternal Mortality.

Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Births (Hastings)	
Year	
1939	5.9
1940	4.6
1941	4.7
1942	Nil
1943	1.6
1944	Nil
1945	1.3
1946	1.68
1947	Nil
Average 2.19	

It will be noted that no death occurred in 1947 as a result of maternal mortality. This figure has been gradually falling in England and Wales from an average of 4 - 5 per 1,000 at the commencement of the century to 1.7 in 1947.

All the special services bearing on the prevention of maternal mortality, ante-natal, post-natal, consultants for difficult labour, and puerperal pyrexia, pathological facilities, etc., were fully maintained.

2. Inspection of Midwives

(a) No. of midwives on register	14
No. of visits	51
Midwives' notifications, medical aid	195
Other official notifications	39
Births notified by midwives	646

The results of inspection and the average standard of work were satisfactory.

(b) Midwives Act, 1936 - Domiciliary Midwifery.

Service	District Nursing Association	Municipal Midwife	Total
1. Cases conducted	262	56	318
2. Post-natal visits	6,593	867	7,460
3. Ante-natal visits	2,890	334	3,224
4. Gas and Air Analgesia	171	25	196

The number of cases conducted on the district, which had shown a tendency to rise along with the rising birth rate, remained practically stationary in 1947 as compared with 1946. Domiciliary midwifery is, with a few exceptions, carried out by the midwives of the District Nursing and Maternity Association and one Municipal Midwife. Under the National Health Service Act, this method of service will be maintained on an agency basis.

It should be noted that in 1947 the number of women who asked for gas and air analgesia showed a considerable increase, proving that this service is now being fully appreciated and readily accepted.

(c) The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations 1939.

The total number of cases was 13.

All the pre-war arrangements were available, including hospital accommodation, home nursing, provision of consultants, bacteriological and general investigations, etc.

3. Work of the Health Visitors, Home Helps and Domestic Helps.

<u>Health Visitors</u>	<u>Home Visits</u>
First visits under one year	1,411
Second or further visits	7,869
Infectious diseases and special visits	555
Infant protection visits	393
Expectant mother visits	256
Total	10,484
Home Help cases	28

Domestic Help Scheme - Commenced 7.5.45.

No. of Domestic Helps - full time 2)	3
part time 1)	
No. of applications received during 1947	98
No. of applications dealt with in 1947	85
No. of applications cancelled for various reasons	13

4. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Total attendances were as follows:-

Infant Welfare Centres	14,359
Ante-natal and post-natal clinics	1,352
Medical consultations	4,477

5. Contraceptive Clinic for Married Women (including County Cases).
Treatment for medical conditions only.

New cases	45
Old cases	41
Total	86

6. Illegitimate Children.

The following are the numbers during the past 3 years:-

Year	No. of Illegitimate Children.	Total Children.	Percentage.
1945	101	731	13.8
1946	98	1,155	8.5
1947	86	1,203	7.1

The Health Visitors give special consideration to the care of expectant single women both during pregnancies and afterwards, in conjunction with other agencies, particularly the local worker of the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association, who is linked up by a definite financial arrangement.

All illegitimate children are under special review and report by the appropriate Health Visitor at three months and one year old. It may be said that the reports are generally satisfactory as regards care by the mother, grandmother or foster parent, attendance at Infant Welfare Centres and infant care generally.

7. Distribution of Milk, Nutritive Foods, etc.

Additional milk and vitamins must be given a considerable amount of credit for the improvement in the present day infant health and also in the condition of the expectant and nursing mothers. There was again a definite increase in the take up both in milk and vitamins.

Distribution of Milk, Vitamins, etc during last quarter 1947.

Orange Juice "take up"	- 57 per cent (this includes issues to expectant mothers)
Cod Liver Oil do.	- 46 per cent.
Vitamin A. & D. capsules	- 26 per cent.
National Dried Milk (Extended up to the age of 2 years)	- 1,200 tins average issue per week.

8. Dental Treatment.

Expectant and nursing mothers at the Royal East Sussex Hospital	- Nil.
Children under 5 at school clinics	- 21.

9. Orthopaedic and Light Treatment - (See special note)

10. Treatment of Toddlers.

All facilities at School Clinics for examination and treatment are available (see School Report).

11. Anti-Diphtheria Inoculation - (See note on infectious diseases)

12. Child Guidance Clinic

Facilities for examination, investigation and treatment of children under the age of five years, not attending school, are available and particularly valuable on occasion for enuretics or bed-wetters.

13. Speech Therapy Clinic.

This was established in the autumn of 1945, primarily for children attending school, but it is also available for a limited number of toddlers under school age.

14. General Notes on Maternity and Child Welfare Work in 1947.

All the approved services were fully available in 1947 including six district Infant Welfare Centres and three Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics, including that of the District Nursing and Maternity Association.

The amount of institutional midwifery was fully maintained - the total confinements at the Municipal Hospital being 700 as compared with 696 in 1946, 488 being Hastings cases. At Fernbank Maternity Home the total confinements were 315 as compared with 270 in 1946, 163 being Hastings cases.

The work of all the ante-natal clinics as stated in the report for 1946 is closely co-ordinated, patients with their notes being transferred from one clinic to the other, as and when required. The ante-natal clinic at the Municipal Hospital situated at the entrance to the old female cured block, is most convenient and well equipped to deal with the large numbers who now attend.

In previous reports I have stressed the desirability of setting up a central clinic, preferably at one of the hospitals, for consulting purposes in relation to infant welfare, ante- and post-natal cases. It is one of the matters which are included for future consideration in the Local Authority's scheme under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to be discussed with the Regional Board and the Hospital Management Committee.

Other services were fully available, for example, dental treatment for children under school age, orthopaedic and light treatment, consultations and hospital beds for cases of difficult labour, puerperal pyrexia and complicated ante-natal cases.

Home visiting, infant protection work, visits in connection with infectious cases and scabies, overcrowding, insanitary housing conditions, and other miscellaneous social work, were assisted by the appointment of an additional Health Visitor. All demands for Home and Domestic Helps were met by the existing staff.

As regards premature infants, special equipment as recommended in the Ministry's circular, is available on the district through the District Nursing and Maternity Association, and special arrangements are also available in the Municipal Hospital and at Fernbank Maternity Home.

9. MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The total number of mental defectives on the register of the local authority at the end of 1947 was 156 as compared with 151 in 1946. Of these 72 are in institutions, 5 of whom are on licence, 58 are under guardianship, 22 under statutory supervision and 4 under friendly supervision.

The Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare is responsible for the general arrangements and management of the Occupation Centre, the local authority being responsible for financial support. The Centre, formerly the Open Air School, Athelstan Road, remained open throughout the year, the work, after the resignation of the Organiser,

being carried out under Mrs. Lewenden, who was ably assisted by her husband, who played the piano for singing and dancing, etc., and taught the older boys plain carpentry. They were very interested; some made good progress and produced saleable articles such as floor polishers, tea trays, etc. Two displays were given by the pupils, the sales of work resulting in a profit of £50. The Christmas Party was well attended by parents and friends, who showed obvious appreciation of the work done and the pleasure and enjoyment given to these unfortunate pupils.

The Mental Health Worker, in addition to the home visiting of cases under guardianship, statutory or friendly supervision, dealt with the after-care of certain special school pupils, and made a preliminary investigation of school children brought forward for the first time for education at the Special School as educationally retarded, or for reference to the Mental Deficiency Committee. In addition she attends the weekly clinic for Nervous Disorders at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, which deals with Hastings and the surrounding district and is financially supported by the Mental Deficiency Committee. The attendances at this clinic continue to increase, being 735 old patients and 164 new patients, making a total of 899 attendances. It should be noted that the clinic acts as a social centre for diagnosis of early cases, investigation into social circumstances and for the after-care of patients who have been to the Mental Hospital. As such it is bound to be of major importance in the local authority's scheme under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Mental Health Worker - Summary of Work.

Home visits - cases under guardianship	...	363
" " supervision	...	162
" " Education Committee	...	154
Miscellaneous visits	...	492
Special visits	...	66
		<u>1,237</u>
Interviews	...	542
Escort	...	12 occasions
Clinic for Nervous Disorders	...	44 sessions.
Occupation Centre	...	55 visits

5 cases were certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts and were placed under guardianship or sent to institutions.

41 children reported as being educationally sub-normal were tested and dealt with as follows:-

Recommended for Special School for E.S.N. Children	24
Notified to Mental Deficiency Committee	6
Recommended for Open Air School	3
No action	4
Deferred	1
Temporarily excluded from school	1
Recommended for speech training	1
Referred to Child Guidance Clinic	1
	<u>41</u>

10. ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

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

- (a) Diagnostic Clinic and supervision - Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (b) Treatment, exercises, appliances, X-ray and light treatment - Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (c) In-patient operative treatment for short period stay - Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (d) Prolonged institutional treatment and education - Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey.
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate.
Hospital for Sick Children (County Branch), Stanmore
Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton.

Attendances were fully maintained and there was an increase of new cases at the Orthopaedic Clinic during 1947.

Light treatment was given for abdominal and gland tuberculosis and also for malnutrition and early rickets; severe rickets is almost unknown.

Cases attending the Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital. December 1947.

	<u>Orthopaedic</u>	<u>Sun-Ray.</u>
(a) School Medical Service	128	Nil
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	35	2
(c) Tuberculosis	2	Nil
Total	<u>165</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>New Cases 1947.</u>		
(a) School Medical Service	130	1
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	45	5
(c) Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil
Total	<u>175</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Total Attendances.</u>		
Orthopaedic	7,328	
Sun-Ray	196	

Cases receiving residential treatment - December 1947.

Tuberculosis	3
Other conditions	5

Quarterly reports are submitted on all children in attendance at the clinic and, when cases complete treatment or fail to attend, the School Medical Officer, Health Visitors, or School Nurses and Physical Training Instructors, also the Almoner of the Hospital, watch for relapses and arrange, if necessary, further treatment. Special attention is given at school inspections and the clinics to the diagnosis of early postural defects.

11. GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

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

No additions or amendments were reported in 1947.

2. Public Health Propaganda.

The attention of the public was called throughout the year to various health matters of general or local importance by illustrated posters, circulars and pamphlets from the Ministry of Health, papers and articles in the local press and lectures to the general public, among the subjects dealt being the National Health Service Act 1946, diphtheria immunisation, maternity and child welfare facilities, (especially in the scheme for milk and vitamins), early treatment of venereal diseases, dietary, the scheme for domestic helps, etc.

The officers of the Public Health Department do a great deal of quiet propaganda in their various and numerous contacts with a definite cross section of the public.

In the autumn a successful Health Stand in which all members of the Public Health Department co-operated enthusiastically, was again given good prominence at a "Safety First" Week. Members of the public showed great interest in the various exhibits which covered every aspect of public health work and attended in considerable numbers at films dealing with "Diphtheria Immunisation", "Mass Radiography" and "Tuberculosis", etc.

3. Registration of Nursing Homes.

Several new nursing homes were opened. Inspections and supervision by the Medical Officer of Health and Deputy were fully maintained. No action was necessary throughout the year under the Act.

Total nursing homes registered	- 19
Beds available - maternity	- 39
- others	- 181

4. Water Supply.

The main sources of supply are deep wells, particularly at Brede and Filsham and the reservoirs at Great Sanders and at Darwell, the latter still under construction.

I am indebted to the Borough Water Engineer for certain information incorporated below in connection with the queries of the Ministry of Health.

- (a) All the water in domestic use from the various deep wells and the Great Sanders Reservoir was adequately treated and chlorinated and was most satisfactory in its quality; in addition there appeared to be no shortage at any period of the year.
- (b) Samples of raw and treated water from the various sources of supply have been taken for chemical analyses during the past year.

Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water from Filsham
Pumping Main - 15th October 1947.

Appearance - Bright with a few particles of mineral debris consisting of iron oxide.
Colour (Hazen) - Nil
Reaction pH - On the acid side of neutrality - 6.9.
Electric Conductivity at 20° C - 520.
Chlorine in Chlorides - 80.
Hardness - Total 130 - Carbonate (Temporary) - 110.
Non-Carbonate (Permanent) - 20.
Nitrogen in Nitrates - 0.0.
Free Ammonia - 0.000.
Albuminoid Ammonia - 0.000.
Turbidity (Silica Scale) - Less than 5.
Odour - Nil.
Free Carbon Dioxide - 20.
Total Solids, dried at 180° C. - 350.
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate - 110
Nitrogen in Nitrites - Less than 0.01.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. - 0.05.
Free Chlorine Reaction - Absent.
Metals - Iron : 0.08 - Manganese: 0.12 - Other Metals - absent.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and manganese. The water is almost neutral in reaction and it shows a marked reduction in the content of free carbon dioxide as compared with the raw supply. It has very moderate hardness, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis, these results are consistent with an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

- (c) The supply is piped, but there are also a certain number of wells in the outlying rural district, particularly in houses incorporated as a result of the Hastings Corporation Act, 1936. Bacteriological examinations of water are made monthly at various points in the public water supply system through the Water Undertaking and when necessary the Public Health Department. The bacteriological results were uniformly satisfactory and for information two examinations carried out in December 1947 are quoted:-

Bacteriological Analyses - 2nd December 1947.

Specimen of water from Tap on Filsham Pumping Station.

(Sampling bottles are treated to remove free chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

Number of Colonies developing) 1 day at 2 days at 3 days at
on Agar per cc or ml. in) 37° C - 0. 37° C - 0. 20° C - 0.

Presumptive Coliform Reaction - Present in 0. Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli - Present in 0. Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction - Present in 0. Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

Specimen of water from Tap on Baldslow Main.

Number of Colonies developing) 1 day at 2 days at 3 days at
on Agar per cc or ml. in) 37° C - 0. 37° C - 0. 20° C - 0.

Presumptive Coliform Reaction - Present in 0. Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli. - Present in 0. Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction - Present in 0. Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

- (d) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, being of medium hardness. At times there is a tendency for the supply of the wells in the rural district, particularly in the Guestling and Fairlight areas, to diminish greatly, especially during a dry summer. The remedy is the provision of a piped supply, which should be available when the Darwell Reservoir comes into full use.
- (e) No special action was taken as regards contamination. The local authority is the owner of certain lands on the gathering grounds and in a position to take the necessary steps. Should a particular sample prove to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination, the cause is at once investigated and the condition rectified without delay and further samples taken.
- (f) The number of dwelling houses supplied is 20,010, made up of houses, bungalows, flats and part houses. This figure includes 774 houses and shops and 58 agricultural houses. In addition approximately 120 houses, outside the Borough of Hastings, have piped supplies. Houses are not supplied from stand-pipes except in case of breakdowns or frozen pipes. The present estimated standing population of Hastings for the water undertaking is 64,442.

5. Baths Establishments (Swimming and Medical).

During 1947 both swimming baths at the White Rock Baths were open. The sea water is treated with modern filtration and chlorination methods, and bacteriological analyses were satisfactory.

The Open Air Swimming Pool at West Marina was also open during the summer of 1947, the sea water being similarly treated and under bacteriological examination.

The medical section at the White Rock Baths, with a qualified attendant, functioned successfully throughout the year, the following baths being available:-

sea weed, sea water with packs, concentrated brine, sulphur, pine, foam, etc., combined with massage.

A chiropody section was opened during the autumn and has obviously met a general need. It is combined with electric treatment, where necessary and exercises.

Consideration continued to be given to the installation of an electro-therapeutic section, the apparatus being already available. It was not possible to make a commencement of this section, but it is now being inaugurated in 1948 in a small way.

6. Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year progress continued to be made with the comprehensive new sewerage scheme for the Borough, special attention being given to the provision, as soon as practicable, of the new storm water sewer outfall at Harold Place, in view of the recurrence of severe flooding in certain low lying portions of the centre of the Borough, e.g., Priory Street, Middle Street, Station Road and Queen's Road. The Health Department under conditions of flooding gives all possible and speedy assistance with regard to drying of bedding, clothing, carpets and rugs, also any necessary disinfection.

7. Scavenging.

Collection and disposal by means of controlled tipping at Pebbsham Farm are carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer. The Health Department co-ordinates in the replacement of defective dustbins and in the investigation of any nuisance or complaints received.

8. Sanitary Inspection of the District.
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Summary of Statistics, 1947.

The details of the table are omitted.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports:-

"Housing continues to be one of the major environmental problems of public health work, especially as regards the provision of additional accommodation in the shape of new houses or flats, the adaptation of suitable existing accommodation for further families and the maintenance of the present available accommodation at a reasonable standard of hygiene and comfort for the occupiers. The last matter is one in which this Department is vitally concerned and, while the execution of repairs is still in general a longer process compared with pre-war years, it is satisfactory to note that the difficulties hitherto associated with supplies of material, etc., are not so pronounced as in 1946. The response to notices served is also, on the whole, good the more serious nuisances and sanitary defects being dealt with. There is, however, obviously much lee-way to be made up following the war and post-war years, before the high pre-war standard of reconditioning can be attained, but the full extent of this can only be revealed by the resumption of house-to-house inspection.

With regard to overcrowding and other undesirable conditions, the Health Department has maintained its close liaison with the Town Clerk's (Housing) Department. During the year 184 such reports were made; of these 85 related to overcrowding, 28 to unsuitable accommodation, and the living conditions of 21 tuberculous families were specially reported on by the Medical Officer of Health, additional points being given to such families as regards priority. In the remaining 50 cases, it was felt that no recommendation could properly be made at the present time, although it should not be assumed that living conditions were ideal in those cases.

The Housing Manager has kindly informed me that the following action has been taken on the reports furnished:-

70 families, where overcrowding or undesirable conditions prevailed, have been rehoused.

11 families, specially recommended on account of tuberculosis, have also been rehoused."

9. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply of the District

Retail Purveyors of milk on register, 1947	30
Wholesale Traders or Producers, 1947	22
Producers of Accredited Milk, 1947	1
Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 1947	4
Purveyors of "Tuberculin Tested", "Accredited" or "Pasteurised" Milk, 1947	13
Pasteurisers' Licences to sell milk as pasteurised	4
Samples taken under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 - 1946	186

The following table gives the number of samples taken during the year with the results thereon:-

Designation	No. Taken	Methylene Blue Test.		Phosphatase Test.		Coliform Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	27	22	5	Not applicable		22	5
Accredited	21	16	5	Not applicable		18	3
Pasteurised	138	80	58	104	34	Not applicable	

On the above table the following comments may be of interest:-

Tuberculin Tested - Of the five samples adversely reported on, one (No.1337) failed on both methylene blue and coliform tests; four (Nos. 1380, 1433, 1434 and 1674) failed on methylene blue test only and four (Nos. 1364, 1431, 1664 and 1719) failed on coliform test only. All samples were from local producers, unsatisfactory results being followed by investigation of methods of production, sterilisation of utensils, etc., subsequent samples proving satisfactory.

Accredited - The unsatisfactory samples were derived from two local producers. Producer "A" had two samples (Nos. 1340 and 1407) failing on methylene blue test, one sample (No.1365) failing on the coliform test and two samples (Nos. 1431 and 1662) failing on both methylene blue and coliform tests. Producer "B" had one sample (No.1432) failing on the methylene blue test only. All these samples were investigated in the usual way at the producers' premises, with successful results.

Pasteurised - The number of samples taken for examination (138) was again considerably more than in 1946 (when 56 were taken) and of these, 64 were obtained from schools, school canteens and British Restaurants.

The reports thereon were, however, distinctly disappointing, notwithstanding numerous visits to the various plants by the sanitary staff and investigations by officers of the Ministry of Food (Quality Branch), with whom constant and close co-operation was maintained.

The matter was reported upon in detail by the Medical Officer of Health to the Public Health Committee in November 1947, with a view to appropriate action being taken under the Regulations, this course being under consideration at the end of the year

pending alterations to plants and premises by certain of the licensees concerned.

Undesignated Milk - Fourteen samples were obtained for examination for tuberculosis, etc., all being reported negative.

Dairy Farms, Dairies and Milkshops - 731 visits were made to these premises, 21 notices of contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 being served as a result, all being complied with. It was possible to resume to some extent the pre-war policy of remodelling and reconditioning of milk producers' premises, work on three such premises nearing completion at the end of the year.

(b) Meat Inspection:

The slaughtering continued at one central slaughterhouse under Government control as in previous years. The meat inspection service performed by the Health Department staff covered an area comprising the County Borough of Hastings, the Boroughs of Bexhill and Rye, and the Rural District of Battle, and this has caused a considerable increase of work (as shown by the following table):-

Carcases Inspected.					
Year	Cattle (including cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1939	534	228	829	3,763	3,024
1940	1,962	1,296	1,450	10,222	3,234
1941	1,659	784	1,266	7,333	3,097
1942	1,565	704	1,764	9,227	1,134
1943	1,732	671	2,620	10,464	700
1944	1,970	775	2,716	7,936	461
1945	2,329	869	3,487	4,995	1,114
1946	2,703	1,023	2,991	7,412	385
1947	2,083	735	2,526	6,590	315

The number of animals killed on these premises has been generally increasing during recent years and, on very many occasions, considerable congestion and overcrowding has resulted with corresponding inconvenience, not only to the men engaged in slaughtering and dressing, but to the Inspectorial staff. When such takes place, efficient meat inspection is carried out with difficulty. It is quite fair to say that the premises are unsuitable for the volume of work now carried out. They are unfortunately situated in the centre of a residential district and abut on one of the main arteries to the sea front. As a war time expedient, these latter conditions could perhaps be tolerated; now, however, they cannot fail to make an unfavourable impression on visitors, apart from the interests of residents or would-be residents. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the policy of the Ministry of Food with regard to a system of centralised slaughtering will be made known soon, so that possibly the use of these particular premises can be discontinued.

The matter was under discussion by the Town Council in October, in view of the many complaints received from residents, etc., when the following resolution was referred to the Public Health Committee:-

"That in view of the many complaints, widespread concern and general dissatisfaction of many responsible residents of property surrounding the slaughterhouse now administered by the Ministry of Food, in London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea,

"this Council is of opinion that immediate steps should be taken either (1) for the Corporation to provide a public slaughterhouse in a suitable area under Section 60 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or (2) to put further pressure upon the Ministry of Food to provide an alternative slaughterhouse in a suitable locality for the purpose."

The whole matter is being dealt with in 1948.

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

Carcases	Affected with	
	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases.
Percentage of cattle, whole or part carcasses	19.20	48.77
Percentage of cows, whole or part carcasses	29.11	51.70
Percentage of calves, whole or part carcasses	0.15	0.23
Percentage of sheep & lambs, whole or part carcasses	-	16.23
Percentage of pigs, whole or part carcasses	4.76	1.26

(c) Ice Cream:

No. of premises registered for manufacturing 1947 - 9.
 No. of premises registered for sale of ice cream 1947 - 48.
 No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination - 185.

The inspection of premises used, or proposed to be used for the manufacture, sale, etc., of this commodity, was carried out to a much larger extent than in previous years, particular attention being paid to manufacturing premises and methods adopted by staffs so engaged. Fifty seven applications for registration were granted, all the premises concerned being of a higher standard than perhaps could be enforced by the appropriate legislation and it is pleasing to record that the trade generally has responded wholeheartedly with the suggestions of the Department. As in the case of all prepared foodstuffs, however, unremitting care and attention is necessary to produce a uniformly satisfactory article, with especial emphasis upon personal hygiene on the part of staffs.

The following table summarises the results of the samples taken:-

No. of Samples Taken	Reported Grade I.	Reported Grade II.	Reported Grade III.	Reported Grade IV.
185	21	40	44	80

The samples have been graded following a form of methylene blue test, adapted for ice cream and recommended by the Ministry of Health. Such grading is at present provisional, but it has been suggested that if ice cream consistently fails to reach Grades I and II, it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or of handling and this point is considered in connection with consistently bad samples.

(d) Prepared and Manufactured Meat and Other Foodstuffs.

Particular attention was paid to premises which are used in connection with these foods, 20 applications for registration of such premises under the Hastings Corporation (General Powers) Act, 1937 being dealt with, registration not being recommended until certain sanitary requirements are complied with.

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

The tables dealing with sundry foodstuffs, and fish condemned, also giving details of all the work carried out under the above Acts have been omitted.

The number of shops, particularly those businesses employed in catering, restaurants, cafes, etc., considerably increased. All shops as far as is known closed before statutory closing time and no complaints were received.

The number of shops inspected was 17, revisited 12, total visits 29. 18 contraventions were noted, notices served and complied with.

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts, 54 inspections were made.

Merchandise Marks Act 1887 - 1926.

No. of Inspections	Contraventions Found.	Informal Notices		Outstanding.
		Served	Complied with	
16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(f) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year, 165 samples were taken and submitted to the Borough Analyst at the Laboratory, Lewes. Of these 28 milk samples and 4 of other foods, were reported as being unsatisfactory. Close co-operation between your Inspectors and those of the County Authority was carried out as regards milk sampling, with mutual satisfactory results.

Particulars of action taken in the 34 unsatisfactory samples are as follows:-

Sample Nos.	Articles Sampled	Remarks and Action Taken.
1842	Milk	Formal sample. Reported to Public Health Committee. Explanation of Company accepted.

Sample Nos.	Articles Sampled	Remarks and Action Taken
1855 and 1858	Milk	Informal samples from one producer in conjunction with formal samples by East Sussex County Council. Proceedings taken by that Authority. Producer fined £10 and costs and cowman fined £2.
1856, 1859, 1860 and 1875	Milk	Informal samples from one producer in conjunction with formal samples by East Sussex County Council. Proceedings taken by that Authority. Producer fined £12, plus £3.13. 0d. costs.
1876, 1877, 1878 and 1925	Milk	Formal samples from one producer followed up by "Appeal to cow" samples Nos. 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884 and 1885. Proceedings taken by Hastings Corporation. Producer fined £5 plus £2. 12. 0d. costs. Proceedings taken on subsequent offences by East Sussex County Council, producer being fined £30, plus £4 costs.
1874, 1879, 1880, 1891, and 1894.	Milk	Informal samples from one producer. Followed up by formal samples (Nos. 1935, 1936 and 1937).
1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940.	Milk	Formal follow up samples from Nos. 1874, 1879, 1880, 1891 and 1894, followed by "Appeal to cow" samples (Nos. 1938, 1939 and 1940). Proceedings taken by Hastings Corporation. Producer fined £12, plus £4 costs.
1848, 1889, and 1890	Milk	Informal samples of poor milk from one producer. Receiving attention at end of year.
1834	Milk	Informal sample, followed up by formal sample No. 1896, proving satisfactory.
1862	Milk	Informal sample followed up by formal sample No. 1895 proving satisfactory.
1853	Milk	Informal sample. Receiving attention at end of year.
1916	Coffee and Chicory Essence	Informal sample. Followed up by formal sample (No. 1933) which proved genuine.
1964	Mint Sauce	Informal sample. Stock of two bottles sold before receipt of report of Public Analyst.
1819	Pearl Barley	Informal sample. Stock destroyed. Taken up with wholesaler.
1902	Mustard	Informal sample. Stock destroyed.

10. Factories Inspection:

Inspection of factories, etc.	188 visits
Written notices	23
Defects found	46
Defects remedied	25
Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	1

11. Rodent Destruction:

The work in connection with rodent destruction considerably increased during the year, both as regards the number of complaints received and the requirements of the Ministry of Food, and the Council accordingly decided, as a result of representations of that Ministry, to strengthen the staff by two additional operatives. The following is a brief indication of the work carried out:-

(a) Corporation Sewers - These received four maintenance treatments on the lines recommended by the Ministry in previous years.

(b) Complaints - The number of complaints received numbered 740, as compared with 683 the previous year; 475 complaints were in respect of rats (13 major infestations) and 265 in respect of mice.

(c) Private Dwellings - Special Scheme 1946/47. - The survey of the district, commenced in May 1946, was completed during April; 491 premises being found infested and cleared, the estimated kill (based on Ministry of Food formula) being 4,094.

(d) Hotels, Restaurants, etc - Since regular monthly visits to these premises on a payment basis was introduced in 1946, an increasing number of proprietors have availed themselves of the Council's facilities, 29 of such establishments being subject to regular visits at the end of the year.

Regular monthly visits are paid to school canteens and British Restaurants, hospitals, special schools, etc.

12. Disinfestation of Council Houses and Other Premises.

Council Houses	2
Other Premises	30

13. Disinfecting and Cleansing Station.

The former Disinfecting and Cleansing Station at Rock-a-Nore may now be regarded as derelict.

The disinfection of clothing and bedding has continued to be carried out mainly at the Disinfecting Station, Municipal Hospital and where necessary at the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases.

Cleansing has been mainly carried out at the Municipal Hospital; also the treatment of scabies by baths, where necessary patients with scabies are admitted to the Borough Sanatorium.

The whole matter was reported to the Ministry of Health and after a personal visit by a medical officer of the Ministry, it was decided in view of the shortage of material and labour and of dwelling houses, to continue the temporary scheme and later to obtain the permission of the Regional Board and the Hospital Management Committee for this under the National Health Service Act, 1946, pending the erection of a suitable ad hoc centre.

It should be noted also in this connection that there has been a considerable reduction in the incidence of scabies requiring hospital treatment. In the case of school children, many are now treated at home successfully. Verminous cases requiring hospital cleansing are now almost unknown. With the reduction of notifiable infectious diseases, the amount of disinfection of clothing and bedding has also been considerably reduced.

Articles disinfected	...	6,248
Number of individuals cleansed for vermin	...	1
Number of individuals cleansed for scabies	...	119
Number of baths for scabies	...	355
Sets of clothing disinfected	...	119
Rooms, etc., disinfected	...	371

14. 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; 2,956 in 1947, and action taken in the usual way. The housing statistical tables for 1947 are omitted in detail.

Number of complaints received during the year	1,752
Number of complaints investigated	1,752
Number of informal notices served	590
do. do. do. complied with	436
do. statutory notices served	19
do. do. do. complied with	13
(4 from 1946)	

12. HOSPITAL POLICY.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

As outlined in the Annual Report for 1946, a Committee under the chairmanship of the Town Clerk, and representing the two Hastings Voluntary Hospitals, the Royal East Sussex and Buchanan, the Bexhill and Rye Hospitals, the Municipal Hospital, the Medical Officers of Health of East Sussex and Hastings, continued to consider a co-ordinated plan for one district hospital scheme, centred at Hastings, and linked up with Bexhill, Battle Rural District and Rye. This report was completed early in 1948 and forwarded to the Ministry of Health and the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Board, and is now in the hands of the newly formed District Hospital Management Committee for the Hastings Group of Hospitals. As it will be the duty of this latter Committee to formulate its own plan for the co-ordination and unification of the hospital policy of the district, no comment is made as to the report, except to express a hope that it may be of some assistance in this most important task.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Municipal Hospital passed over to the Regional Board, together with the "House Side" which, in addition to mental defectives and mental cases, and some definitely infirm persons, contained also ambulant aged and near infirm persons, who became the responsibility of the local authority under the National Assistance Act,

As a temporary measure only, these latter persons may remain in the House side for a period, the local authority being financially responsible. The Ministry of Health and the local authority, backed by public opinion, strongly favour the policy of finding these old people suitable accommodation in convenient houses of reasonable size, taking 20 - 30 persons, in situations where they are within easy reach of friends and places of interest, e.g., shops, churches and cinemas. During 1947 much time and energy were given by members of the Committee and their Officers in looking for suitable houses for this purpose, but unfortunately at the time no house worth conversion and reconditioning could be found which met all the requirements. Before the war a definite policy of building on a special site a number of pavilions which would meet the purpose was practically approved and then indefinitely postponed during the war. This scheme is still considered with favour as the eventual solution, but it would appear that some existing buildings must be found on an early date and made as suitable as possible, in order to remove the old people, for whom the local authority is responsible, from the House side.

Excellent work, which has received favourable notice in a wide circle, has been carried out in Hastings in the housing of the aged by voluntary societies, e.g., the Central Aid Council, the Christ Church Housing Association and the Womens Voluntary Service, who between them must now be housing over 200 old people. In each case the accommodation has been found by converting, with great ingenuity, existing houses into single rooms or flatlets.

13. METEOROLOGY.

The tables have been filed for future reference.

14. SUMMARY OF PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- (a) Laboratory facilities - see special note.
- (b) Ambulance facilities - the service both for infectious and non-infectious cases is adequate for the district. (see report for 1930).
- (c) Nursing in the Home - see special section of Maternity and Child Welfare Report (see also report for 1930).
- (d) Clinic and Treatment Centre - see special section. (see also report for 1930).
- (e) Hospitals - Public and Voluntary - see special section.
- (f) Mental Deficiency - see special section.
- (g) Maternity and Child Welfare Services - see special section.
- (h) Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children - The Welfare Authority works in close co-operation with the local Diocesan Association in connection with arrangements made for mothers before or after birth of illegitimate children; where necessary assisting financially with the provision of institutional accommodation. The Health Visitors give special supervision to the care of these infants, particularly in obtaining their attendance at Infant Welfare Centres.
- (i) Prevention of Blindness - The Corporation gives a substantial grant to the Voluntary Association for the Blind, which is carrying out an ever increasing, most admirable and beneficent work, e.g., administration of subsistence allowances, which have recently been increased, obtaining and keeping suitable work, general and special treatment in local hospitals, and national institutions.

By a declaration under the Local Government Act, 1929, the voluntary Committee now deals with blind persons and sighted "dependents" requiring out-relief from the Social Welfare Committee.

- (j) Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1922 - The amount of flock is comparatively small, clean and used in remaking mattresses and general upholstery. The premises are all in a satisfactory condition and under the regular supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.
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