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ANNUAL REPORT

for

1943

on the

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the


Medical Officer of Health.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Maidstone.

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1944



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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1943.**

To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of the Borough of Maidstone.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maidstone, for the year ending December 31st, 1943.

As this is another war-time report, it has to be confined to fresh advances during the year and to matters of interest, while those details which have appeared in previous reports are omitted, and some of the statistical tables, though they have been prepared and filed for record, do not appear in full. But in spite of the demands of the war effort, or perhaps as a result of them, there is much to record in the way of advances. In fact, it gives cause for thought that many advances which I had quoted as desirable in peace-time reports and which I had almost despaired of seeing come to fruition, have been secured when the more insistent demands of war conditions called for more vigorous action. School meals, treatment of scabies, a school cleansing station, day nurseries, milk for mothers and children, the supply of vitamins and cod-liver oil and a really vigorous campaign for the eradication of diphtheria are all advances which have been hastened under war's pressure. It was said formerly that war was the Father of Surgery : in this conflict, it may have also been the Godfather of Social Medicine, but it is a sad reflection that it takes a world war to set an adequate pace to our progress in health provision.

All these developments has placed additional work on the Health Department while the direct results of the war, such as Civil Defence and air-raid damage, have meant further duties for a staff which is sorely depleted and whose members are feeling the effects of war strain and the advancing years. But in spite of these difficulties, the work of the Health Department has been maintained and has gone forward. There will be a vast amount to be done when hostilities end and it will be to Local Authorities that the country will look for the needful re-construction and re-establishment of social conditions.

“Would we not shatter it to bits ; and then,

Re-build it nearer to the Heart's Desire ” !

The pre-war world has been shattered : we shall have the “Rebuilding nearer to the heart's desire ” to accomplish and Local Authorities must take their part in it.

To the Council, the Health Committee and to my colleagues of the staff, I would offer my thanks for the help and forbearance they have given me in the past year, and

I remain, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

October 18th, 1944.

General Statistics.

AREA.—5,942 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1943.

For calculation of Birth rates	...	} 45,740
For calculation of Death rates, etc.		

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1943) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, 13,143.

RATEABLE VALUE—£467,195.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—£1,890.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	For Infantile Mortality rates.			For Birth rate.		
LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	414	338	752	414	338	752
Illegitimate	25	27	52	25	27	52
	439	365	804	439	365	804

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 17·577

Live birth rate for England and Wales ... 16·5

STILL BIRTHS. 24

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 18·102

DEATHS ... Total 583 Male 299 Female 284

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population..... 12·74

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	1	1·2
No. 30 other puerperal causes	nil.	nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	59·7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	57·2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	2·4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	80
„ „ Measles (all ages)	3
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	9

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

These are in general, the same as outlined in the reports for previous years and in spite of the dislocation caused by war conditions the work of the various clinics has been continued. Details of interest and alterations are noted below.

SCHOOL CLINICS. These have been continued and routine medical inspection has been completed in all the schools, though by instruction of the Board of Education, the routine examination of the "Intermediate" group has been discontinued, except in the case of those children in whom some defect had been noted previously. At the routine medical inspections, 1,385 children were examined, while special inspections and re-examinations numbered 2,255. The attendances at the minor ailment clinics were 6,171 and at the school dental clinics 1,763.

INFANT WELFARE. Details of the work of the Infant Welfare department are set out below.

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1943.

No. of first visits paid to the homes of Infants	...	...	645
Total number of visits paid to homes of Infants	...	...	1976
" " " " Children	...	...	3802
No. of first visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	239
Total visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	316
Attendances of Mothers at Old Palace	...	...	7001
" Infants "	...	...	5898
" Children "	...	...	1431
" Mothers at Barming	...	...	2094
" Infants at Barming	...	...	1759
" Children "	...	...	747
" Mothers at Mangravet	...	...	772
" Infants "	...	...	509
" Children "	...	...	479
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	103
" Barming	...	...	51
" Mangravet	...	...	28
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	51
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	152
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	260
Number of Health Talks given	...	...	48
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	2866
" " " Barming	...	...	998
" " " Mangravet	...	...	372
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	...	...	71
" Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	28
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	...	...	49

Average Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	..	19
„ Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet...			35
„ Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	13
Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	733
„ Infants	„	„	382
„ Children	„	„	419
„ Mothers	„	Barming	217
„ Infants	„	„	77
„ Children	„	„	168
„ Mothers	„	Mangravet	92
„ Infants	„	„	31
„ Children	„	„	98

HOSPITALS. Both the voluntary hospitals in the town, the West Kent General Hospital and the Kent County Ophthalmic & Aural Hospital are included in the Emergency Medical Services scheme for the provision of hospital beds for war casualties. And the voluntary hospitals have continued their normal service for the sick and injured of the community with the additional calls on their accommodation from the service population and the evacuated residents of other areas. In fact, the debt to the voluntary hospitals is immeasurable and it will be a sad day for our communal existence if any scheme for the future care of the sick and medical service for the public, results in the crippling or disappearance of our voluntary hospitals. That cordial and efficient co-operation between voluntary hospitals and the health department of a local authority can be secured, is well demonstrated in Maidstone and I trust that this position will be maintained in the future.

One outstanding example of this co-operation is the Corporation's Maternity Home, formerly part of the West Kent Hospital and now at South Park as a war-time measure. This hospital is operated and conducted by the West Kent Hospital and has been of great value to the town. While the difficulties of maintaining an improvised war-time hospital have been very great, the work done at the Maternity Home has been successful and of a high standard and great credit is due to the medical and nursing staff. The calls on the maternity beds have been heavy and are increasing, for the population is becoming more hospital-minded and the housing difficulty makes it imperative that more maternity beds be provided, both for the war period and for the future.

Births notified in the year: 804 live births, 24 still births
Total 812.

Confinements at patients' homes 388; in hospitals and nursing homes 416.

Maternity outfits supplied 14.

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. (Section
206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936.)**

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year	15
(b) Number of children on the Register:—	
(i.) at the end of the year.....	15
(ii.) who died during the year	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year...	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were:—	
(i.) Health Visitors... ..	4

Treatment of Scabies.

The increased incidence of scabies in the Borough made it advisable that public facilities for the treatment of this condition should be provided. It is interesting to note that an increase of this infestation is shown by records to have been an accompaniment evacuation and the movement of large numbers of the population of past wars and the present conflict has been no exception. In fact, evacuation and the movement of large numbers of the population have probably increased the prevalence of scabies in this war and have certainly rendered it more notable. My own opinion is that the transmission of this disease is accelerated by the crowding and close contact inseparable from travelling in overfull trains and buses, in these days of limited transport.

To cope with this condition, use was made of the facilities installed for the cleansing of possible gas-contaminated cases and instruction in the methods of treatment was given to the Civil Defence workers who staff this cleansing station. This is another of the services to the community so efficiently and willingly given by the Civil Defence workers and their work and devotion in this, as in all their duties, deserve recognition. The scabies treatment centre was opened in June, 1943, and up to the end of 1943, 31 men, 188 women and 444 children had been treated. Treatment is by means of spray baths and the use of benzyl benzoate emulsion and success is generally secured in two treatments. The results of treatment at such a centre are far better than have been secured by any mode of self treatment and I am certain that it will be necessary to continue the provision of cleansing facilities for this condition after the war. But as the Civil Defence workers will then not be available, the Health Committee will need to consider the provision of premises and staff for a continuation of this most valuable service.

War-time Day Nurseries.

The Day Nurseries now operating in the Borough are three in number. Highfield Nursery, on the London Road, was opened in 1941, and takes children by day and for those mothers who are employed on the night shifts or in work where the hours are extended, a certain number of children can be retained at night.

South Park Nursery is a prefabricated hutment and takes children by day only. This Nursery was opened in 1942, and a third Nursery, also in a hutment, was opened in 1943. Highfield and South Park have been full almost from the start and at the latter, there is always a waiting list, but the demands on the third Nursery at Ringlestone have never been so heavy and the reason given by the mothers is that the difficulty of transport is very great. Ringlestone is not served by the Corporation Transport Department and the mothers complain of the difficulty of getting on the buses, especially on the journey into the town.

I have long advocated the provision of day nurseries and I am gratified at the success that has attended their establishment in Maidstone. Such nurseries have had many critics, but our experience has been that the nurseries have been to the physical and mental advantage of the children and I am hopeful that such provision, at least for the toddlers of from 2 to 5 years, will continue after the war, and until the housing shortage has been overtaken, nurseries for infants whose mothers are still living in rooms or with relatives will be essential.

The training of Nurses at the Nurseries for the certificate of the National Society of Day Nurseries has continued with success, the lectures being given by the Matrons, the Assistant M.O.H. and myself and a large number of our student Nurses have been successful.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. The details of the springs, wells and reservoirs belonging to the Maidstone Water Company have been described in previous reports and during the year there have been no extensive developments. The arrangements for the inspections and patrolling of the sources and the chemical and bacteriological control of the water have continued to work satisfactorily. The tables showing the results of these examinations have been prepared as usual but are omitted from this report and are being preserved for reference.

Below is a table showing the average results of the chemical analysis of the water during the year.

Average results, 1943.	BOARLEY.	COSSING- TON WELL.	FORSTAL.	EWELL.	BOXLEY WELL.	COSSING- TON SPRINGS.	BOXLEY BOREHOLE.
	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.
Total Solid Residue ...	38.1	17.9	55.9	42.9	31.4	30.1	18.6
Chlorine ...	2.37	1.79	3.52	2.88	1.80	1.99	1.73
Nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	.61	.025	.35	.45	.18	.41	.005
Nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal Ammonia ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Iron ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour at 27° C.)	.0028	.0038	.0052	.0022	.0031	.0041	.0033
" " (4 hours at 27° C.)	.0060	.0072	.0102	.0049	.0064	.0071	.0065
Total Hardness ...	22.6	11.2	39.0	27.3	21.3	020.4	10.4

RIVERS AND STREAMS. No further action in connection with possible pollution of the Medway and its tributaries has been possible during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The position regarding the various types of sanitary convenience in the Borough remains approximately the same as in 1940.

W.C's. discharging into the sewer system	...	...	12,788
W.C's. discharging into cess-pools	...	...	151
Earth closets or privy middens	...	...	72
Pail closets	...	...	63

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

TABLE OF WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

The calling-up of a large proportion of the staff and the many additional duties now required have made it difficult to maintain the routine inspections and other sanitary work, but this table shows that a large amount of work has been accomplished.

The following details of the work done have been furnished by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	30
Bakehouses inspections	20
Chimneys repaired	10
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided	3
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	34
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspected	28
Common Lodging House inspections	26
Coppers repaired	14
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	920
„ choked and cleansed	187
„ reconstructed	12
„ tested with smoke	6
„ „ water	12
„ inspected chambers provided	18
„ „ airtight covers provided	20
„ stoneware pipes laid	276
„ iron pipes laid	—
„ trapped from sewer and ventilated	2
Dustbins provided	65
Factory, workplaces and outworkers' premises inspected	29
Fresh air inlets provided	2
Grates renewed or repaired	12
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars	—
„ floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	12
„ chuting or guttering repaired or renewed	20
„ roofs repaired	89
„ rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered	65
„ walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method	2

TABLE OF WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS—*continued.*

Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	230
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	750
" of work in progress	410
Mortar joints to brickwork repaired	45
Miscellaneous defects remedied	110
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt ..	10
Poultry or animals removed	20
Schools inspected	36
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped	28
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	14
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	421
Stairs repaired	10
Stoneware gullies provided.....	18
Strainers provided to gullies	18
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired	8
" flushing apparatus provided or repaired	42
" new pans and traps provided	28
" structural defects remedied	41
Water supplies provided.....	—
Window frames repaired.....	61
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and ends screwed	2
Verminous rooms cleansed	380
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	8
Preliminary Notices served ..	275
Statutory Notices served.....	53

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power	12	2	—
Factories without " "	14	1	—
Workplaces	3	—	—
(Other than Outworkers' premises).			
TOTAL.....	29	3	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Factories Act, 1937 and the Public Health Act, 1936 :				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Accommo- dation. { Insufficient	—	—	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defects ...	4	4	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factories Act, 1937 :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 54)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the out- work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL.....	8	8	—	—

During the year the following work in the eradication of bugs
was carried out:—

(a) Council houses found to be infested	31
(b) Other houses	46

Council houses disinfected:—

(a) By gassing with "Thermatox"	15
(c) By spraying and burning insecticides	16

Other houses disinfected:—

(a) By gassing with "Thermatox"	19
(c) By spraying and burning insecticides	29

Verminous households fumigated before removal to a Council
house or during transfer to another Council house

4

Council houses inspected and found clean.....

14

Other houses inspected and found clean

7

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws.
These are as follows :—

Common Lodging Houses	6
Slaughter Houses	2
Houses let in Lodgings	6
Cowsheds	7
Dairies and Milkshops	16

Housing Statistics.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	78
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	110
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subsection (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	16
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	16
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	76
II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers	37
III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.	
A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	27
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	14
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	1
B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	12
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	2

Housing Statistics, (continued).

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
III.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part 4—Overcrowding.	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Indeterminable	—
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ..	—
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	—
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	18
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	26
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	—

The housing situation in Maidstone is becoming very difficult and this has been accentuated by the number of houses which have been damaged and the difficulty in securing repairs and maintenance. There is still a large amount of change of residence, both from an influx of workers and of the relatives of soldiers stationed in the area. But the great difficulty has been the increasing overcrowding due to the marriage of the younger folk, the arrival of a family and the virtual impossibility of these young married people finding a house. There are very many homes in which married daughters with their children are residing with the grandparents and, when the husbands return, there will be a deplorable situation and the local authority will not escape its share of the criticism which will follow.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year was as follows :—

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	1188	662	2749	9058	863
Number inspected	1188	662	2749	9058	863
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	2	—	21	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	52	3	62	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.19%	8.15%	.11%	.91%	4.17%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	40	3	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	71	107	—	—	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.73%	22.20%	.11%	—	6.14%

Approximate weight condemned: 56 tons, 16 cwts, 2 qts., 2 lbs.

During the year, the following quantities of foods of various descriptions were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, all of which was surrendered, included the following :—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat	15	4	3	10
Canned Meat	2	4	2	11
Canned Fish	—	4	1	17
Fresh Fish	—	3	2	18
Canned Vegetables	—	10	—	21
Various Canned Fruits	—	7	3	6
Bacon	—	9	2	7
Cheese	—	1	—	7
Sugar	—	—	1	—
Jam	—	1	1	16
Bread	—	2	2	—
Cocoa	—	1	1	18
Oatmeal	—	1	1	26
Rice	—	9	1	—
Barley Powder	—	6	—	4
Custard Powder	—	—	2	14
Coffee	—	1	—	—
Pickles	—	1	—	5
Sweets	—	—	—	10
Soups	—	1	1	8
Eggs	68 dozen.			
Tinned Milk... ..	58 cases and 28 tins.			

FOOD AND DRUGS.—During the year, the following samples of food and drugs were taken for analysis, with the results recorded below :—

Article.	Number Obtained.	Number Genuine.
New Milk	65	55
Rum	3	3
Lard	3	3
Butter... ..	2	2
Cocoa	4	4
Tea	2	2
Condensed Milk	2	2
Mustard	4	4
Coffee	4	4
Egg Substitute	7	7
Pepper	4	4
Vinegar	1	1
Flour	1	1
Salmon Paste... ..	1	1
Zinc Ointment	1	—
Camphorated Oil	2	2
Oatmeal	2	2
Prawn Paste	1	1
Biscuit Mixture	1	1
Baking Powder	2	1
Friars Balsam	1	1
Cod Liver Oil... ..	1	1
Sweets	1	1
Margarine	3	3
	118	106

During the year three prosecutions were taken for milk being adulterated with added water and the defendants were fined a total of £29.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

I give below, in tabular form details of the cases of notifiable disease which occurred in the Borough during 1943, other than Tuberculosis :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	246	230	1
Diphtheria	25	25	1
Enteric Fever	16	16	Nil
Puerperal Fever and " Pyrexia	8	6	Nil
Pneumonia	11	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas... ..	13	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	3	2	Nil
Measles	436	Nil	3
Whooping Cough ...	136	Nil	1
Totals	896	282	6

During the year, the Borough was visited by a large outbreak of scarlet fever, but fortunately most of the cases were of mild type. 246 cases were notified of which 230 were admitted to hospital. Measles cases were also numerous, 436 being notified and I could wish that hospital beds were available for the severe and complicated cases, or for cases where isolation is impossible at home, but with our limited hospital resources, this is not practicable. Diphtheria cases numbered 25, but of these 17 were cases notified from the County Mental Hospital and the diphtheria among the population of the town has been very slight. Immunisation has been continued with vigour and up to the end of 1943, 9,547 children had been immunised. The percentage of school children thus protected at the end of 1943, was 89·4%, and of children under school age 50·4%. The result is seen in the fact that of the 25 cases notified, 2 were in children under school age and there were no cases among school children. This is a gratifying achievement to record and surely emphasises the value of immunisation, and the Health Department can be justly proud of the success that has been attained.

I give below an analysis of the notifications of infectious disease according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred :—

	High St.	Stone St.	King St.	North	Heath	Bridge
Scarlet Fever ...	28	103	8	52	48	7
Diphtheria	1	5	—	1	18	—
Pneumonia	2	2	—	4	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	1	—	2	4	1
Erysipelas	4	4	—	5	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	1
Anterior Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	2	—	1
Measles	66	112	21	114	98	25
Whooping Cough ...	16	35	9	33	35	8

Below is a table showing the number of pathological specimens from the Borough examined at the Kent County Laboratories and the results :—

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	28	1110	1138
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	52	2	54
Various	3	17	20
	83	1129	1212

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer in Maidstone during the past 5 years is as follows :—

	number of deaths
1939	85
1940	80
1941	81
1942	85
1943	80

Deaths from Cancer during 1943 under age groups

Age Periods.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—
1	—	—
5	—	—
15	—	—
25	2	—
35	2	1
45	9	4
55	7	10
65 and upwards.	24	21
Totals	44	36

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
2	—	2	2	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	4	7	—	—	1	4	1	1
25	6	10	2	1	1	4	—	1
35	7	1	—	—	3	2	1	—
45	7	1	—	—	9	—	—	—
55	4	2	—	—	8	—	1	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	31	23	4	4	23	11	4	5

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 34. The number which had not been notified was 9.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus .26 to 1.

TABLE I.
Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under
Age Groups.

Disease.	Un- der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45	45- 65	65 & over.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	4	10	19	128	54	12	9	6	—	—	246
Diphtheria	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	13	2	4	1	25
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	8
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3	—	4	11
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	8	1	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	6	1	16
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	7	7	8	16	18	40	3	2	12	7	10	6	136
Measles	9	33	24	38	50	237	27	5	11	2	—	—	436
Totals.....	20	43	36	67	87	405	85	25	58	29	28	13	896

TABLE Ia.
Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under
Age Groups.

Disease.	Un- der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cerebro Spinal- Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Sepsis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	6	1	2	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	8	15	36
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Totals.....	9	2	2	1	...	3	...	...	1	1	9	15	43

TABLE IIa.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
All Causes							299	284
1	Typhoid fever, etc. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
4	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
6	Tuberculosis : of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	17	9
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
8	Syphilitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
9	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
10	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
11	Ac : polio-myel : and polio-enceph :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Ac : inf : enceph : ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer of buc : cav . and Oesoph (M) uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	...	...	...	22	23
17	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	21	24
19	Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	65	67
20	Other diseases of circ : system	...	...	...	...	...	14	5
21	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	26	19
22	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	16	10
23	Other resp : dis : ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	11	...
25	Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
26	Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
27	Other digve. dis : ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	9
28	Nephritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
29	Puer : and post-abortion : sedsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Prem : birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
32	Con : Mal : birth inj : infant : dis :	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
33	Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
34	Road traffic acc : ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
35	Other violent causes ..	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
36	All other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	36	43

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1943. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	6
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	2	8
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	6	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Other Causes	4	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	8
Nett Live Births in the year	{ Legitimate				...	...	...	752		
	{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	52		
Nett Deaths in the year	{ Legitimate				...	...	...	46		
	{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	2		

TABLE IV.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1942.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Hospital, South Park, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	12
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	217
(4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by— (a) Midwives (b) Doctors	206 11
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Daily visits by Medical Officer.
(7) Number of cases notified as— (a) Puerperal Fever (b) „ Pyrexia	— 7
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	—
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	52
(10) Number of cases notified as :— (a) Ophthalmia Neonatorum (b) Result of treatment in each case	Nil
(11) Number of Maternal deaths	Nil
(12) Number of Infant Deaths— (a) Stillborn (b) within 10 days of birth	7 1

