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NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COUNTY MEDICAL
OFFICER
FOR
1942

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County Medical Officer



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Statistics and Social Conditions of the Administrative County.

AREA	1,302,744 acres
POPULATION—CENSUS, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	318,903
	Estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	...	330,980
RATEABLE VALUE for general purposes	...	...	...	...	...	£1,231,237
PRODUCT OF PENNY RATE for general purposes	...	...	...	...	...	£5,013

Births and Deaths.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—			
Legitimate	5645	2944	2701
Illegitimate	386	193	193
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population :	18.25		
Stillbirths	197	91	106
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births :	31.58		
Deaths	4268	2182	2086
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population :	12.89		
	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	
Deaths from puerperal causes—			
Puerperal sepsis	2	0.32	
Other puerperal causes	5	0.80	
Total	7	1.12	
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age—			
All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	41.05
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	39.50
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	63.13
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	653
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	11
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	10

The following table shows the number of live births registered and the birth rates during the past five years:—

	URBAN.		RURAL.		ADM. COUNTY.		Rate for England & Wales.
Year.	Net No. Regstd.	Rate.	Net No. Regstd.	Rate.	Net No. Regstd.	Rate.	
1938	902	13.88	3959	15.19	4861	14.93	15.1
1939	903	13.90	4004	15.23	4907	14.94	15.0
1940	971	14.07	4021	14.91	4992	14.74	14.6
1941	1070	15.83	4151	15.19	5221	15.32	14.2
1942	1130	17.42	4901	18.41	6031	18.25	15.8

The following table gives a comparison of the number of deaths and death rates during the past five years:—

Year.	URBAN.		RURAL.		ADM. COUNTY.		Rate for England & Wales.
	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Rate.	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Rate.	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Rate.	
1938 ...	799	12.30	2994	11.49	3793	11.65	11.6
1939 ...	858	13.21	3326	12.65	4184	12.76	12.1
1940 ...	999	14.33	3543	13.14	4542	13.41	14.3
1941 ...	900	13.31	3418	12.51	4318	12.64	12.9
1942 ...	927	14.29	3341	12.55	4268	12.89	11.6

The maternal mortality rate per 1000 live births was 1.12, compared with 2.01 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the causes of death in 1942 at specified ages:—
(Figures given by Registrar-General).

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Total all Ages.	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	11	1	3	3	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	11	7	4	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	12	—	4	7	—	1	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	115	—	—	1	64	38	12
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	27	1	5	2	13	2	4
Syphilitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	10	2	—	—	—	4	4
Influenza ...	...	...	...	27	2	3	—	2	12	8
Measles ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. (M)	...	...	...	84	—	—	—	1	31	52
Uterus (F) ...	...	...	...	133	—	—	—	2	50	81
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	59	—	—	—	6	24	29
Cancer of Breast ...	...	...	...	377	—	—	—	26	102	249
Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	...	59	—	—	1	10	14	34
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	472	—	—	—	4	89	379
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	...	...	...	1140	—	—	2	22	166	950
Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	141	—	—	—	1	12	128
Other diseases of Circulatory System ...	...	...	...	200	10	2	1	4	23	160
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	136	23	6	2	9	29	67
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	62	1	—	—	9	20	32
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	30	—	—	—	3	15	12
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	...	...	...	10	9	1	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	...	...	15	—	1	2	3	2	7
Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	91	1	3	4	8	28	47
Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	...	...	110	1	—	1	17	20	71
Nephritis ...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis ...	...	...	...	7	—	—	—	7	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	...	...	...	88	88	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	99	89	4	1	2	3	—
Con. mal., birth inj., infant dis. ...	...	...	...	30	—	—	—	6	14	10
Suicide ...	...	...	...	52	—	1	9	13	12	17
Road Traffic Accidents ...	...	...	...	149	5	7	10	39	46	42
Other violent causes ...	...	...	...	502	8	8	8	36	83	359
All other causes ...	...	...	...	4268	248	52	54	313	843	2758

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY.

The County Public Health Laboratory continues to provide bacteriological facilities for the general practitioners in the County.

6721 specimens, etc., were examined in 1942.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES, NURSING IN THE HOME, HOSPITALS. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

There has been no alteration in these Services.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

As Local Supervising Authority for the whole of the administrative county, notifications were received by the County Council from 209 midwives of their intention to practise in the area.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

Full particulars of the Council's scheme and agreement with the Norfolk Nursing Federation appeared in the Report for 1937.

Section 6 of the Act has been applied to the area.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

441 routine inspection visits were paid during the year. Special visits to cases requiring supervision were also paid wherever necessary.

Under the rules of the Central Midwives Board, midwives are required to summon medical help under certain specified emergencies, and to notify the Local Supervising Authority that they have done so. 813 notifications were received in respect of domiciliary cases, and 87 for patients in Institutions.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

The cases notified are shewn in the following table:—

Year.	Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision im- paired.	Vision Lost.	Deaths.	Under treatment at end of year.
	Notified.	Treated.						
		At home.	At Hospital.					
1938	16	10	6	15	—	—	—	1
1939	22	17	5	22	—	—	—	—
1940	9	6	3	9	—	—	—	—
1941	22	18	4	22	—	—	—	—
1942	16	15	1	16	—	—	—	—

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

36 notifications were received. In 3 cases a second opinion was asked for; 9 patients were removed to hospital.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

In the Public Assistance Institutions there were 18 beds provided for maternity cases. 146 patients were admitted to these beds.

52 patients were admitted to hospitals as anticipated cases of difficult and abnormal labour during the year, and in each case the County Council accepted responsibility for the maintenance charges, the patients being required to contribute in accordance with their means. 6 of these patients were women received into the County under the Evacuation Scheme.

During the year, admission of 16 girls to voluntary Maternity Homes for unmarried mothers was authorised.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The causes of death due to pregnancy or childbirth are given by the Registrar-General as follows:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	2
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	5
Total	...	...	7

Year.	Maternal Deaths.	No. of Births.	Rate per 1000 total Births.	England and Wales.
1933	13	4698	2.76	4.32
1934	21	4893	4.14	4.41
1935	17	4784	3.55	3.94
1936	27	4802	5.62	3.81
1937	8	4878	1.58	3.11
1938	10	4861	1.98	3.08
1939	20	4907	4.01	2.82
1940	9	4992	1.67	2.16
1941	12	5667	2.12	2.23
1942	7	6238	1.12	2.01

The cases of women who died in, or immediately following, childbirth were investigated, and confidential reports sent to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

I wish again to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the medical practitioners in reporting voluntarily all such cases, and enabling the desired confidential reports to be completed.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

The County Council is Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the whole of the Administrative County, with the exception of King's Lynn Borough.

5189 births (live and still) were notified in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Area.

HEALTH VISITING.

With the exception of a few areas, the County is covered by the District Nurse-Midwives as part-time Health Visitors, there being only one whole-time Visitor.

The following is a brief summary of the health visitors' work during the past five years:—

Year.	Expectant Mothers.		Infants under 1 year.		Children 1—5 years.	Grand Total.
	First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.		
1938	3588	17172	4050	38026	58314	121150
1939	3978	18578	4531	40839	59057	126983
1940	4052	19071	4190	40434	58179	125926
1941	4986	22023	4598	43451	64373	139431
1942	4735	19971	4477	36098	54216	110285

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

27 Infant Welfare Centres are provided and maintained by the County Council. In addition there were 3 centres provided and maintained by voluntary associations aided by grants from the Council. Grants were also made to 2 centres outside the County in respect of attendances made by Norfolk mothers and children.

ANTE- AND POST-NATAL WORK.

The Ante-Natal Scheme was described fully in the 1937 Report. During 1942, 1123 expectant mothers were examined ante-natally.

The number of mothers who were referred and examined under the Post-Natal Scheme was 90.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

3 part-time Nurseries were provided by the Council under Circular 2383.

ANCILLARY SERVICES.

FREE DOCTOR OR MIDWIFE.

When a case is unsuitable to be undertaken by a midwife and the patient is unable to engage a doctor privately, arrangements are made by the Council for medical attendance and, if necessary, hospital treatment.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Arrangements are made for general practitioners on an approved panel to carry out tonsil and adenoid operations in cases referred by medical officers of the department. Parents are required to contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

BIRTH CONTROL.

Arrangements continue for the facilities of the Norwich Mothers' Clinic for Constructive Birth Control to be available for County mothers, in cases where further pregnancies would, in the opinion of their medical attendant, prove detrimental to health.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

A scheme was instituted in 1933 for young children with defective vision to be examined by the part-time Ophthalmic Specialists.

MILK SCHEME FOR NECESSITOUS EXPECTANT OR NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The administration of this scheme throughout the area is carried out by the County Council. All applications are considered by one Committee. A scale of income has been adopted as a guiding factor, but each case is dealt with on its merits, and once the medical need is established, grants are made to many cases which would not otherwise have been eligible.

No liquid milk was supplied, but 17,124 lbs. of dried milk was issued.

DENTAL SCHEME FOR NECESSITOUS EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

This scheme, which was inaugurated in 1926, continues to be a great help to mothers. Treatment is given by a panel of qualified dental surgeons, similar fees being paid to those in force in respect of National Health Insurance patients.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The administration of Sections 206-220 of the Public Health Act, 1936, remains as outlined in previous reports, with the exception that all the routine visiting is done by the 9 School Nurses, with supervisory visits by members of the medical staff and the staff of the Superintendent Health Visitor.

No child was removed to a "place of safety," and it was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings under any parts of the Act.

The following figures indicate the position at the beginning and end of the year 1942:—

1. Foster Parents.

No. on Register on 1st January, 1942	...	...	255
No. removed from Register during the year	...	...	60
No. of new registrations	...	...	25
No. on Register on 31st December, 1942	...	...	220

2. Nurse Children.

No. on Register on 1st January, 1942	...	...	393
No. removed from Register during the year	...	...	83
No. of new registrations	...	...	83
No. on Register on 31st December, 1942	...	...	393

3. Visits made by Inspectors during year.

No. of Primary reports:—			
(a) Homes	...	...	27
(b) Nurse Children	...	...	83
No. of further reports on Nurse Children	...	...	733
Total	...	...	843

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The following table gives particulars of the action which has been taken under Sections 187-199 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year ended 31st December, 1942:—

No. of applications for registration	Nil
No. of applications refused	—
No. of registrations cancelled	2
Total No. of Homes registered at 31st December, 1942	29
No. of beds provided:—	
Maternity	48
Others	236
No. of appeals against Orders cancelling registration ...	Nil
No. of applications for exemptions	„
No. of exemptions (a) granted	„
(b) refused	„

No applications have been received under Section 194 of the Act for delegation of powers.

Six of these Homes have been closed temporarily owing to war conditions, but registration has not been cancelled.

EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOMES.

There is one Home of 20 beds in the County. During the year, 152 patients were confined, there being 151 live and 3 still-births. There were two sets of twins.

Orthopædic Treatment Scheme.

This Scheme has continued along the lines set out in previous Reports. War conditions have unfortunately affected the number of hospital beds available.

1. Ascertainment.

516 new cases were added to the Register during the year, consisting of 325 Education, 170 Maternity and Child Welfare, 14 Tuberculosis, and 7 Public Assistance cases.

2. Clinics held by the Orthopædic Surgeon.

35 clinics were held, 12 at King's Lynn and 23 at Norwich. 691 patients were examined, 208 of these being new cases. 341 were Education cases, and 183, 100 and 67 were Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis and Public Assistance cases respectively.

3. Institutional Treatment.

74 individual cases received treatment during the year. The patients were in Hospital for a total number of 12,461 days, giving an average of just over 35 beds occupied daily.

4. Services of Orthopædic Nurses.

The time of the Nurses is fully occupied in the following up of cases discharged from Hospitals, giving active treatment to patients either at school or in their own homes, and in the general supervision of remedial exercises and inspection visits. 5850 visits were made to patients. In addition they attend all the Orthopædic Surgeon's clinics arranged through the Scheme.

5. Cases on the Register.

At the end of 1942 there were 2226 cases on the current Register as follows: Education 1397, Maternity and Child Welfare 320, Tuberculosis 144, Public Assistance 200, and Evacuees 165.

6. Melton Lodge.

This Home, which has been evacuated to the country, continues to do good work. A daily average of 34.59 beds have been occupied throughout the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The County Isolation Hospital serves the whole of the administrative county except King's Lynn M.B., Cromer, Sheringham and North Walsham Urban Districts and Erpingham and Marshland Rural Districts. Its normal accommodation is 60 patients, but to meet the present need the number of beds has been increased to 96. Hutments to provide additional accommodation were nearing completion by the end of the year.

Admission of patients is arranged through the Public Health Department, and is restricted to cases where:—

- (a) The home conditions are such that it is impossible to isolate the patient.
- (b) The patient's condition is such that skilled nursing is essential.

No. of patients in Hospital on 1st January, 1942	...	...	46
No. of patients admitted	...	...	650
No. of patients who died in Hospital	...	...	20

On 1st January, 1943, there were 49 patients in the Hospital.

The patients admitted were suffering from the following diseases:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	287
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	79
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	10
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia, Pleurisy and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	23
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	21
Streptococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	3
Babies with Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles and Rubella	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	29
Glandular Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous infections	...	...	...	...	...	78
No infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	7
Births in Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	1

The deaths were due to Diphtheria (5), Cerebro-spinal Meningitis (6), Pneumonia and Whooping Cough (1), Broncho-pneumonia (1), Paratyphoid (1), T.B. Meningitis (1), Enteric Fever and Pneumonia (1), Encephalitis (1), Whooping Cough (1), Erysipelas and Pneumonia (1), Typhoid Carrier (1).

Admissions to the Hospital include Service cases and patients from areas outside the Administrative County, as well as evacuees.

No patients were admitted to the County Smallpox Hospital.

The following table gives particulars of notifications of infectious disease received for the whole of the Administrative County and the number of deaths from certain of the diseases:—

Disease.	No. of cases notified.	Deaths as given by Registrar-General.
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	582	1
Diphtheria	76	12
Enteric Fever	11	2
Pneumonia	311	136
Puerperal Pyrexia	44*	Not given
Cerebro-spinal Fever	41	11
Para-typhoid Fever	1	Not given
Polio-encephalitis	7	} 1
Malaria	3	
Poliomyelitis	6	
Dysentery	139	Not given
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	19*	Not given
Erysipelas	83	Not given
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	212	115
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	159	27
Chicken-pox	152	—
Whooping Cough	1014	11
Measles	497	—
Total	3357	316

*Includes cases notified outside the M. & C.W. Area.

CANCER.

The death rates per 1000 population during the last seven years have been:—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
1.92	1.96	1.90	2.01	1.79	1.92	1.97

The age distribution of the deaths registered in 1942 was as follows:—

	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65-
Males ...	0	0	0	12	97	189
Females ...	0	0	0	23	110	222
Total ...	0	0	0	35	207	411

The facilities for treatment remain as set out in the report for 1938.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the Public Health (V.D.) Regulations of 1916, treatment centres have been established at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital.

222 new patients (excluding Service cases) from the administrative county attended during the year, as follows:—

Clinic.	Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.	Non-V.D. and undiagnosed conditions.	Total.
Norwich ...	35	103	9	147
King's Lynn...	22	9	44	75
Total ...	57	112	53	222

The following table shows the total attendances made by Norfolk patients at each clinic during the past five years:—

Year.	Norwich.	King's Lynn.
1938 ...	2804	2192
1939 ...	2731	2209
1940 ...	2345	3261
1941 ...	8377	2158
1942 ...	9132	1900

In-patient Treatment.

	Norwich.	K. Lynn.
(a) Total number of persons admitted ...	6	0
(b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" ...	51	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

No change has been made in the scheme of treatment. Two Tuberculosis Officers cover the County and each has the help of a Nurse.

Incidence—Comparative Statement.

The number of new cases reported by formal notification or otherwise, and the case-rates per 1000 of the population, during the past 5 years, are as follows:—

Year.	Number of Pulmonary cases.	Case-rate.	Number of Non-pulmonary cases.	Case-rate.
1938 ...	176	·54	113	·34
1939 ...	208	·63	123	·37
1940 ...	198	·58	119	·35
1941 ...	244	·71	194	·56
1942 ...	212	·64	159	·48

The mortality figures for the same 5 years are as follows:—

Year.	Number of Pulmonary cases.	Case-rate.	Number of Non-pulmonary cases.	Case-rate.
1938 ...	189	·58	24	·07
1939 ...	142	·43	39	·11
1940 ...	137	·40	34	·10
1941 ...	115	·34	34	·10
1942 ...	115	·35	27	·08

The comparatively high figure for pulmonary deaths in 1938 was due to clearance of the Registers when at least 50 cases were reported to have died during previous years; deduction of these would give 139 for that year, a case-rate of '42.

Examinations and Dispensary Records.

During the year, 960 new cases (including 151 contacts) were examined. Of these, 271 were diagnosed as definitely tuberculosis, while 259 cases were regarded as sufficiently suspicious to justify their being kept under observation.

2237 patients (899 pulmonary, 652 non-pulmonary, and 686 doubtful) were on the Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1942.

In the year under review, 821 cases were written off, 97 as recovered, 504 as non-tuberculous, 101 dead and 119 removed from the County or otherwise lost sight of.

1411 X-ray photographs were taken during the year.

Residential Treatment.

492 patients were treated in sanatoria or hospital during 1942. 338 were discharged, 23 died, leaving 131 in-patients on 31st December, 1942.

Blind Persons Acts, 1920 and 1938.

These Acts are administered by the County Council through the Public Health and Assistance Committee.

Registration.

During the year ended 31st December, 1942, 176 new cases were examined, 142 of whom were certified to be blind within the meaning of the Act. Of these, 105 were over 70, 20 between 60 and 70, 7 between 50 and 60, whilst the remaining 10 were under 50 years of age.

The total number of blind persons on the register was 738, compared with 658 the previous year.

The Prevention Register contains 200 cases, against 188 who have been examined and certified to be at present NOT blind within the meaning of the Act, but who have eye defects from which there is a possibility of their becoming blind at some future date.

All persons able to travel are examined by ophthalmic specialists at Norwich or King's Lynn, and the Form of Report and Certificate issued by the Ministry of Health is completed in each case. Persons unable to travel through ill health are examined at their homes by members of the Council's whole-time Medical Staff.

Training.

10 children are being educated at the East Anglian School for the Blind under the Education Committee's scheme.

Home Workers.

There are now 6 Home Workers in the County.

Employment.

In addition to 18 Workshop Employees at the Norwich Blind Institution and the Home Workers, 20 persons are able to support themselves from their earnings in various occupations. The unemployable blind number 694.

Home Teaching and Visiting.

The whole-time Home Teachers possess the certificate of the College of Teachers for the Blind. In order to be in personal touch with the blind persons, the County Medical Officer occasionally accompanies the Home Teachers.

4894 visits were made during the year, in comparison with 4769 last year.

Maintenance Grants.

The financial circumstances of all the unemployables is carefully enquired into and, where necessary, their income is augmented. 421 persons (including 20 evacuees) were receiving allowances at the end of 1942. The total amount of these grants during the year was £15,000.

The scale on which these grants is based was revised in August, 1942, to the following:—

	Income to be made up to
Blind person living alone or in lodgings ...	23/9 per week.
Living with near relatives	21/0 per week.
Two persons (one blind) living together ...	36/3 per week.

Where the blind person is a householder or has to have a separate fire, the grant is increased by 1/- per week. An extra 1/- a week is also allowed for increased cost of living in cases where there is no disregarded income. Grants are also varied where the rent is more or less than 3/6 per week, which is regarded as the basic rent.

Emergency Services.

Hospital.

Throughout the year I have continued to act as the Regional Hospital Officer's Agent in the Administrative County.

Casualty Bureau.

In agreement with neighbouring Authorities, a casualty bureau for the geographical county has been established at this office since 1939, with the Chief Clerk as the Officer in Charge.

Civil Nursing Reserve.

This Department is the headquarters of the Civil Nursing Reserve for the Administrative County. Applicants for enrolment are interviewed weekly.



