

**[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Northfleet U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Northfleet (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1939

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n7ypkqfd>

**License and attribution**

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

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

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



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

LIBRARY



Northfleet Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1939

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



Northfleet Urban District Council

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended December, 1939

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

---

GRAVESEND :  
GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD REPORTER.

## Northfleet Urban District Council

---

### HEALTH COMMITTEE.

#### Chairman :

MR. GEORGE GOUGE, J.P., C.C.  
 MR. JAMES CARLTON  
 MR. WILLIAM H. HARDY  
 MR. JAMES HAYNES  
 MR. FRANK WALTER HUMPHREY  
 MRS. G. S. LANE

---

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

All members of the Health Committee, together with the following who attended in a consultative capacity :—

MESDAMES CARLTON, DENT, A. H. HARDY,  
 HUMPHREY, HUNTLEY, SMITH, WESTCOTT,  
 WHITCHELO and WHITE.

---

#### Clerk and Solicitor :

MR. F. W. JONES

#### Assistant Clerk :

MR. W. G. FUTCHER

#### Medical Officer of Health :

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

#### Sanitary Inspectors :

- G. CUNLIFFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector. C.A.G.S. (Special), Died June, 1940.  
 E. H. C. WADHAMS, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B. Meat and Food Inspector. Resigned June, 1939.  
 J. S. HODGINS, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector. Sanitary Science Certificate of the R.S.I.  
 K. L. GARNER, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector. Resigned, March, 1940.

#### Health Visitor :

MISS M. P. MULLENDER, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I. Resigned, April, 1940.

**THE URBAN DISTRICT OF NORTHFLEET.**

---

**Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1939.**

---

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Northfleet Urban District Council.**

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended December, 1939.

The contents and arrangement are based on the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, is embodied in this Report.

I am indebted to Mr. Gough, the Vaccination Officer for the Northfleet sub-district, for the Vaccination Report.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,  
M. F. McDONNELL,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Council Offices,  
Northfleet, Kent.  
*November, 1940.*

## INDEX.

	PAGE
Ambulance Facilities ... ..	14
Area of District ... ..	5
Bacteriological Examinations ... ..	23, 30
Bakehouses ... ..	35
Births and Birth Rate ... ..	6, 7
Cancer ... ..	23
Cesspool Emptying ... ..	52
Cleansing Dept. ... ..	51
Clinics ... ..	9, 10, 11, 12, 41, 42
Dairies and Cowsheds ... ..	33, 47
Deaths and Death Rate ... ..	6, 7, 8, 28
Diphtheria Immunisation ... ..	20
Disinfection and Disinfestation ... ..	24, 39, 45
Drainage ... ..	31, 48
Enteric Fever ... ..	20
Erysipelas ... ..	26
Factories and Workshops ... ..	40
Food Inspection ... ..	33, 47
HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT ... ..	42
Hospitals ... ..	15
Hospital, Isolation ... ..	17, 18
Housing and Housing Statistics ... ..	37, 38
Infant Mortality ... ..	7
Infectious Diseases ... ..	8, 19, 20
Laboratory Facilities ... ..	23
Lodging Houses ... ..	35
Maternity and Child Welfare ... ..	9
Meat Inspection ... ..	34, 46
Milk Supplied ... ..	9
Minor Ailments ... ..	10
Notices Served ... ..	43
Notifications of Infectious Diseases ... ..	26
Nursing Arrangements, etc. ... ..	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	26
Pneumonia ... ..	26
Population ... ..	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	20
Rateable Value ... ..	5
Rats ... ..	47
REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF M. & C. W. SERVICES ... ..	41
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT ... ..	43
Sewerage ... ..	31, 32
Street Cleansing ... ..	49
Shops Act ... ..	48
Scarlet Fever ... ..	20
Small Pox ... ..	20
Staff ... ..	13
Slaughter Houses ... ..	33
Statistical Tables ... ..	6, 7, 8
Swimming Bath ... ..	36
Toddlers' Clinics ... ..	11
Tuberculosis ... ..	17, 20
Vaccination ... ..	24, 25
Veneral Diseases ... ..	21
Verminous Premises ... ..	39
Water Supply ... ..	29

# ANNUAL REPORT.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935) acres	...	3,770
	(—393 Tidal Water)	
Population (Census 1931)	... ..	16,223
(Estimated 1939)	... ..	17,800
Number of Inhabited houses (31st March, 1939)	...	5,100
“ „ New houses erected year ended 31st		
December, 1939	... ..	92
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	...	3,723
Rateable value 31st December, 1939	...	£106,470
Sum represented by a penny rate (1939)	... ..	£430

## PHYSICAL FEATURES, GENERAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated wholly in the County of Kent, some 20 miles from London, and occupies an area of 3,770 acres.

It is bounded on the North side by the River Thames, on the South by the Rural District of Strood and the Rural District of Dartford, on the East by the Borough of Gravesend, and on the West by the Urban District of Swanscombe.

The surface of the District is undulating or hilly. The soil is gravel, sand, Thanet sand, brick earth, alluvial and London clay.

The sub-soil is chalk. This formation underlies practically the whole of the District.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement paper and cables.

Average numbers of persons employed is as follows:—

A.P.C.M. (Bevan's Works)	... ..	758
Bowater's Paper Mills	... ..	810
Henley's Cable Works	... ..	2,443
Amalgamated Press, Ltd.	... ..	582
Britannia Lead Works	... ..	69
Gravesend Welding & Electrical Engineering Works	...	61

In the Rural parts, market gardening and general agricultural work is the chief employment.

### Extent of Unemployment.

It has not been possible to obtain the exact number of persons unemployed during the year. Last year the figure was less than 1% of the population and it is improbable that there has been much variation during 1939.

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st March, 1940	...	...	...	...	230
Amount paid in Outdoor Relief year ended 31st March, 1940	...	...	...	...	£7,128 5s. 4d.
Number of Northfleet persons admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions, during the year ended 31st March, 1940	...	...	...	...	148

### Vital Statistics of the District.

**BIRTH RATE.** During the year there were 292 births, equivalent to an annual birth rate of 16.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is an increase of 0.7 per 1,000 on last year.

**INFANT MORTALITY.** 6 deaths occurred among children under one year of age, which is equivalent to 20.8 per 1,000 births, as against 50 for the whole country.

**STILLBIRTHS.** Male 7, Female 9, Total 16. Rate per 1,000 live births, 54.8.

**DEATH RATE.** The general death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 10.5, which can be considered satisfactory.

\*The numbers of live births, stillbirths and deaths are those Registered (but excluding re-registrations) during the calendar year (*i.e.* 1st January—31st December, inclusive) adjusted only for inward and outward transfers. They will differ, therefore, from unadjusted figures compiled locally either for the calendar year or for a period of fifty-two weeks.

\*The deaths are classified under the headings given in the Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland (see page xxiv of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death—1931). The attention of Medical Officers is drawn to the "Rules for the selection of one from two or more jointly stated causes of death" which appears on page xxviii of the Manual. The classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special enquiries, the principal subjects of these enquiries being indicated in a table published in the annual reports of the Registrar-General. This possible source of discrepancy between the returns of the Registrar-General and those compiled locally should be borne in mind particularly in regard to the causes of death dealt with in that table.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live	Legitimate	285	141	144	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population, 16.4
	Illegitimate	7	3	4	
Stillbirths	...	16	7	9	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 54.8
Deaths	...	185	101	84	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population, 10.5

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	0	0
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	0	0
Total	0	0

\*General Register Office, Somerset House.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	20.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	20.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	0.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	24
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis ) England and Wales, London,  
of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, ) 126 Great Towns and 148  
and Case-rates for certain Infectious ) Smaller Towns.  
Diseases in the year 1939. )

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Administrative County. Northfleet London	
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
<b>BIRTHS :—</b>					
Live ... ..	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3	16.4
Still ... ..	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44	0.89
<b>DEATHS :—</b>					
All Causes ...	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9	10.15
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00
Measles ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.000
Scarlet fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough... ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.00
Influenza ...	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18	0.11
<b>NOTIFICATIONS :</b>					
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53	1.18
Diphtheria ...	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98	0.06
Enteric fever ...	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37	0.17
Pneumonia ...	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99	0.17
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age ... ..	50	53	40	48	20.8
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2	3.5
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY :—</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.77				0.00
Others ... ..	2.16				0.00
Total ... ..	2.93				0.00
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).					
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY :—</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.74				0.00
Others ... ..	2.08				0.00
Total ... ..	2.82				0.00
<b>NOTIFICATIONS :—</b>					
Puerperal fever ...	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31	13.7
Puerperal pyrexia }					

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council who have appointed the following as County Midwives:—

Miss W. E. Whitaker, 8 Park Avenue.

Mrs. F. E. Plumb, 8, Park Avenue.

Mrs. L. R. G. Watson, 40, Dover Road.

Other midwife practising in the district:—

Mrs. F. E. Holloway, 43, Mitchell Avenue.

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work at the Centre continues very usefully and efficiently. The average weekly attendance at the Centre has been 125. Up to December 31st, 1939, 3095 children have attended the Centre. The total attendances of children during the year were 6,505. There were 204 new attendances. 3,788 lbs. of dried milk and 1,171 gallons of liquid milk were distributed free. It is found that young mothers are becoming more aware of the benefits of attending such a Centre and are taking advantage of the facilities offered.

The Centre is open on three days of the week, on two of which the Medical Officer attends with the Health Visitor and on the third the latter attends alone. The Health Visitor, who is a fully trained nurse as well as a certified midwife, also attends the Ante-Natal Clinic.

### Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Particulars of attendances, amounts of milk distributed free, etc.,  
1931-1939.

	Attendances.	Distribution of Milk (free of charge).			
		M. & C.W. Clinic.	Ante-Natal Clinic.		
	Yearly Attendance	Average weekly Attendance	Yearly Attendance	Dried Milk.	Liquid Milk
1931	2,873	55.4	51	2,028 lbs.	Nil
1932	3,272	63.8	65	2,293 lbs.	238 quarts
1933	3,601	69.2	61	2,792 lbs.	Nil
1934	3,640	70.0	30	2,620 lbs.	Nil
1935	4,524	87.0	38	3,500 lbs.	Nil
1936	5,356	103.0	34	3,550 lbs.	Nil
1937	5,941	114.0	64	3,921 lbs.	60 quarts.
1938	5,181	99.6	118	3,972 lbs.	676 gallons
1939	6,505	125.1	118	3,788 lbs.	1,171 gallons

### Infant Welfare Centres.

(a)	Number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	Number of Centres provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c)	Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—						
	(i)	By children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	4696
	(ii)	By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	1809
(d)	Total number of children who attended at the Centres for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—						
	(i)	Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	186
	(ii)	Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	18
(e)	Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :						
	(i)	Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	156
	(ii)	Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	263
(f)	Percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (d) (i)						
	(i)	...	...	...	...	...	66.4%

### Ante-Natal Clinic.

(a)	Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	Number of Clinics provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c)	Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all Clinics during the year						
	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
(d)	Total number of expectant mothers who attended at the Clinics during the year						
	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
(e)	Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the number in (d)						
	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.36%

### Minor ailments and eye cases.

Arrangements have been made for the adequate supervision of children of one to five years of age.

Arrangements are being made for the provision of informal talks, etc., and the display of informative posters.

During the year 427 attendances were made by children under 10 years of age at the above Clinic.

### Toddlers' Clinic.

As previously reported, the Health Visitor is making regular visits to the homes and every effort is made to persuade the mothers to bring the toddlers periodically to the clinic for examination by the doctor. If the attendances warrant the formation of toddlers' clinics, I recommend that special sessions should be held.

### Nutrition.

**Supply of Milk, etc.**—Dried milk, cod liver oil, "Virol" and other foods are supplied by the Council to expectant and nursing mothers and to children under school age.

Within reason no restriction is placed on the quantity supplied in any one case and the supply is not limited to any specific period of pregnancy nor to any age of children below school age.

The commodities are supplied free of charge where the income is not in excess of the scale approved some years ago by the Ministry; the scale is as follows:—

No. in Family.	For supply of milk free of cost.	Total income of family after deducting rent.	For a supply of milk at one third cost price.	Total income of family after deducting rent.
----------------	----------------------------------	--	---	--

				Where only one parent alive.	
		s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
1	...	9 0	...	10 0	10 0
2	...	18 0	...	20 0	18 0
3	...	25 0	...	28 0	26 0
4	...	32 0	...	36 0	34 0
5	...	38 11	...	44 0	42 0
6	...	46 0	...	52 0	50 0
7	...	52 6	...	60 0	58 0
8	...	59 4	...	68 0	66 0
9	...	66 0	...	76 0	74 0
10	...	72 6	...	84 0	82 0

Liquid milk has not been supplied in recent years, but liquid pasteurised milk is now supplied, at the discretion of the Child Welfare Officer, more particularly to expectant mothers. Orders are issued on local purveyors to deliver milk for such periods as may be deemed necessary or desirable.

**Finance.**—The Minister of Health has stated that in some areas authorities may have hesitated on grounds of financial stringency to develop their services as fully as they might desire.

I believe it is correct to state that the Council has never hesitated to extend its maternity and child welfare service on the ground of economy.

### Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in the area under the control of the Council.

### Nursing in the Home.

Through the Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund, the services of one trained nurse are available for general nursing. The Fund is an entirely voluntary organisation.

Hon. Secretary : Mr. W. P. Grant.

### Maternal Mortality.

The County Medical Officer of Health co-operates with me in undertaking any necessary investigations in connection with maternal deaths.

The following arrangements have been made by the Council :—

- (1) Difficult cases of labour are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
- (2) Cases of Puerperal Sepsis are admitted to the County Hospital, Dartford.
- (3) Consultant Gynaecologist available if required.
- (4) Ante-natal and other clinics provided by the Council.

These are sufficient for the needs of the district.

**ANTE-NATAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANT.**—The Council have established an ante-natal clinic but attendances, despite every encouragement, do not reach the standard which the service deserves.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, where necessary, arranges for the admission of cases to hospital.

**POST NATAL SERVICES.**—In the course of her duties the Health Visitor advises any mother who is not progressing satisfactorily to attend for post natal examination.

Such cases are examined at the ante-natal session and the number does not warrant the institution of separate sessions.

### Ancillary Services :—

**HOME HELPS.**—In our opinion the nature of the population of your district does not warrant the establishment of a service of home helps.

**DENTAL TREATMENT.**—It will be remembered that the Council have entered into an agreement with the Kent Education Committee for the utilisation of their dental service for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age.

**RECORDS.**—The records maintained in relation to the Council's maternity and child welfare services are satisfactory in every respect and are at the disposal of any medical practitioner who may desire to consult them with reference to any particular case.

### Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, one whole time (M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.).

The other duties of the M.O.H. are as follows :—(1) Medical Superintendent Strood Isolation Hospital. (2) District Medical Officer for Northfleet District. (3) Public Vaccinator for Northfleet. (4) Medical Officer of Health, Strood Rural District.

### Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

James Crawford, M.B., Ch.B.

### Sanitary Inspectors.

Chief Sanitary Inspector holds the Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificates as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. Holds Home Office Special Certificate as Instructor in Air Raid Precautions.

Two additional Sanitary Inspectors—Certified Sanitary Inspectors by examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board. Both hold Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and one The Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspectors also carry out the following duties :—

Administration and supervision of the house refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing and gully emptying services.

**Health Visitor :** Miss M. P. Mullender, S.R.N., S.C.M. Holds Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate as Health Visitor.

**Section 206 Public Health Act, 1936.  
Nursing of Children for reward.**

The Health Visitor visits the children regularly and keeps the requisite register. At present there are four names on the register. All the homes have been found satisfactory.

**Ambulance Facilities.**

The ambulance facilities are adequate for the needs of the district.

All cases of infectious disease are removed in ambulances maintained in connection with the Strood Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital, to which Northfleet patients are admitted.

Non-infectious cases and accident cases are removed by the St. John Ambulance Brigades of Northfleet and Gravesend.

To my knowledge, no undue delay has occurred during the year in the removal of persons by ambulance.

To obtain an ambulance, application should be made to:—  
St. John Ambulance Brigade, Grove House, Grove Road, Northfleet.  
Telephone—Gravesend 1520.

or

Secretary, S.J.A.B., 17, Robinia Avenue, Northfleet.  
Telephone—Gravesend 854.

**Relieving Officer.**

Miss K. C. Casey, Council Offices, Northfleet.  
Telephone—Gravesend 1274.

**Registrar of Births and Deaths and Vaccination Officer.**

D. A. Gough, 36, Springhead Road, Northfleet.

**School Clinic.**

West Kent House, 5, Station Road, Northfleet.  
General Clinic—Saturdays at 9.30 a.m.

Cases of defective teeth, and vision and diseases or defects of the nose and throat, attend by appointment.

**Mental Welfare.**

Information on matters of mental welfare can be obtained from the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, 70, King Street, Maidstone (Telephone 3889).

**Blind Persons.**

Information on matters affecting the blind, or those threatened with blindness, can be obtained from the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15, Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone 3717).

### Hospitals.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL, GRAVESEND, serves the District, and contains 112 beds and 9 cots.

#### Day and Time of Attendance for Registration at Out-Patient Department.

Monday	10.30 a.m.	...	Ear, Nose and Throat.
	2.0 p.m.	...	Fracture Clinic.
Tuesday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Surgical.
	2.45 p.m.	...	Ante-Natal and Gynaecological.
Wednesday	10.0 a.m.	...	Fracture Clinic.
	1st and 3rd	1.30 p.m.	Orthopaedic.
Thursday	8.30 a.m.	...	Dental. *
	8.30 a.m.	...	Ophthalmic.
Friday	8.30 a.m.	...	Dental
	10.30 a.m.	...	Fracture Clinic.
	11.45 a.m.	...	Massage and Electro-Medical.
	12 noon	...	C.O <sub>2</sub> Clinic.
Saturday	10.30 a.m.	...	Medical Out-patients.

\* Discontinued for duration of war.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, CHATHAM. This Institution has the following number of beds:—Tuberculosis, 24; children (including 12 maternity cots), 41; maternity, 18; general, 271; mental, 61; isolation, 8; total, 423.

*Ante-natal Clinic.* Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon. Surgery—Mr. Hamilton Bailey. Monday, 9.45 a.m. (Appointments arranged with the Medical Superintendent).

Medical—Dr. N. S. Plummer. Wednesday, 9.45 a.m. (Appointments arranged with the Medical Superintendent).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION, GRAVESEND. Has 79 beds, including two for maternity cases.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER. This is a Voluntary General Hospital, with 201 beds, and serves a large area with a population of over 200,000.

Monday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	9.0 a.m.	...	Dental.
	10.0 a.m.	...	Orthopaedic.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Medical.
Tuesday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	10.30 a.m.	...	Ear, Nose and Throat.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Medical and Surgical.
Wednesday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Eyes.

Thursday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	9.0 a.m.	...	Dental.
	10.0 a.m.	...	Orthopaedic.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Medical.
Friday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	10.30 a.m.	...	Cancer Clinic.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Surgical and Medical.
	2.30 p.m.	...	Children.

COUNTY HOSPITAL, DARTFORD. Number of beds, 709; maternity, 25; tuberculosis, 32.

*Clinics.*

Dental Clinic	Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Mr. Pollard.
V.D. Clinic	Women's treatment, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Men's treatment, Daily, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dr. Ockwell and male and female nurse. Doctor's day, Monday, 2 p.m. to 6.15 p.m., or by special appointment.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special Clinics. Mr. Batten, 1st Tuesday in the month at 2.30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday in the month at 2 p.m. 4th Tuesday in the month at 2 p.m. Dr. Rattray every Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.
National Health	Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Regional Medical Officer and Probationer Nurse.
Urological Clinic	Wednesdays by appointment at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Kenneth Walker. Held in Doctor's room, but there are generally In-Patients who need operative treatment.
Neurological Clinic	Second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, 2.30 p.m. Dr. Robbins.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Every Saturday and Monday, 2-5 p.m. Maternity Sister and Pupil.
Ophthalmic Clinic	1st and 3rd Mondays, 2-4 p.m. Mr. O. Walker.
X-Ray Clinic	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Dr. Bracken. Mondays and Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

*Specialists.*

Mr. Jobson	—	—	Ears, Nose and Throat.
Dr. Donaldson	—	—	Gynaecologist.
Mr. Batten	—	—	Orthopaedic
Mr. Kenneth Walker	—	—	Urological.
Mr. Oliver Walker	—	—	Ophthalmic.
Dr. Ockwell	—	—	V.D.
Dr. Martin	—	—	T.B.
Dr. Rattray	—	—	Electrical Therapy.
Dr. Robbins	—	—	Neurological.
Mr. Pollard	—	—	Dentist.
Dr. Bracken	—	—	Radiologist.

School Nurse. Daily 9-10 a.m.

School for Minor Ailments Clinic. Saturday, 9 a.m.  
Dr. Denholm-Young.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council, and suitable cases from this district are admitted to their sanatoria as occasion demands. There is no sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the district.

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous Medical Relief are utilized to the utmost extent in the District.

### **Isolation Hospital.**

The Strood Isolation Hospital occupies an area of six acres and consists of four blocks—three brick and one corrugated iron. These blocks are 40 feet from each other and from the boundary fence. There are six large and five small wards, and they contain 36 beds (allowing 144 sq. feet of floor per bed).

The administrative staff consists of a Matron, a Staff Nurse, and four Nurses. Domestic Staff is four women and one man.

The other offices are a hand laundry, which is sufficient for the wants of the Hospital; a disinfection station contains a Thresh Disinfector and garage for two Motor Ambulances.

Sewage Disposal.—Administration Block and Wards to Cesspool.

Heating is provided for by fires in each Ward. Lighting by electricity, and water is supplied by the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Co.

The accommodation for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric is sufficient for the wants of the District.

Sanitary Districts from which patients are admitted :—

Name of District.	Population (1939).
Strood Rural ... ..	18,230
Northfleet Urban ... ..	17,800
Total ...	36,030

The next Table shows the number of cases of each disease treated in the Hospital for the past eight years :—(Northfleet)

	1932		1933		1934		1935		1936		1937		1938		1939	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	2	...	7	...	15	...	10	...	18	...	14	...	7	...	8	...
Diphtheria	4	1	5	1	4	...	3	1	...	...	3	...	2	...	1	...
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...
	6	1	12	1	20	Nil	13	1	18	Nil	19	1	11	Nil	10	Nil.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The following is a list of the diseases which have to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health :—

(1) Small-pox. (2) Scarlet Fever. (3) Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup. (4) Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid). (5) Pneumonia. (6) Cholera. (7) Plague. (8) Cerebro-spinal Fever. (9) Acute Poliomyelitis. (10) Acute Polioencephalitis. (11) Encephalitis Lethargica. (12) Typhus Fever. (13) Relapsing Fever. (14) Dysentery. (15) Ophthalmia Neonatorum. (16) Puerperal Pyrexia (17) Erysipelas. (18) Tuberculosis, primary notifications only. Respiratory, other forms. (19) Malaria (believed to be contracted in this country, believed to be contracted abroad, induced in institutions).

In November instructions were issued by the Ministry of Health making Measles and Whooping Cough notifiable.

**Infectious Disease.**

Cases of infectious disease which cannot be properly isolated at home are removed to the Strood Isolation Hospital under an agreement which the Council has with that Institution. This arrangement continues to prove most satisfactory, both from the point of economy and efficiency. Prompt removal of patients is always carried out by means of motor ambulances.

Table showing the numbers of cases and deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever since 1931 :—

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1931	33	Nil	25	1	Nil	Nil
1932	22	1	13	6	Nil	Nil
1933	32	Nil	11	4	Nil	Nil
1934	71	Nil	13	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1935	44	Nil	12	1	1	Nil
1936	39	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1937	23	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
1938	25	Nil	3	Nil	2	Nil
1939	21	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Scarlet Fever.**

Number of cases notified	...	21
Number of deaths	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		8
Percentage of cases removed	...	31.1%

**Diphtheria.**

Number of cases notified	...	1
Number of deaths	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		1
Percentage of cases removed	...	100%

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

A comprehensive scheme for the diphtheria immunisation of children in the town was approved by the Health Committee and launched in 1938. The co-operation of Medical Practitioners in the town was obtained, and immunising and testing material forwarded to them free on request. Leaflets were widely distributed, requesting parents to visit their own doctor, or if unable to afford a doctor, to apply to the Health Department.

**Enteric Fever.**

Number of cases notified	—	Nil
Number of deaths	—	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	—	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		Nil.
Percentage of cases removed	—	Nil.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

An arrangement has been made by means of which cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia, which cannot be properly isolated or attended to at home, are admitted to the County Hospital, Dartford.

The Council have an arrangement with the Hollingbourn R.D. Council, whereby cases of Smallpox occurring in Northfleet would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital of that authority.

**Tuberculosis Dispensary Service.**

The services of the tuberculosis officers are available for the purpose of consultation in all cases receiving domiciliary treatment, and, at the request of the medical attendant, a certain number of patients are kept under the supervision of the tuberculosis officers.

There are twenty-two dispensaries in the County. Particulars as to the tuberculosis officer in charge, the address of the dispensary and the hours of attendance are given below. Information is also given as to the additional area allocated to each tuberculosis officer for visitation purposes :—

**District No. 1.**—Population, approx., 275,680.

(Tuberculosis Officer in Charge, S. ROY C. PRICE, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.)

(Assistant Tuberculosis Officer, FRANK O. POTTER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Day and Time of Opening.</i>	<i>Additional Area for Domiciliary Visitation.</i>
DARTFORD (Tel. No. 3378)	41 Overy Street	Monday, 10 a.m.—12 noon	Dartford R., Crayford,
Erith	65 Bexley Road	Thursday, 5.30-6.30 p.m.	Swanscombe, Bexley,
		Monday, 5.0-6.0 p.m.	Northfleet and part of
		Thursday, 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.	Strood R.
Gravesend	22 Cobham Street	Wednesday, 1.0-3.0 p.m.	

**District No. 2.**—Population, approx. 170,920.

(Tuberculosis Officer in Charge, CHARLES ROPER, B.A.(Camb.), M.D., B.C., D.P.H.)

	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Day and Time of Opening.</i>	<i>Additional Area for Domiciliary Visitation.</i>
ROCHESTER (Tel. No. Chatham 2182)	13 New Road	Friday, 9.30-10.30 a.m.	Strood R.
		Tuesday, 2.0-3.0 p.m.	Chatham, N.E. fringe of
		and 5.0-6.0 p.m.	Malling R., N.W. fringe
Gillingham	228 Nelson Road	Tuesday, 9.30-10.30 a.m.	of Hollingbourn R., W.
		Friday, 2.0-3.0 p.m.	quarter of Swale R.,

### Venereal Diseases.

Amendments have been made in the times of holding the following clinics and they are now as follows:—

#### GRAVESEND—22, COBHAM STREET.

##### DAYS AND TIMES OF CONSULTATION.

	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	
Tuesday	11 a.m.	— 1 p.m.	1 p.m.	— 2.15 p.m.
Thursday	5 p.m.	— 7 p.m.	3 p.m.	— 4.30 p.m.

##### DAYS AND HOURS FOR IRRIGATION.

	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	
Monday	6 p.m.	— 7 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 12 noon
			and 1 p.m.	— 5 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m.	— 1 p.m.	1 p.m.	— 2.15 p.m.
	and 6 p.m.	— 7 p.m.		
Wednesday	6 p.m.	— 7 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 11.30 a.m.
Thursday	5 p.m.	— 7 p.m.	3 p.m.	— 4.30 p.m.
Friday	6 p.m.	— 7 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 12 noon
			and 1 p.m.	— 5 p.m.
Saturday	1 p.m.	— 2 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 11.30 a.m.

#### ROCHESTER—36, NEW ROAD.

##### DAYS AND TIMES OF CONSULTATION.

	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	
Tuesday	3 p.m.	— 7 p.m.	3 p.m.	— 6.30 p.m.
Thursday	11 a.m.	— 2 p.m.	11 a.m.	— 2 p.m.

##### DAYS AND HOURS FOR IRRIGATION.

	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	
Monday	10 a.m.	— 1 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 12 noon
	2 p.m.	— 3 p.m.	1 p.m.	— 4 p.m.
	and 5.30 p.m.	— 8 p.m.		
Tuesday	10 a.m.	— 10.30 a.m.	1 p.m.	— 6.30 p.m.
	3 p.m.	— 8 p.m.		
Wednesday	10 a.m.	— 1 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 12 noon
	2 p.m.	— 3 p.m.	1 p.m.	— 4 p.m.
	and 5.30 p.m.	— 8 p.m.		
Thursday	11 a.m.	— 2 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 2 p.m.
	5.30 p.m.	— 8 p.m.	2 p.m.	— 4 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m.	— 1 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 12 noon
	2 p.m.	— 3 p.m.	1 p.m.	— 4 p.m.
	and 7.30 p.m.	— 8.30 p.m.		
Saturday	10 a.m.	— 1 p.m.	9 a.m.	— 12 noon

### Treatment of Crippled Children.

The county scheme for the treatment of crippled children includes the provision of eighty beds at the Alexandra Hospital at Swanley, not less than forty-eight being for tuberculous cripples and not more than thirty-two for patients suffering from crippling defects due to other causes. For those children who are of school age education is provided. The whole of these beds are now occupied by Kent patients.

In addition, the following hospitals have provided a limited number of beds for patients who do not require prolonged institutional treatment, viz. :—

- (a) West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) County Hospital, Dartford.

These hospitals have each established a properly equipped orthopaedic out-patient department, and a list of out-patient clinics is set out below :—

Address.	Day and time of Opening.	Orthopaedic Surgeon Attends.	Name of Surgeon.
County Hospital, Dartford.	First Tuesday in each month at 2.30 p.m., and third and fourth Tuesday in each month at 2.0 p.m.	At each opening.	H. E. Batten, Esq., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*Tuberculosis Dispensary, 41, Overy Street, Dartford.	First Tuesday in each month at 1.30 p.m.	Ditto.	Ditto.
West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone	Each Friday. New patients should arrive at the Union Street entrance of the Hospital before 10 a.m. if possible. No patient is admitted after 11.15 a.m.	At each opening	A. H. Todd, Esq., M.S., M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

\*For tuberculous cripples only.

Necessary surgical appliances are provided for patients on the recommendation of the orthopaedic surgeons, and X-ray films are taken at various approved institutions. Cases arising for electrical treatment, massage, exercise, etc., receive daily treatment, where necessary, at certain of the clinics, at St. Mary's Convalescent Home, Birchington, or at the homes of the children.

The parents of patients are asked to contribute towards the cost of institutional treatment and surgical appliances, in accordance with their means.

Travelling expenses of patients are met in necessitous cases.

The above arrangements apply to:—

- (i) All crippled children under five years of age living in the area in which the County Council is responsible for maternity and child welfare.

- (ii) All children attending schools of the Kent Education Committee.
- (iii) All tuberculous cripples up to sixteen years of age.
- (iv) Children (under five years of age or attending elementary schools) in certain autonomous districts, including Northfleet, the Councils of which have arranged to participate in the County scheme.

### Cancer.

The number of deaths caused by Cancer during the year under review was 24. Most of the cases occurred amongst elderly folk and no undue prevalence in any particular organ was noted. It was not deemed necessary to advise the Council to take any action to improve the facilities for health instruction, diagnosis or treatment, such as those outlined in Circular 1136 of the 31st July, 1930

### British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign has formed a Committee to stimulate the education of the public on matters concerning cancer—particularly the early symptoms of the accessible cancers such as the breast, uterus, tongue, etc.

It is considered that the best way of doing this is to form panels of Local Practitioners who will give lectures in their respective districts, for which they will receive a small honorarium. The objects of such lectures will be:—

1. To diminish the present very widespread fear of the disease and
2. To convince people of the importance of early diagnosis and to persuade them to seek medical advice at an early stage of the disease.

### Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined free of charge at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. Full use has been made of these facilities, which are most satisfactory.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following are the numbers of the specimens submitted from this district:—

Sputa	...	...	86	Serum	...	...	1
Swabs	...	...	79	Others	...	...	20

### DICK AND SCHICK TEST.

No use has been made of either of these Tests during the year.

### Verminous Persons.

Facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of persons are available at the Public Assistance Institution at Gravesend.

### Disinfection.

All bedding and articles of clothing from houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred are promptly removed to a steam disinfectant belonging to the Council. Disinfectants are freely supplied and the room occupied by the patient is disinfected by Formalin Vapour.

### Vaccination.

The percentage of babies vaccinated remains high—it is more than 60% of the babies born—and no babies have been vaccinated by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Preventative Regulations,) 1917, during the year.

I am indebted to Mr. Gough, the Vaccination Officer for the sub-division of Northfleet, for the following report:—

#### NORTHFLEET DISTRICT.

#### VACCINATION—YEARS 1923-1939.

I beg to submit my Annual Vaccination Report for the Northfleet District.

It will be of interest to note that over a period of seventeen years, an average of 61% of babies born were vaccinated, approximately 46.8% of the total by yourself as Public Vaccinator for the District.

There has been no increase in the case of parents who object to the vaccination of babies, and Statutory Declarations made in this respect, remain at 32% of the total births registered.

The high percentage of babies vaccinated in your district is therefore maintained.

**Northfleet District.**  
Vaccination Return for the Years 1923-1939.

Year.	Births Registered.	Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator.	Vaccinated by Medical Practitioners	Statutory Declarations made against Vaccination	Insusceptibility to Vaccination	Removed from District	Died before Vaccination	Total.
1923	427	189	84	133	2	10	9	427
1924	447	228	69	124	1	9	16	447
1925	455	219	64	138	1	10	23	455
1926	418	195	73	127	—	6	17	418
1927	417	190	75	128	2	3	19	417
1928	418	191	55	150	1	6	15	418
1929	408	196	64	129	1	4	14	408
1930	353	170	49	110	2	8	14	353
1931	369	174	67	115	1	2	10	369
1932	346	161	43	114	3	5	20	346
1933	409	219	65	106	1	9	9	409
1934	396	194	48	127	—	10	17	396
1935	332	145	38	124	—	18	7	332
1936	284	96	46	124	3	4	11	284
1937	262	116	37	90	—	9	10	262
1938	250	124	25	86	—	7	8	250
1939	239	112	36	77	—	11	3	239
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6230</b>	<b>2919</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>6230</b>

Percentage Vaccinated and Exempted of Births Registered.

Year.	Total Percentage Vaccinated.	Percentage Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator.	Percentage Vaccinated by Medical Practitioners	Percentage of Statutory Declarations
1923	64%	45%	19%	31%
1924	67%	51%	16%	28%
1925	62%	48%	14%	30%
1926	64%	47%	17%	30%
1927	64%	46%	18%	30%
1928	59%	46%	13%	36%
1929	64%	48%	16%	31%
1930	62%	48%	14%	31%
1931	65%	47%	18%	31%
1932	59%	47%	12%	33%
1933	70%	54%	16%	26%
1934	62%	50%	12%	32%
1935	55%	44%	11%	37%
1936	50%	34%	16%	43%
1937	58%	44%	14%	34%
1938	60%	50%	10%	34%
1939	62%	47%	15%	32%
<b>Average</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>32%</b>

November, 1940.

D. A. GOUGH,  
Vaccination Officer, Northfleet, Kent.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths *
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	Nil.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	21	8	Nil.
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	—	—	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	4	3	Nil.
Pneumonia ... ..	3	—	4
Erysipelas ... ..	3	1	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	Nil.
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	Nil.
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>

\*R.G. Returns.

	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 3 years.	3 and under 4 years.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 7 years.	7 and under 10 years.	10 and under 15 years.	15 and under 20 years.	20 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and over.	Totals.
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	2	2	...	1	3	3	5	2	2	1	...	...	21
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Pulmonary M. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	1	3	...	16
Non-Pulm'y M. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>

## Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.†			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	3	2	...	...	3	1	...	...
25—35	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
35—45	1	2	...	...	3	1	...	...
45—55	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55—65	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 up	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	10	7	0	0	10	4	1	0

†R.G. Returns.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925,  
Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken during 1939.

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Register of Notifications  
of cases of Tuberculosis, for the Year ended the 31st day of  
December, 1939.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non- Pulmonary Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the Year...	44	29	73	10	9	19	92
(b) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the Year ...	42	30	72	10	8	18	90

## Non-Notifiable Acute Infections.

The district has been comparatively free from Influenza, and the number of deaths due to this disease negligible. Rabies and anthrax were absent.

## Foot and Mouth Disease.

No outbreaks were reported during the year.

## Causes of Death in Northfleet Urban District, 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.			
All Causes ... ..	101	84			
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...			
2 Measles ... ..	...	...			
3 Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...			
4 Whooping cough ... ..	...	...			
5 Diphtheria ... ..	...	...			
6 Influenza ... ..	1	1			
7 Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...			
8 Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	...	...			
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	10	4			
10 Other Tuberculosis ... ..	1	...			
11 Syphilis ... ..	...	...			
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ... ..	...	...			
13 Cancer ... ..	15	9			
14 Diabetes ... ..	1	...			
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	4	8			
16 Heart disease ... ..	27	21			
17 Aneurysm ... ..	...	...			
18 Other circulatory diseases ... ..	6	5			
19 Bronchitis ... ..	7	6			
20 Pneumonia ... ..	3	1			
21 Other respiratory diseases ... ..	1	..			
22 Peptic ulcer ... ..	3	...			
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	1			
24 Appendicitis ... ..	...	...			
25 Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	1			
26 Other diseases of liver, etc. ... ..	...	...			
27 Other digestive diseases ... ..	2	2			
28 Nephritis ... ..	1	3			
29 Puerperal sepsis ... ..	...	...			
30 Other puerperal causes ... ..	...	...			
31 Congenital causes, etc. ... ..	4	2			
32 Senility ... ..	1	2			
33 Suicide ... ..	...	...			
34 Other violence... ..	5	7			
35 Other defined diseases... ..	6	6			
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	1			
			CAUSES OF DEATH		
			M. F.		
			Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) ... ..		
			Small-pox ... ..		
			Poliomyelitis ... ..		
			Polioencephalitis ... ..		
			Deaths of		
			Infants under		
			1 year		
			(Total ... ..)		
			(Legitimate ... ..)		
			(Illegitimate ... ..)		
			Live		
			Births		
			(Total ... ..)		
			(Legitimate ... ..)		
			(Illegitimate ... ..)		
			Stillbirths		
			(Total ... ..)		
			(Legitimate ... ..)		
			(Illegitimate ... ..)		
			Population ... ..		
			17,800		

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

An ample and continuous supply is given by the Gravesend Water Company, from a well sunk in the deep chalk which is situated in the Northfleet district. I am informed that there is an ample supply and that there is no likelihood of any shortage. There is also a good reserve in the well at Windmill Hill.

The quarterly analysis shows that the water is pure and free from pollution.

### Reservoirs.

Gravesend & Milton ... One 800,000 galls. at Gravesend.  
 One 220,000 galls. at Northfleet.  
 One 100,000 galls. at Northfleet.

Particulars as to resources of and demand on Water Undertakings in Area :—

1: (a)	No. of dwelling houses in district as at 29th Sept., 1939	5,000
(b)	No. of other premises in district as at 29th Sept., 1939	116
(c)	Total ... ..	5,216

### Public Analyst's Report on Water Samples.

Reports received on samples taken from various taps on the Gravesend & Milton Water Works Co's supply.

Date of Sample.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at		B. Coli (presumptive).	Remarks.
	37°C.	22°C.		
1939				
4th Feb.	0	14	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good Water
4th March	0	10	" "	" "
5th April	0	2	" "	" "
7th June	0	1	" "	" "
8th Aug.	0	0	" "	" "
7th Oct.	0	0	" "	" "
4th Nov.	0	0	" "	" "
9th Dec.	0	1	" "	" "

### Bacteriological Examination.

The bacteriological examination shows us the actual types and numbers of the various bacteria present and since a water, which might be passed as safe for drinking purposes on chemical data, may contain evidence of sewage pollution from the number and kind of bacteria in it, such an examination is of great value.

In practice the information usually required is whether the water is of sufficient bacterial purity or whether a water known to be more or less impure is being efficiently treated to render it fit for drinking purposes. Treatment consists of either storage, filtration, chlorination or ozonization. To this must be added a type of biological treatment in which protozoa inimical to bacteria are used, but this is not yet well known in this country and treatment by the other processes, either alone or in combination, is the usual procedure.

The various technical procedures carried out in a bacteriological examination usually include (1) a count of micro-organisms developing at a temperature of 22 deg. C. on ordinary standard gelatine or agar during three days' incubation. (2) A count of those organisms which develop on standard agar-agar at a temperature of 37 deg. C. during two days' incubation. (3) Qualitative and quantitative tests for *B. coli* in quantities of water up to 100 c.c. (4) Qualitative and quantitative tests for faecal and other streptococci. (5) Qualitative and quantitative tests for spores of *B. welchii*. (6) A record of the presence or absence of *B. coli* variants and special organisms such as *B. filamentosus*, etc.

In deep wells or borings the water should be, and generally is, of great natural purity. This is found to be so, even in the neighbourhood of big towns and in the London area. The strata from which these deep borings are supplied produces a practically sterile water and any water that may have come more directly from the surface is always so well filtered naturally that all micro-organisms are removed from it before it reaches the collecting basin deep underground. These waters are naturally pure and require no treatment except during those periods when work is being carried on in headings and adits. It is then usual to chlorinate the water as a temporary measure. Shallow wells can seldom, in their bacterial content, compare favourably with deep borings.

Report on samples of water received from Gravesend and Milton Water Works Co., Ltd., The following samples were received :—(a) A sample from the Old Well ; (b) a sample from the Northfleet Well. Both these were, chemically and bacteriologically, of the highest quality. Both had, when cold, a moderate action on iron, an appreciable amount being kept in solution. The action of both on zinc was strong, on copper very slight and, on lead, practically none.

**Analytical Details.**

	<i>Old Well.</i>	<i>Northfleet Well.</i>
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Colour	Pale bluish	Pale bluish
Smell	None	None
Deposit	None	None
Phosphoric acid	Very minute trace	Very minute trace
Colour of residue	White	White
Behaviour on ignition	Does not blacken.	Does not blacken.

*Grains per gallon.*

Total dry residue	33.32	24.92
Oxygen absorbed	0.005	0.001
Chlorine	2.03	1.12
Nitric acid	3.60	1.30
Ammonia	0.0000	0.0000
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0000	0.0000

**Bacteriological Examinations.**

Total on gelatine per c.c.	0	0
B.Coli absent in	76 c.c.	76 c.c.

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.****Scavenging.**

House refuse is removed at least once in seven days by men employed by the Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, to a suitable site owned by the Council where it is covered each day with sufficient earth. All the work is done by three motor lorries, one of which can be converted for gully and cesspool emptying.

**Sewerage.**

The main drainage scheme is completed and nearly all the houses are now connected to the main sewers. In a short time the whole of the district will be sewered with the exception of a few houses which are situated in the strictly rural portion.

Frequent samples of the effluent from the works are submitted to the County Analyst, and the following table shows the results expressed in parts of 100,000 :—

No. of Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Date of Sample	4/1/39	19/1/39	23/2/39	5/4/39	3/5/39	7/6/39	5/7/39	21/8/39	21/8/39	12/10/39	30/11/39
Nature of Sample	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Stream	Effluent
Total dissolved solids	141.0	127.0	138.00	122.0	103.5	140.0	132.5	126.5	55.0	86.0	97.5
Total suspended solids	3.50	6.0	2.00	4.0	1.75	3.0	2.50	3.25	1.25	2.25	4.00
Organic suspended solids	3.25	5.0	1.75	3.5	1.70	2.5	2.0	2.50	0.50	1.50	2.50
Chlorine	40.0	47.7	40.6	34.4	26.5	38.4	33.4	31.9	7.7	20.3	22.1
Free ammonia	2.72	3.26	2.52	2.65	1.22	2.65	0.88	2.52	0.004	0.88	2.18
Albuminoid ammonia	0.41	0.54	0.20	0.54	0.20	0.54	0.29	0.61	0.008	0.20	0.68
Oxygen absorbed acid permanganate											
1 hour	1.15	1.756	1.394	1.128	0.566	1.306	0.65	0.564	0.129	0.515	1.058
4 hours	2.56	3.260	2.465	2.058	1.009	2.270	1.29	1.197	0.271	1.007	1.759
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5	0.5	3.3	0.9	2.5	1.25	3.33	2.50	0.30	2.5	3.33
Nitrogen as nitrites	0.1	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Trace	Present	Present
Dissolved oxygen requirement in 5 days	Exceeds	5	2.16	1.55	1.755	2.04	0.87	3.14	0.126	1.41	2.39

**Remarks:—**

1. The quality of this effluent is unsatisfactory and is not a desirable effluent to discharge into a stream.
2. The quality of the effluent is not satisfactory but it would comply with the requirements of the Port of London Authority.
3. The composition of the effluent was satisfactory.
4. The effluent was weak and probably this alone accounted for its condition being satisfactory.
5. The quality of this effluent was satisfactory.
6. The quality of the effluent is satisfactory.
7. The effluent was of good quality and fit therefore for discharge.
8. This effluent is only of fair quality and it is not as efficiently oxidised as it might be.
9. The oxygen requirement of this water is comparatively small and the water should therefore not give rise to a nuisance.
10. This effluent is of satisfactory quality for discharge.
11. The effluent is only of fair quality.

F. W. F. ARNAUD,  
County Analyst.

### List of Bye-Laws in force in District.

Advertisement Regulations Act, 1925.  
 Cemetery.  
 Hackney Carriages.  
 New Streets and Buildings.  
 Nuisances.  
 Parks and Pleasure Grounds.  
 Slaughterhouses.  
 Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures.  
 There are no local Acts.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supply.

All milkshops, dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, workshops and slaughterhouses are visited at least twice a year by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Most of the milk is imported from other districts. There is only one dairy farm in the District, which has a good water supply.

Six samples of ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, three of which were reported unsatisfactory. Visits were paid to the dairies concerned and suggestions put forward for improving the quality of the milk.

#### Tuberculosis Order, 1937.

Seven samples of milk were examined by the inoculation test for the presence of Tubercle bacilli, of which five were returned as negative.

The animals affected were slaughtered.

#### Provision of Milk for School Children.

Under this Scheme the price of milk consumed in schools by young children, is reduced to one shilling per gallon, thus enabling it to be supplied to children at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for one-third of a pint, instead of 1d. as hitherto. The milk will, whenever possible, be supplied in bottles containing one-third of a pint.

The scheme continues to operate satisfactorily. During 1939, 25 samples of school milk were submitted for the bacteriological test for cleanness; 24 were returned as satisfactory. Investigations were made at the dairy concerned in the unsatisfactory sample, and various recommendations made *re* the storage and distribution of this milk.

#### Slaughter Houses.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on October 1st, 1939, have Local Authorities adequate powers for dealing with unsatisfactory slaughterhouses. The need for such powers had for long been a matter of urgency. The occupiers

of all registered slaughterhouses and those licensed under old legislation were required to apply for new licences which could be refused if the applicant was not considered a proper person to keep a slaughterhouse or if the premises were not considered suitable for use as such. These licences remain in force for a maximum period of 13 months after which application must be made for renewal.

Seven applications for licences were received from the occupiers of four registered and three previously licensed slaughterhouses. These were carefully considered and a joint meeting of the applicants and their representatives and the Health Committee was held. It was finally decided to grant licences to two of the applicants.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE IN THE DISTRICT.

	In 1920	In January, 1926	In December, 1939
Registered ...	4	4	—
Licensed ...	3	3	2
Total ...	7	7	2

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle includ- ing Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	503	15	557	1261	2336
Number inspected ...	503	14	557	1259	2333
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	1	5	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	83	—	17	113	213
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	16.5%	—	3.2%	9.4%	9.4%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	1	—	3	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	80	—	—	52	132
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	17.1%	7.1%	—	4.4%	8.00% exclud- ing sheep

### Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Elkington, County Inspector, Dartford, for the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year:—

<i>Description of sample.</i>	<i>No. of samples taken.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
New Milk	19	Genuine	Nil.
Butter	6	"	"
Jam	2	"	"
Preserved Peas	1	"	"
Sausages	1	"	"
Brandy	1	"	"
Pepper	1	"	"
Fancy Icing	1	"	"
Olive Oil	1	"	"
Margarine	3	"	"
Coffee	2	"	"
Rice	1	"	"
Sugar	1	"	"
Whisky	2	"	"
Lard Compound	1	"	"
Flour	2	"	"
Dried Fruit	1	"	"
Mixed Spice	1	"	"
Sardines in Olive Oil	1	"	"
Cocoa	1	"	"
Vinegar	1	"	"
Lard	4	"	"
Semolina	1	"	"
Tea	2	"	"
Oatmeal	2	"	"
Quinine Amm. Tinc. of	1	"	"
Liquorice Powder	1	"	"
Luncheon Sausage	1	"	"
Cayenne Pepper	1	"	"
Boracic Ointment	1	"	"
Preserved Tomatoes	1	"	"
	65	65	Nil.

### Bakehouses.

There are 7 in the District, two of which are underground bakehouses. They have all been systematically inspected and are usually found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the District.

### Swimming Bath.

There is one privately owned swimming bath in the district, owned by the Welfare Section of the A.P.C.M., Ltd. The public are allowed to use this bath, and the following report *re* construction, etc., may be of interest :—

It was re-conditioned for the use of employees and residents of the district by the above Companies in 1927, and is situate in Hive Lane, off High Street, Northfleet. It is a tepid fresh water bath, 80ft. long, and 30ft. wide, graduating in depth from 3ft. 6ins. to 7ft. Diving boards 3ft. to 12ft., spring and fixed, are provided.

Until 1933 the water was supplied from deep wells situated near the Bath, but owing to the length of time involved in cleaning out and refilling once per week, a purification plant was installed in 1934. This plant was put in by Bell Bros., and purifies and aerates the whole of the water once every six hours.

Filtration and purification is carried out by a pressure filter and the addition of sulphate of alumina, alkali and chlorine. An 8ft. diameter pressure filter is provided which is capable of withstanding a test of 120 pounds per square inch, the filtering medium being silver sand. Sulphate of alumina solution and alkali are added by means of pumps before filtration, the chlorine is then added in the form of solution after filtration. Aeration takes place by means of a cascade.

The sides and bottom of the Bath are cleaned daily whilst the surround is cleaned with a solution of Voxsan. Tests of the water for the purpose of regulating the dosage of chemicals are taken periodically daily.

The apparatus installed has proved exceedingly efficient, and no complaints have been received regarding the condition of the water since its installation."

### Report of Sample of Water.

24th August, 1939.

Description of Sample.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :		B. coli (presumptive)
	37° C.	22°C.	
	D.32784 Water from Swimming Bath, Hive Lane, Northfleet. (Shallow end)	0	
D.32785 Water from Swimming Bath Hive Lane, Northfleet. (Deep end)	13	0	Absent in 100ccs.
Remarks : D.32784-5.	B.coli absent in 100 ccs. Good waters, efficiently treated.		

E. R. JONES, Pathologist.

## HOUSING.

### Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	... ..	92
(i) By the Local Authority	... ..	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	... ..	92

### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	752
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1534
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	48
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	246
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(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	91

### 2. 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 or their officers	60
---	----

### 3. 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	19
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	10
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—

Number of houses demolished voluntarily	—
(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 ... ..	—

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of the year ... ..	23
2. Number of families dwelling therein ...	23
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ...	214
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	4
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	18
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	147
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	Nil.

#### Council Estates.

The Council are the owners of three housing estates in the district, namely, the Northfleet House Estate, Wombwell Park Estate and the Perry Street Housing Estate. The number of houses erected and the dates of erection are given below :—

94 houses	—	1926-7
80 „	—	1932
100 „	—	1933
18 „	—	1936 (bungalows for aged persons)
28 „	—	1936

The following houses were built by the Council for the purpose of rehousing tenants from Clearance Areas :—

24 houses	—	1934 (Housing Act, 1930)
76 „	—	1938 (Housing Act, 1936)

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

	<i>Council.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
1. (a) No. of houses found to be infested	4	9
(b) No of houses disinfested ...	4	9
2. Methods employed :—		
(a) Spraying with insecticide.		
(b) Fumigation with " Cimex " sulphur block.		

In either method the woodwork in the room is loosened and a floor board removed. A second visit is made 10 days after the first disinfestation and further action taken if necessary. I am pleased to say that there has been no re-infestation of the houses treated.

3. A careful examination is made of a selected tenant's furniture and disinfestation carried out where necessary.

4. Disinfestation is always carried out by Local Authority under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

5. Tenants are advised as to the best method to stop re-infestation, soap and disinfectants are supplied free to assist tenants to thoroughly cleanse the rooms.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

### 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	16	...	...
WORKSHOPS ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	27	...	...
WORKPLACES ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	...	...	...
Total ... ..	43	Nil.	Nil.

### 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were inst'd (5)
	Found (2)	Re- medied (3)	Referred to. H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary (insufficient	...	...	...	...
Accom- (unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...
modation (not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under Factory Act, 1937 :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	1	1	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ... ..	2	2	...	...

\* Including those specified in Factory Act, 1937.

M. F. McDONNELL,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF MATERNITY AND  
CHILD WELFARE CLINIC AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC  
FOR THE YEAR, 1939.

---

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban  
District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. LANE, AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to report to you that your Child Welfare Clinic has again completed a most successful year—in fact the best year we have had.

The attendances during 1939 have numbered 6,536, that is 1,400 better than 1938. I am confident in saying that the work done by this department of your social services has in no small way contributed to the high standard of infant health in Northfleet.

The clinics continue to be held bi-weekly—1½ hour sessions on Mondays and Thursdays—and in addition the Health Visitor is in attendance daily to assist mothers, and to dispense food.

Free milk continues to be provided to necessitous cases under the Ministry of Health's Regulations. This is a great help in many homes and assures that no infant in Northfleet need suffer from malnutrition.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Medical Officer of Health and the Ladies of the Committee for their great help and assistance, and especially the Health Visitor for her co-operation in the work of the Centre. I should also like to record my grateful thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lane and gentlemen, for the helpful provisions you have made for the care of the children in our District.

The Ante-Natal Clinic continues to be held one day each week. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the attendances at this Clinic have been nearly doubled this year—58 expectent mothers came for advice during the year, the total attendances being 130.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lane and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

## REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR FOR THE YEAR 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. LANE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1939.

### Infant Welfare.

During the year 292 live births were registered and 16 still births. All mothers and infants are visited after the fourteenth day.

Investigations are made *re* still births and the facts reported to the Medical Officer.

Advice *re* feeding and care of the infant is given and the facilities of the clinic offered.

### Clinics.

I am pleased to report that the use of the clinic has grown during the year—there being an 30% increase in attendances during the year.

It is pleasing to note that the attendances of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years have increased and I am endeavouring to secure the continual attendance of these children until school age.

### Ante-Natal.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic have increased in number during the year, showing that expectant mothers are realising the values of this clinic and the care, advice, etc., given. Thanks are due to the County Midwives for their activity in advising the use of the ante-natal clinic.

Frequent visits are paid to the expectant mothers at their homes.

### Foster Children.

The homes of the six foster children are visited frequently and everything has been found satisfactory in their home conditions.

### Visits.

The following visits were made:—

First visits	280
Revisits under 1 year	613
„ 1 to 5 years	1,296
Special visits	219
Total	2,408

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. P. MULLENDER.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY  
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1939.

---

Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Council Offices,  
Northfleet.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban  
District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my third Annual Report, which is a resume of the work carried out during the year 1939.

In commencing this report it may be of interest to outline some of the duties as laid down by the Ministry of Health. These comprise :—

- General inspection of the Urban District.
- Inspections under the Housing Acts.
- Investigation of all cases of infectious disease.
- Disinfection of all bedding, clothing and infected rooms.
- Inspection of Food Premises, such as those of Bakers, Grocers, Butchers, Fruiterers, Fishmongers and Fryers, Restaurants, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Hawkers' carts.
- Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Piggeries, Stables and Offensive Trades.
- Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
- Smoke observations.
- Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
- Sampling of drinking water, bath water, etc.
- Investigation of complaints.
- Interviewing of builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work.

Other duties are :—

- All clerical work necessary for the above.
- Administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

The number of complaints received during the year was 230, a number of which were of a trivial nature, and could not be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. In every case where a complaint was found to be *bona-fide*, action was duly taken.

Total number of visits made	...	...	...	4,625
Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	261
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	31

The following table gives a classified list of the nuisances and defects dealt with during the year:—

Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	9
Cesspools repaired or filled	...	...	...	2
Dampness abated	...	...	...	70
Ashpits demolished	...	...	...	3
Dirty premises	...	...	...	5
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	11
„ cleared	...	...	...	9
Defective Ceilings	...	...	...	119
„ Chimneys and flues	...	...	...	29
„ Doors and door frames	...	...	...	49
„ Door sills	...	...	...	39
„ Eavesgutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	64
„ Fireplaces, hearths, etc.	...	...	...	17
„ Floors and skirtings	...	...	...	49
„ Locks and fastenings	...	...	...	45
„ Plasterwork	...	...	...	192
„ Matchboarding	...	...	...	1
„ Pointing	...	...	...	22
„ Rendering and plinths	...	...	...	26
„ Roofs	...	...	...	53
„ Sashcords	...	...	...	77
„ Staircase structures	...	...	...	32
„ Ventilation shafts	...	...	...	7
„ Walls	...	...	...	49
„ Wash coppers	...	...	...	9
„ W.C. structures	...	...	...	6
„ Water fittings	...	...	...	14
„ Windows—lack of light or ventilation	...	...	...	13
„ Window sills, wood and stone	...	...	...	92
„ Window frames and sashes	...	...	...	81
„ Yard gullies and gully pits	...	...	...	10
„ Yard paving	...	...	...	26
Food Stores—repaired or provided	...	...	...	25
Premises limewashed	...	...	...	1
New Internal water supply	...	...	...	13
„ Sanitary dustbins	...	...	...	214
„ Sinks and sink waste pipes	...	...	...	38
„ Stoves for food preparation	...	...	...	17
„ „ for heating	...	...	...	25
„ W.C. pans and traps	...	...	...	9
Perished external paintwork	...	...	...	14
Rooms stripped, cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	124
Under-floor ventilation	...	...	...	18
Unlit staircases	...	...	...	22
Vermin infestation	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	15
Total number of defects dealt with during the year	...	...	...	1,778

### Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 49 cases of infectious disease were investigated, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	21
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11

Information gained as a result of inquiry into these cases is submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and dealt with according to his instructions.

Disinfection is carried out by spraying the rooms with formalin and fumigating with formalin gas; infected bedding and clothing are treated with steam at the Brook Vale Depot.

During the year 47 houses and 423 articles were disinfected and 45 articles destroyed.

### Food Inspection.

During the year some 2,336 animals have been slaughtered whilst 2,333 or 99.9% have been inspected. To obtain this percentage a considerable amount of evening and week-end work has been necessary. The amount of meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption is 9,022 lbs. All inspections are carried out in accordance with the Memo 62 Foods and on no occasion has it been necessary to obtain an order from a Justice of the Peace.

The introduction of the new Food and Drugs Act gave the Local Authority much closer supervision and stricter control on premises used for the preparation of food. It became necessary for all such premises to be registered. Registration could be refused to unsuitable premises and in many instances alterations and improvements were secured before the premises were approved.

The following table shows the diseases and details of the meat condemned.

## DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1939.

DISEASE.	CATTLE					SHEEP				PIGS			Weight in lbs.			
	Car- cases	Heads	Hearts	Lungs	Livers	Offals	Joints	Car- cases	Offals	Joints	Car- cases	Heads		Joints	Offals	
Tuberculosis	...	6	25	5	49	7	50	...	...	...	3	39	1	29	6308	
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	127	
Actinomycosis	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109	
Angiomatosis	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	54	
Bruising	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	168	
Congestion	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	70	252	
Cysts and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	44	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	456	
Dropsy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Fevered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	46	
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	22	414	
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	190	
Mastitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	
Necrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	
Pathological Emaciation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	45	
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	14	...	2	...	...	...	...	7	319	
Pleurisy	...	...	...	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	207	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	37	115	
Swine Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	156	
Septicaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	90	
Tumours	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	
Unsound	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	54	...	...	...	1	6	217	
Urticaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	30	
Totals	...	6	30	7	66	78	74	6	1	66	1	8	39	3	215	9022

\* Frozen.

**Other Foods Condemned.**

<i>Articles Condemned.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
3 Rabbits	Injury & Haemorrhage	10
5 Rabbits	Unsound	16
12 Rabbits	Black Mould	40
1 Filletted Cod	Decomposition	16
Coal Fish	"	42
Haddocks	"	14

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

There are 30 persons registered for the carrying on of such businesses, viz. :—

Cowkeepers ... ..	1
Dairymen ... ..	18
Milkshops (bottled milk only) ...	8
Sterilized milk (wholesale) ... ..	3

**Designated Milk.**

Four dairymen are licensed to sell "Tuberculin" Tested milk, and 3 "Pasteurised" milk.

**Bakehouses.**

Thirty visits were made to the 7 bakehouses on the register, limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

**Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.**

During the year, 35 tins of poison were distributed to persons for premises where traces of rats were in evidence. Advice and caution as to the laying of baits are given in each case.

Poisoned baits and Cyanogas are regularly used at the refuse tip, the large number of banks and ditches surrounding the tip making the extermination of rats a difficult and constant task.

**Caravans, Tents and Sheds.**

There is one permanent caravan site, which is exclusively used by Members of the Showmen's Guild. It is supplied with water by means of stand pipes and the conveniences, separate for males and females, are connected to the sewers.

A prosecution was taken for the unlawful keeping of a caravan and a fine of five shillings imposed on the defendant. Another application for permission to keep a caravan was refused; in both cases the caravans were quickly removed.

### **Stables.**

During the year, 29 visits were made to premises *re* the keeping of animals. Many householders still keep chickens, etc., in their yards, and advice was given in a number of cases *re* cleanliness and the danger of rats.

### **Shops Acts.**

Owing to pressure of other work it has again been impossible to devote more than a small amount of time to the administration of these Acts; 173 visits were made and advice given *re* sanitary accommodation, lighting, ventilation and heating.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

#### **Public Health Act, 1936.**

Under the above Act, observations were kept on four occasions. The observations were of half an hour duration, and on two occasions it was found necessary to draw the attention of managers of factories to the fact that black smoke or grit was emitted in such quantities as to be a nuisance.

In both cases the manager in question took action to prevent the recurrence of the nuisance.

### **Drain Testing.**

The water test is imposed on all new drainage work in connection with alterations to present systems or in the case of new houses; 210 tests were made during the year, while in addition 126 visits were paid to work in progress.

### **Housing Acts.**

During the year, the work under the above Acts has progressed favourably. The number of houses rendered fit was 60, whilst over 600 visits were made for inspections and re-inspections. Many of the owners have accepted a fair standard of housing requirements, but it is to be regretted that some opposition is still met with as regards the standard of housing accommodation for the working classes. One of the main difficulties met with is the builder who estimates a low price for work to be carried out. This usually necessitates considerable correspondence, interviews, etc., before it is possible to state that the repairs have been satisfactorily carried out.

The rehousing of tenants from Clearance Areas has proceeded during the year and the number still to be dealt with is small.

### Cleansing Department.

The above department was formed in October, 1936, under my direction and supervision. The duties undertaken by the department are :—

House and trade refuse collection.  
 " " " " disposal.  
 Street cleansing.  
 Street gully emptying.  
 Cesspool emptying.

The staff consists of 3 motor drivers, 18 labourers and a foreman, divided as follows :—

7 Street sweepers.  
 4 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 1 gang ) House refuse  
 3 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 2 gang ) collection.  
 2 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 3 gang—House refuse  
 collection, gully emptying, cesspool emptying, and extra  
 help on tip.  
 1 labourer—Refuse disposal.  
 1 labourer—Disinfection, paper baling, etc.

### Refuse Collection.

The weekly collection of refuse has been maintained throughout the district with the exception of the rural area where the period of collection is fortnightly. Considerable dislocation in the period of collection was caused at the outbreak of war owing to some of the Department's vehicles being used for A.R.P. purposes, but later normal working was restored. The number of bins emptied was 251,842 and the weight of refuse collected 5,265 tons.

There has been a general increase in costs, the nett cost being 9s. 8d. per ton.

In June a new convertible Karrier vehicle was brought into commission and the use of horse drawn vehicles finally discontinued. The alternative uses of the new vehicle are cesspool and gully emptying; a 500 gallon tank being fitted for this purpose.

### Refuse Disposal.

During the year a new tip was started adjacent to the old one. There has been a complete absence of nuisances from the new section although a fire was experienced on the old tip in August. This was probably caused by children, who trespass on the tip during the summer evenings. The fire was isolated by trenching and burned itself out without any serious consequences.

The weight of waste paper salvaged from the refuse amounted to 25 tons and was sold for over £33.

**Street Cleansing.**—The decision to divide the area into seven districts, with each man responsible for his own district, has proved successful. The men take a distinct pride in the condition of their areas. Litter bins are installed on lamp posts, etc., in various streets, and it is estimated that the Council's share of the advertising rights will be £10 per annum.

#### **Gully and Cesspool Emptying.**

The new gully and cesspool emptier referred to in the paragraph on Refuse Collection is now used for this work. During the year 1,256 gullies were cleared at a cost of £88 18s. 7d., equal to a cost of 1s. 6½d. per gully. ; 63 cesspools were emptied at a cost of £97 5s. 11d., being equivalent to 6s. 7d. per load for the 294 loads removed.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

Tables showing Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1940.

ITEM. Revenue Account.	I. Collection with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		II. Disposal with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		Total with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.	
	Included.	Excluded.	Included.	Excluded.	Included.	Excluded.
A Gross Expenditure ...	£ s. d. 2539 16 9	£ s. d. 2452 9 9	£ s. d. 680 18 11	£ s. d. 605 8 1	£ s. d. 3220 15 8	£ s. d. 3057 17 10
B „ Income ...	6 0 0	6 0 0	52 16 2	52 16 2	53 2 2	53 2 2
C Nett Cost ...	2539 10 9	2452 3 9	628 2 9	552 11 11	3167 13 6	3004 15 8
<i>Unit Costs.</i>						
D Nett Cost per ton ...	£ s. d. 9 8	£ s. d. 9 3½	£ s. d. 2 4½	£ s. d. 2 1¼	£ s. d. 12 0½	£ s. d. 11 4½
E Nett cost per 1,000 population ...	142 13 5	137 9 7	35 5 9	31 0 11	177 19 2	168 10 6
F Nett cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	489 2 4	472 5 11	120 19 8	106 8 8	610 2 0	578 14 7
<i>Rate Pounds.</i>						
G Nett cost, equivalent rate in the £ ...	5.81d.	5.61d.	1.43d.	1.26d.	7.24d.	6.87d.
H Percentage of G to total rate in the £ ...	3.87%	3.74%	0.95%	0.84%	4.82%	4.58%

1	Total refuse collected in tons (estimated)	5,265	9 Method of Collection—		No. of Vehicles.	Percentage of refuse collected.	
			Horse Vehicles	Mechanical Vehicles			1*
2	Population ...	17,800					
3	Area (Statute Acres) ...	3,770					
4	Weight in cwts. (per 1,000 population) per day (365 days to year) ...	16	10 Method of Disposal—		Nil		
5	Number of houses and premises	5,192	Crude tipping		100%		
6	Rateable Value	£108,223	Controlled tipping				
7	Produce of a penny rate ...	£437	(i. e. on lines of Ministry's precautions for tipping)				
8	Total rates in the £ ...	12/6	11 Average length of haul to point of disposal		1½ miles.		

\* Use of this vehicle discontinued after May, 1939.



In conclusion, we wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. M. F. McDonnell, the Chairman and Members of the Council and Health Committee, for their kindness, the officers and staff at the Council offices for their assistance, and also Mr. K. L. Garner, Additional Sanitary Inspector, the foreman and workmen of the Cleansing Department for their loyal support and willingness to accept any innovation introduced.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

G. CUNLIFFE,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*  
*Cleansing Superintendent.*

J. S. HODGINS,  
*Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector.*









