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CITY OF NOTTINGHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

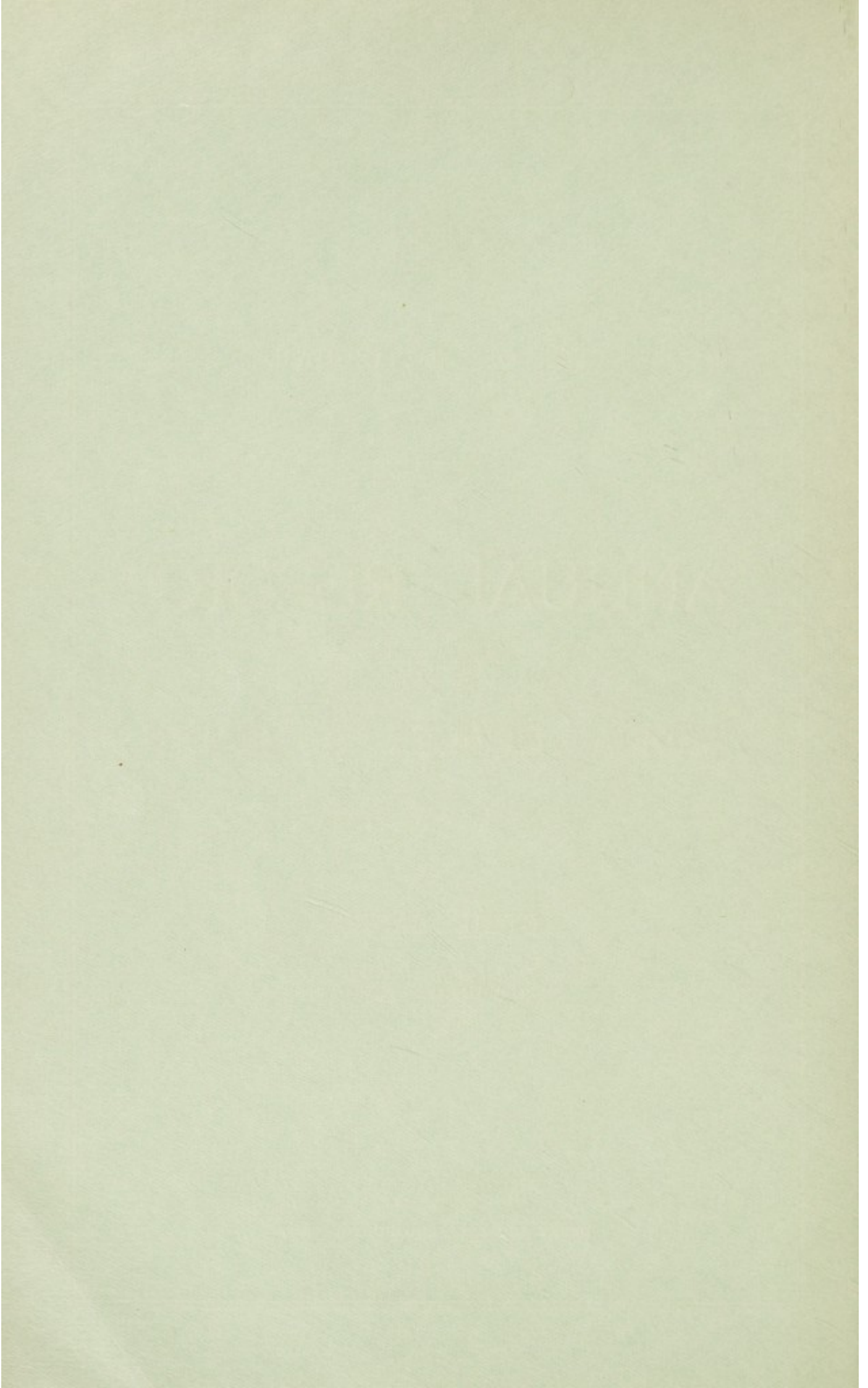
For the Year 1939.

CYRIL BANKS,

M.D., B.S.(LOND), D.P.H.(SHEFF.),
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Nottingham :

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HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1939 (mid-year).

LORD MAYOR :—ALDERMAN JOSEPH BALDWIN, J.P.

Chairman :—COUNCILLOR ERNEST PURSER.

Vice-Chairman :—COUNCILLOR W. B. BLANDY.

ALDERMAN H. BOWLES, J.P.	COUNCILLOR (Mrs.) B. HAZARD.
„ E. A. BRADDOCK, J.P.	„ (Mrs.) S. JAMES.
„ W. CRANE, J.P.	„ J. LITTLEFAIR.
„ R. SHAW, J.P.	„ J. E. MITCHELL.
COUNCILLOR W. J. COX.	„ D. MORGAN.
„ J. L. DAVIES.	„ A. E. SAVAGE.
„ H. O. EMMONY.	„ A. H. SHAW.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND CITY HOSPITAL.

CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR EMMONY.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ (Mrs.) HAZARD.
ALDERMAN BRADDOCK.	„ (Mrs.) JAMES.
„ CRANE.	„ MITCHELL.
„ SHAW.	„ MORGAN.
COUNCILLOR DAVIES.	

The Chairman of this Sub-Committee is Alderman R. Shaw, and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor (Mrs.) Hazard.

TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES.

CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR DAVIES.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ LITTLEFAIR.
ALDERMAN CRANE.	„ MITCHELL.
COUNCILLOR COX.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR (Mrs.) JAMES.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ MORGAN.
ALDERMAN CRANE.	„ SAVAGE.
COUNCILLOR DAVIES.	„ A. H. SHAW.
„ (Mrs.) HAZARD).	

Co-opted Members :—

MISS W. GIBSON.	MRS. D. RADFORD.
MRS. M. MARSDEN.	MRS. SANSOM.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

CHAIRMAN.	COUNCILLOR COX.
VICE-CHAIRMAN.	„ EMMONY.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF, 1939.

(CONDENSED LIST).

MEDICAL.

Medical Officer of Health—

CYRIL BANKS, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Sheff.).

Tuberculosis Officer and Deputy Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN V. WHITAKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.P.H.

Assistant Tuberculosis Officer—

FREDK. H. W. TOZER, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.).

Assistant M.O.H. and Medical Supt., City Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium—

THOMAS A. DON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Resident Medical Officer, City Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium—

One appointment—held for 6 or 12 months.

Senior Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare—

ISABELLA M. HARKNESS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Bacteriologist—

ELLIOTT J. STORER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officers—

Maternity and Child Welfare. 2 (full time), 4 (part time).

Venereal Diseases. 5 (part time).

U.V. Ray Clinic. 2 (part time).

Relief Districts (16). 12 (part time).

Public Vaccinators—

5 (part time).

OTHER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector	Hostels for Unmarried Mothers	6
(Alfred Wade, F.R.San.I.) ..	Ultra-violet Ray Clinic ..	2
Sanitary Inspectors (all	Bacteriological Laboratory ..	5
branches)	Mortuary Attendants ..	2
22	Office Porter	1
Chief Clerk (Herbert Read) ..	Cleaners	13
1	General Labourer	1
Clerks (excluding Hospitals) ..	Venereal Diseases Hospital ..	5
24	Small-pox Hospital (Caretakers :	
,, Casualty Bureau and	man and wife)	2
Group Officer	City Isolation Hospital and	
2	Sanatorium—	
Women Housing Officers ..	Nursing	35
5	Others (F.)	34
Vaccination Officers (part time)	,, (M.)	18
2		
Health Visitors, Supervisors of		
Midwives, Tuberculosis		
Nurses		
25		
Clinic Nurses, orderlies, etc.		
(4 part time)		
10		
City Midwives		
36		
	—	87

CITY HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent—DR. C. L. C. CROWE.

Deputy Medical Superintendent	1	Charge Male Nurses	..	2
1st Assistant Medical Officer ..	1	Male Nurses	..	22
Assistant Medical Officers ..	3	Pharmacists	..	2
Assistant Surgical Officers ..	2	Dispensers	..	3
Obstetrical Officers ..	2	Teachers	..	2
Consulting Physicians†	..	Masseuses	..	4
Surgeons—General†	..	Cook, Female	..	1
.. —Special†	..	Assistant Cooks, Female	..	5
Other Medical, etc., staff†	..	Chef	..	1
Steward ..	..	Assistant Chefs	..	3
Assistant Steward ..	..	Assistant Cooks, Male	..	2
Matron ..	..	Maids	..	22
Assistant Matrons ..	..	Kitchen Boys	..	5
Ward Sisters	..	Seamstresses	..	6
Night Superintendent	..	Clerks	..	3
Night Sisters	..	Medical Supt's. Secretaries	..	2
Tutor Sister	..	Hospital Porters	..	37
Home Sisters	..	Telephone Operators	..	3
Housekeeping Sister	..	Laboratory Attendants	..	4
Theatre Sister	..	Lodge Porters	..	2
X-Ray Sister	..	Male Rec. Ward Attendant	..	1
Staff Nurses	..	Female Rec. Ward Attendant	..	1
Ambulance Nurses	..	Linen Store-keeper	..	1
Probationers	..	Garden Labourers	..	2
Sub-Probationers	..	Labourers	..	5
Assistant Nurses	..	Window Cleaners and Sweeps	..	2
Ward Orderlies	..	Scrubbers	..	95
Maternity Pupils	..			

†Part-time.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the tables of statistics which are usually published in an annual report have been prepared for the year 1939, and these will be filed away in order that after the war a complete report may be made covering the war years.

The officers of the various branches of the Health Department—Maternity and Child Welfare, Infectious Disease, Tuberculosis, City Hospital, Sanitary and Food Inspection, Housing, City Laboratory, Venereal Disease, etc.—have all rendered their reports as usual, and these too will be filed away for subsequent use.

The Ministry's instructions require that there shall be published now only an interim report in an abbreviated form so as to save paper and labour.

I am, therefore, submitting a report so brief as to be little more than is usually given as a preface to annual reports, and the publication of this has been delayed, awaiting the receipt of all the sub-departmental records and of statistics from the Registrar-General, all of which were very late this year, for reasons which are obvious.

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1939.

Number of inhabited houses March 1939	..	81,478
Rateable value	.. .. .	£2,128,172
Sum represented by a penny rate (1939-40)	..	£8,260
Rates in the £ (1939-40)	.. .. .	14/8d.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General estimates the population for 1939 as follows :—

For birth-rate purposes	.. .. .	278,800
For death-rate purposes	.. .. .	275,400

The Registrar-General has not explained why two separate estimates are given, but he may be following the method adopted during the last war when a " death-rate population " was given which excluded non-civilian males, while for birth-rate purposes non-civilians were included by distributing the non-civilian element over all the districts of the country in proportion to their estimated civilian population.

Births.

Legitimate Males	2,135.	Females	2,012	..	Total	4,147
Illegitimate	,, 127.	,,	127	..		254
Total births	.. .. .			..		4,401
Birth-rate per 1,000 of population				..		15.79

The birth-rate has varied only between 15 and 16 per thousand since 1933.

Still-births.

Legitimate Males	67.	Females	85	..	Total	152
Illegitimate	,, 5	,,	2	..	,,	7
Total still-births	.. .. .			..		159
Rate per 1000 births (live and still)				..		34.87

A comparison with former years may be obtained by consulting any previous annual report, in which comparative tables were fully set out.

Deaths.

Males 1,877.	Females 1,785	..	..	Total 3,662
Death-rate per 1000 of population		..	..	13·30

Maternal Death-Rate.

The deaths of mothers in childbirth are calculated per thousand births (live and still), and the figure thus provided is reliable because it is not based on estimates but on recorded facts.

The Nottingham rate given below is exceedingly satisfactory and is the best ever recorded for the city, although, as stated in previous reports, our reputation in this respect has been consistently good for many years :—

			Rate per 1,000 births (live and still).		
			ACTUAL	NOTTINGHAM.	ENGLAND & WALES.
			No.		
Sepsis	..	..	2	0·44	0·74
Other causes.	..	..	4	0·88	2·08
			—	—	—
Total	..	..	6	1·32	2·82
			==	====	====

The excellence of this feature may be attributed to the good facilities which exist in Nottingham for dealing with midwifery, and to the improvements in recent years. The fact that the home midwifery is now practically all done by our 36 city midwives, working under strict control, while the City Hospital deals with so large a proportion of the hospitalised confinements, and that the two are linked together under one administration in complete working harmony, is of considerable importance in making Nottingham child-bearing safe. At the same time the work of the Women's Hospital and the Collin Trust Maternity Hospital must also have been factors making for safety and convenience.

Infant Mortality.

This worked out at 66 deaths of infants under 1 year of age calculated per thousand births and was the lowest ever recorded in Nottingham. The next lowest was 69 in 1934 and 71 in 1938. While climatic conditions and the prevalence of infectious ailments affect the yearly fluctuations, there can be little doubt that the work of our infant welfare centres and health visitors, associated with improved sanitary conditions and better housing and improved standards of living have been instrumental in reducing the infant death-rate to about one-third of what it was at the beginning of the century.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CITY.

The work of the staff of the Chief Sanitary Inspector continued on the usual lines, though Mr. Wade himself was for a period engaged in connection with Casualty Service organisation, until that Service passed out of the hands of the Medical Officer of Health, when Mr. Wade returned to his normal duties.

The successful control of an outbreak of enteric (typhoid) fever early in 1939 was accomplished with the help of the sanitary inspectors, who took part in the daily enquiries which had to be made over many weeks in following up persons who were thought to have been possibly at risk.

In this outbreak no less than 730 visits, for one purpose or another, were made to homes and other places, and a large number of these were made by sanitary inspectors. In particular it was necessary to follow up the food supplies very closely, through many channels. This outbreak is dealt with later in the report.

Housing and Sanitary Inspection.

Although the war put a stop to new action in regard to slum clearance and brought to a standstill some of the action proceeding at the time, there was the usual activity during the greater part of the period. The remedy of defects in property must be enforced continuously, or dwellinghouses soon become unfit for habitation, and this work has proceeded and is proceeding normally, though some rearrangement of duties became necessary when members of the staff began joining the Forces.

Slaughterhouses.

The city still has some private slaughterhouses of a disgusting character, but gradually the numbers are dwindling, and during 1939 the total fell from 53 to 40. The action attempted by the Corporation in order to close certain slaughterhouses was not entirely successful.

The war, however, brought about changes due to the Ministry of Food taking over control of the slaughtering trade, and it became necessary for representations to be made to that Ministry about the conditions which existed in premises under the Ministry's charge. These representations were successful, and certain insanitary conditions were remedied. Transport of meat about the district under war-time arrangements became, for a time at least, associated with carelessness and disregard of cleanliness, and action was necessary by the Corporation's officers.

It is important that there should be no relaxation of control over the meat trade for there is an easy tendency to fall to a very low standard of cleanliness.

Food Adulteration.

In the early days of the war special attention was given to the possibility that the unsettled conditions in sections of the food trade might result in deterioration of quality and, more particularly, in adulteration of essential foodstuffs, such as butter. Any fears of this proved to be groundless, standards being generally maintained, as shown by the Analyst's results.

Water Supplies.

Constant co-operation exists between the City Water Engineer and the Health Department with a view to safeguarding the purity of the municipal water supply. This has taken a special form during war-time, with the help of the County Medical Officer and various county district authorities, in order that billets, camps or bivouacs, with their problems of removal of excreta, shall not foul any water supplies. It is not permissible to make reference to this work except in the briefest terms, with the assurance that the necessary measures are constantly being taken.

Co-operation with Military.

Quite apart from the Emergency Hospital Service there are ways in which the Health Department, as a sanitary authority, is co-operating with the military. The sanitary conditions of places taken over by the Services as billets has been a matter in which the Department has been able to be useful. Then again the old military problems of scabies and lousiness crop up in war-time, and from the very beginning of military preparations, the Department placed at the disposal of the military authorities its facilities for the disinfection or disinfestation of blankets and clothing, and many thousands of articles were dealt with.

Smoke Abatement.

Work under this heading has ceased for the duration of the war, an inevitable set-back to sanitary progress. After the war it will have to be recommenced with renewed vigour, for clean air and unimpeded sunlight are necessary for the well-being of the human body, especially during the years of early growth, and there will be need to arouse public interest once more in what is really a very important matter.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Department is getting more and more highly organised under Dr. I. McD. Harkness, and valuable lives are being saved, both of mothers and infants.

Reference has been made above (under the heading "General Statistics") to the small number of maternal deaths and the various factors which appear to have combined towards this happy state of affairs, these being partly associated with the ante-natal clinics and the city midwives, and partly with the City Hospital, and particularly the linking-up of these services in a scheme of close and friendly co-operation (not ignoring the valuable work of other hospitals).

The infant mortality at 66 per thousand births is the lowest ever recorded in Nottingham.

This figure, whose gradual fall since the beginning of the century has been spectacular, remained during the last ten years around a level that was reasonably good, but not good enough.

The fact that it was 71 in 1938 and 66 in 1939, after being 81, 89 and 80 in the three previous years, is a hopeful

sign and suggests the effects of improved organisation of health measures.

The advice of our clinic doctors and health visitors is having its effect. The factors which increase the safety of child-bearing also favourably affect the outlook for the newly-born child.

The war caused considerable alterations in the departmental routine.

For instance, our staffs took over the distribution of infant helmet respirators on behalf of the A.R.P. services, as these cannot be used without previous instruction of mothers. Nearly 7,000 demonstrations were arranged and given in October 1939.

Dr. Harkness and some of her staff were also very busy for a time helping the Evacuation Officer (Mr. J. Boydell) in connection with the evacuation of pregnant women to other areas. Help was also given to the School Medical staff in dealing with children of school age who were being evacuated.

Our Homes for Unmarried Mothers were also evacuated to Mansfield, but this was a failure and, in due course, the process was reversed.

During the winter the entire programme of clinics had to be altered so as to continue the sessions over midday and get the buildings clear before black-out time.

Naturally all these special but necessary duties interfered with normal working, especially as some of the Health Visitors were called up to nursing services to which they had commitments.

Here are a few selected figures of work done—

Over half the births in the city were attended by city midwives, in the homes of the people.

The City midwives paid 55,248 visits to patients.

Expectant mothers paid 11,399 visits to ante-natal clinics.

Health Visitors paid 33,495 visits to homes of children from birth to 5 years of age.

Children up to 5 years of age paid 59,525 visits to clinics.

Usually fifteen to twenty pages of the Annual Report have proved insufficient to do justice to this busy section of the Health Department, and it is regretted that so little space is available this year to give an account of the detailed working of the organisation.

The general scheme of work has been that outlined in previous reports, but it is being constantly reviewed and brought up-to-date and plans for future developments are taking shape in the minds of those responsible.

CITY HOSPITAL.

Dr. C. L. Crawford Crowe has continued with great ability to act as Medical Superintendent of the City Hospital.

The year 1939 in the history of this great hospital had two outstanding features, first, the continued planning and carrying out of alterations and extensions for peace-time use; and second, the adaptation of the hospital and the adjacent Vale Brook Lodge for war-time purposes as part of the Emergency Hospital Scheme of the Ministry of Health.

The most important item of building extension was the additional home for nurses and staff. This building, planned by the City Engineer's department and erected by Messrs. Harper & Green, Ltd., was opened on 28th July, 1939, by Mr. Walter Elliott, Minister of Health.

It has bedroom accommodation for 143 nursing staff and maids, with dining-halls, kitchens and sitting-rooms. The cooking and dining-room accommodation for the nursing staff is now all in the new Home, leaving the hospital kitchen for the hospital use alone.

This new Home, long needed, has enabled the staff to be increased so as to give a proper proportion of nurses to patients, at the same time providing living accommodation of a very high order for the staff.

A new X-ray plant with what is known as a tomograph was provided during the year.

Regarding the war-time use of the hospital, it is not proposed to disclose details in this Report. The amount of thought and work put into the scheme was very great and difficulties and disappointments had to be overcome.

The reservation of a large number of empty beds in anticipation of military or air-raid casualties naturally gave rise to difficulties in providing accommodation for the ordinary inflow of patients. By arrangement with the Ministry of Health plans were evolved for the emergency addition to the staff of surgeons, physicians and anæsthetists as part of a scheme involving all the hospitals in the district. The hospital was also called upon to store and subsequently to distribute large quantities of hospital

supplies for other hospitals in the Ministry's Emergency Hospital Scheme, and this meant the utilisation of other premises some distance away, the exact nature of which will not be specified. All these arrangements were subject to frequent alterations to keep pace with changing conditions, and anyone associated with the administration of an Emergency Hospital through the period in question may be said truly to have lived through a period of strain and anxiety in contributing to the national effort.

At the same time the hospital continued to gain recognition in its ordinary peace-time function as a general hospital for medical, surgical and midwifery cases, and although the use of beds was restricted for the latter part of the year the admissions fell off very little—from 5,953 in 1938 to 5,777, compared with only 5,274 in 1937. The number of births rose from 413 in 1937 and 562 in 1938 to 929 in 1939, a very remarkable increase which points to the need for much greater accommodation for the obstetrical department. The full statistics will not be published now but are filed away for subsequent use.

The programme of extension of the hospital buildings to meet the growing needs of the public for hospital treatment, instead of treatment in the home, was the subject of discussion in committee and of negotiation with the Ministry of Health, and but for the war would have been advanced very considerably.

Grateful reference must be made to the work of Mr. G. W. Gould as Steward of the City Hospital up to 31st July 1939. Mr. Gould as Master of the City Institution (now called Vale Brook Lodge) had continued to act as

Steward of the hospital portion after the Health Committee took it over, but in time, with the growth of work, Mr. Gould felt it necessary to apply to be relieved, and Mr. Lansdowne became Steward. Mr. Gould is still in charge of those services which are common to both institutions.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Gould for his unfailing readiness to help; with his knowledge and experience he has been a most useful colleague.

Civil Nursing Reserve.

One of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, placed upon him directly by the Ministry of Health, was to organise a supply of nurses to be available for use in Emergency Hospitals or for other civil defence purposes.

The first step taken locally early in 1939 was to call a meeting of the leading representatives of the nursing profession and to ask them to form a committee known as the Local Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession.

The committee was formed with Miss Liddle as Chairman; Miss Kaye Barter of Gordon House, Carrington Street, was secured as Secretary, and the work has gone on with a high degree of efficiency. The duty placed upon the committee was to enrol three classes of persons—

- (a) Trained Nurses available whole-time or part-time for hospital work, or in First Aid Posts.
- (b) Assistant Nurses, similarly available.
- (c) Auxiliaries, that is to say, girls and women to undertake spare-time classes and some elementary training

in hospital, so that if required they would give up their normal occupation and enter hospitals to assist the professional nurses in the wards.

Nottingham was particularly well placed to undertake the training of auxiliaries, because for some time previously the British Red Cross Society had been training volunteers on behalf of the Health Committee for service, especially in the City Hospital, and also on behalf of the General Hospital. The Local Emergency Committee, rather than setting up an organisation of its own, asked the British Red Cross Society to continue this work.

The scheme worked well, indeed, auxiliaries were trained much in excess of local requirements (owing to the unexpected course taken by the war), and at the time of writing this report, many have never had to give up their ordinary work to take to nursing. They are, however, being kept together in the organisation and their training renewed. The City, General, and St. Ann's Hospitals have all employed a certain number on their regular staff.

In addition to this, the local organisation has been successful in recruiting a fair number of trained and assistant nurses for service in hospitals and first-aid posts, but there has been some shortage of "mobile" members of all grades, that is, women prepared to proceed to any part of the country, wherever required.

The conditions of pay and service of all trained, assistant and auxiliary nurses enrolled for whole-time service through the organisation, which is now known as the Civil Nursing Reserve, are standardised for the country as a whole.

The approved administration expenses of this body, though provided in the first instance by the Corporation, are refunded by the Government.

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

The statistical table, if published, would show the following features:—

Diphtheria occurred in smaller numbers than for many years. Scarlet Fever, taking the year as a whole, showed about average incidence, but concentrations at certain periods made the Isolation Hospital very busy.

Typhoid Fever Outbreak.

The outstanding feature as regards infectious disease was a sudden outbreak of enteric fever (typhoid) in a small and well-defined area of the town. The first case was notified on 24th February, and by evening enquiries had resulted in the discovery of eight cases. The next day a further twelve cases came to light as a result of enquiries and other steps. Further odd cases cropped up from time to time, but by 20th March the last case had been admitted to hospital, making 34 in all.

The cause of the outbreak was very soon discovered—in fact it was suspected in less than 24 hours, and proved a few days later.

The long “incubation period” and gradual onset associated with this disease resulted in some cases being slow to show themselves over the period February 24th to March 20th, *but only two of these cases actually received their infections after the first day on which the outbreak came under notice.* They were both “secondary” cases from households already infected.

The Department has reason to feel satisfied, therefore, that the organisation stood up to the test imposed upon it, when failure might have resulted in an outbreak of great magnitude. The details of the causation were never published beyond the statement that it was due to infected food, and it is not now proposed to make any more detailed statement on this point, as nothing new would thereby be contributed to medical knowledge.

The following steps in the investigation were taken, beginning immediately the first cases were notified :—

House-to-house visits in the area by doctors and sanitary inspectors, such enquiries covering history of illness, source of all foods and drinks, tracing of " contacts " and any sick people in the district. Repeated conferences were held with the Water Engineer as to every circumstance of the water supply, until the possibility of the outbreak being caused by water infection was utterly ruled out, as it was very speedily. Milk was also soon outside suspicion.

Immediate contact was made and repeated conferences held with the Ministry of Health, to " pool " information. Immediate enquiries were made at all local hospitals for cases not yet diagnosed. Circularising all medical practitioners in the city was done in the first few hours, advising them to be on the look-out lest they had cases with unusual symptoms not yet diagnosed. This proved to be a valuable step and the practitioners in the district were very helpful, co-operating well with the department. Communication was made with every neighbouring Local Authority which had had any case of typhoid in its district in recent years, tracing the movements of possible " carriers ".

The investigations involved very heavy work for the City Bacteriological Laboratory (under Dr. Storer) and a lot of special investigations by the City Analyst (Mr. W. W. Taylor). The City Isolation Hospital received all the cases. As these were nearly all of great severity the hospital is to be congratulated on the fact that out of 34 cases of this dread disease, only three persons died, and one of these was an invalid prior to this illness.

Dr. Don, as Superintendent of the Hospital, was assisted by Dr. Graham, who was then the Resident Medical Officer. For the purpose of this outbreak the Health Committee invited Dr. J. Wilkie Scott to act as Consulting Physician to the hospital. Dr. Don was also taking a heavy part in the investigations on the district.

Nursing is a very important factor in the chances of recovery from typhoid, perhaps even more than in most illnesses, so special mention must be made of the matron, Miss Clark, and her nursing staff. The hospital organisation and all its personnel stood up well to the task, and finished with credit. The victims, patients and relatives alike, responded well to the efforts of the department to aid them, and co-operated helpfully in all the steps which had to be taken to gain control of the outbreak.

City Isolation Hospital.

In addition to the above reference to the Typhoid outbreak, the following non-routine matters must be recorded :—

The policy of the Health Committee to modernise the hospital was continued by the installation of new equipment in the main kitchen ; a new dining-room and cloak-rooms for nurses were provided ; new wash-hand basins

and steam radiators and sterilisers were put in various wards, and a motor-mower provided for the lawns. A start was made on a new Home for the nursing staff early in July. New sluice-rooms for most of the wards were completed. An additional telephone line was installed to speed up communications. The number is now 66627 (2 lines).

The extensions to the laundry buildings and provision of new boilers and modern laundry machinery, completed late in 1938, have since proved their value, and appreciation is due to Mr. Rhodes, who controls the engineering services of the Isolation Hospital as well as of the adjacent institutions, for his good advice and constant watchfulness.

Owing to the war it became necessary to provide sand-bagging and other protection, including air-raid shelters for visitors.

Tuberculosis.

During 1939 the work of the Tuberculosis Department, both at the Forest Dene clinic and at the two hospitals, was carried out under the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. J. V. Whitaker, in accordance with the lines laid down during previous years. The most noteworthy event during the year was the beginning of the work of construction of the new sanatorium near Newstead Abbey. Actually the first sod was cut by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Mr. Councillor E. Purser, on 18th July 1939.

On September 3rd war broke out and shortly afterwards all new building operations were countermanded by the Government, and it was feared that further work

on the new sanatorium would be halted. This would indeed have been lamentable, mainly on account of Nottingham's urgent need of modern sanatorium accommodation, but also because of the impending rise of prices and because a large sum had already been spent on the site in excavating and laying concrete foundations.

On October 31st a strong deputation visited the Ministry of Health and presented arguments in favour of proceeding with the scheme. Permission to continue was eventually granted. At the time of writing this report the work has made considerable headway.

War is inimical to progress so that at this time we feel that we are fortunate in being able to anticipate the provision of up-to-date sanatorium facilities for our patients at no distant date.

Although this report should deal only with 1939, reference must be made to the death in 1940 of Mr. Laurence O'Shaughnessy whose services to our tuberculosis scheme in recent years have been of such great value. He was a London surgeon who had specialised on operations on the chest, a line of work of recent development, and the City Hospital was fortunate in being able to receive visits from him for advice and operations on tuberculous patients. Mr. O'Shaughnessy was killed while serving bravely with the Forces across the Channel, and his loss will be felt in many parts of this country, for his reputation was of the highest character. His work so far as Nottingham is concerned, will be continued by Mr. G. A. Mason, the Newcastle surgeon who has also specialised in this particular class of operative surgery.

Summary of Tuberculosis Statistics.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATE (NOTTINGHAM).

Ten years' average 1929-38—

Respiratory only	0·86
All forms	1·02

For 1939—

Respiratory only	0·75
All forms	0·87

NEW CASES (including primary notifications, cases not notified during life but first intimated by death returns, and transfers from other areas) :—

Pulmonary :	Males 156	Females 119
Non-pulmonary :	„ 16	„ 21

DEATHS.

Pulmonary :	Males 141	Females 66
Non-pulmonary :	„ 13	„ 20

No. of persons on clinic register on 31st December 1939 = 1,191

No. of X-ray examinations in connection with clinic work = 2,486

Patients admitted to Institutions.

City Isolation Hospital :

Males ..	108
Females ..	98
	<hr/>
	206
	<hr/>

City Hospital :

Males ..	117	} Pulmonary.
Females ..	50	
Children ..	6	
	<hr/>	
	173	
	<hr/>	

Males ..	6	} Non-pulmonary.
Females ..	12	
Children ..	10	
	<hr/>	
	28	
	<hr/>	

Cases admitted to outside sanatoria :—

Males	..	8	} Pulmonary.
Females	..	13	
Children	..	7	
		<hr/>	
		28	
		<hr/>	
Males	..	2	} Non-pulmonary.
Females	..	1	
Children	..	12	
		<hr/>	
		15	
		<hr/>	

Care of the Blind.

The total number of blind persons on the register on 31st December 1939 was 517, five less than in 1938 and ten less than in 1937.

The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind continues to carry out blind welfare duties on behalf of the Corporation in a highly satisfactory manner. The only changes to record during 1939 were in respect of the money grants made to various classes of blind persons which, in recent years, have been the subject of almost constant revisions.

Ultra-Violet Ray Clinic.

The year was a normal one.

Birth Control.

106 women were referred from various Health Department clinics for medical reasons to a privately-managed organisation, at 15 Market Street. Of these 63 took advantage of the scheme, at the cost of the Corporation.

Cremation.

The Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy must examine all documents and certify their satisfaction

therewith before cremation at Wilford Hill is allowable. They were called upon to do this 290 times in 1939. Cremations are gradually increasing in number year by year. Since the opening in 1931 there have been 1,481 cremations.

Venereal Diseases.

The clinic in Postern Street is open every weekday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There was a remarkable reduction in the number of attendances, as shown below :—

		1938.	1939.
<i>No. of patients</i> —	Males	1,482	1,212
	Females	475	456
<i>No. of attendances</i> —	Males	35,033	24,562
	Females	17,313	13,611

Dr. Aubrey V. Taylor, the Director of the Clinic, attributes this fall to three factors :—

- (a) The valuable work done in the past in curing both gonorrhœa and syphilis, as a result of which there is less infection spread.
- (b) The use of a new drug for gonorrhœa which cures without requiring so many attendances at the clinic. This fall in numbers is experienced throughout the country.
- (c) The unsatisfactory nature of the present temporary clinic premises in Postern Street and the unsuitability of the position.

New premises have been planned and a site purchased in Glasshouse Street, but owing to the war the Ministry of Health has had to withdraw permission to go on with

this much-needed building. War-time circumstances will probably increase the urgency of the need for the new premises.

City Bacteriological Laboratory.

There are no circumstances calling for special mention in the work of the laboratory during 1939.

OFFICE ORGANISATION.

The clerical work and the business side of the department experienced the difficulties common to all organisations and businesses as a result of the war, but under Mr. Herbert Read it carried on smoothly. Girl-clerks are gradually replacing young men.

The total staff employed by the Health Committee in its various offices, clinics, hospitals and other services, totalled 863 at the year-end of 1939, and, although the management of the hospitals is decentralised as far as possible, it will be realised that the general administrative work of the department is of considerable magnitude.

A remarkable feature is the large number of different subjects which have to be dealt with daily; this is not noticeable in a brief report such as the present one, and even in a normal Annual Report may not attract attention, and only those familiar with the duties can appreciate how varied they are.

In war-time the difficulties are vastly increased, especially in view of the number of Government circulars which are received and translated into action.

A new piece of organisation ordered on the outbreak of war by the Ministry of Health, is the Casualty Bureau,

which collects daily bed statistics of all the Emergency Hospitals in Nottingham and Notts., and supplies the figures to the people who need to know them.

The Bureau also has other functions in regard to Service sick and casualties.

(It must not be confused with the Casualty Information Office, 15 Park Row, which exists to collect and distribute information about air-raid victims).

The expenses of the Casualty Bureau are refunded by the Ministry of Health.

CYRIL BANKS,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HUNTINGDON STREET,
NOTTINGHAM.

November, 1940.

