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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

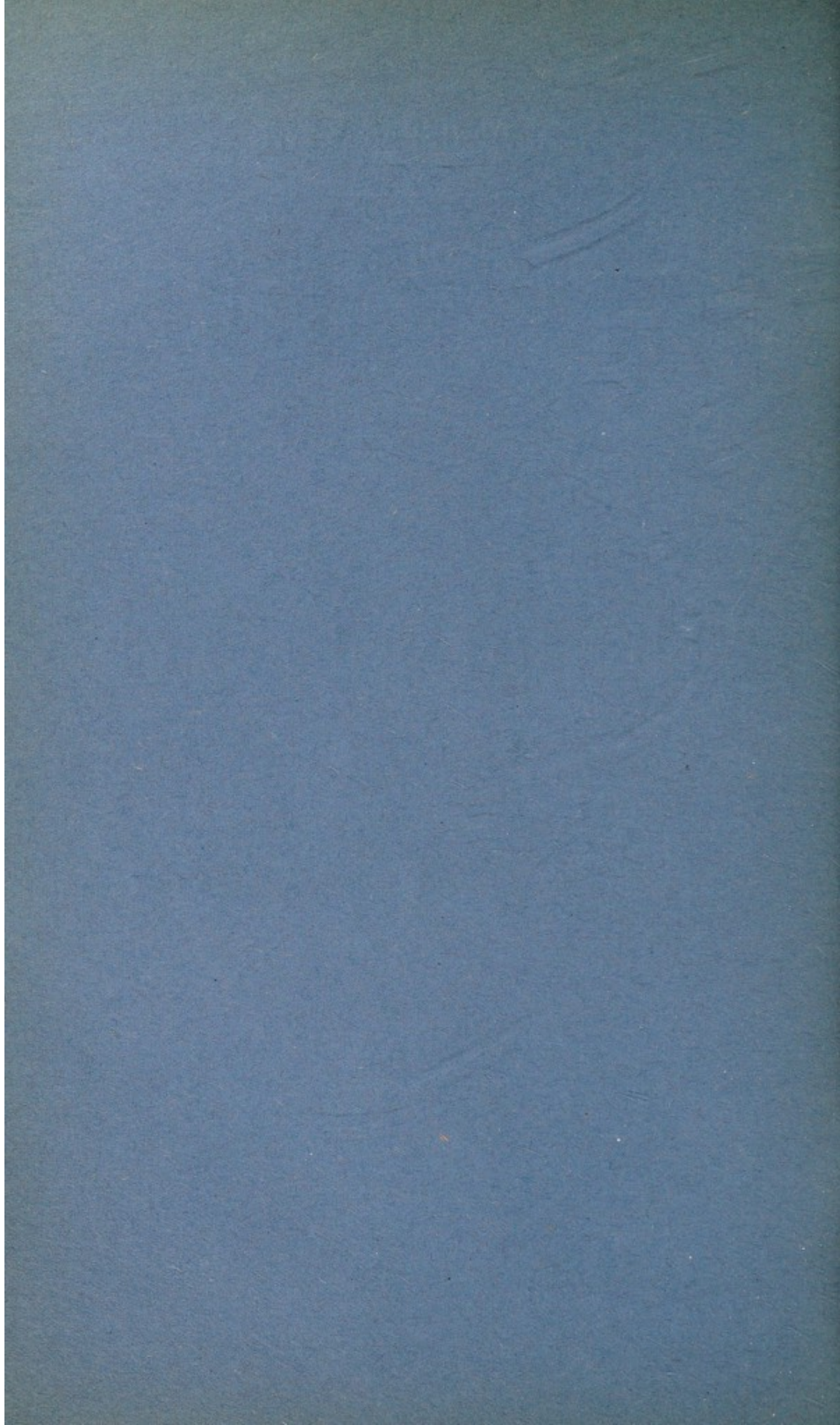
AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1942

J. V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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Printers:

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

J. V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Dental Officer:

R. O. BARBER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

E. YOUNG, Assoc. R.S.I., F.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

T. L. MARTIN, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.I.

F. BROWN, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.A. of Scotland.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss G. D. CLARK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss W. E. CARPENTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss B. WILSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Certificate, R.S.I.

Clerks:

A. W. BAILEY.

Mrs. E. F. CARTHEW (appointed 18th May, 1942).

Miss S. P. SMITH (appointed 2nd February, 1942).

Miss M. DRAYSON (appointed 28th September, 1942).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1942-1943.

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Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. F. L. DUNN, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman A. B. C. KEMPE, J.P.)

Alderman W. HAWKINS

" A. E. PETLEY

Councillor the Rev. HARCOURT

SAMUEL

Councillor S. E. AUSTIN

" Dr. D. P. CRAWFORD

" Dr. A. DUFFY

" JAS. MARTIN

" Mrs. H. L. NICHOLSON

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE.

1942-1943.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. F. L. DUNN, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman A. B. C. KEMPE, J.P.)

Alderman W. HAWKINS

" A. E. PETLEY

Councillor JAS. MARTIN

" Mrs. H. L. NICHOLSON

" T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C.

Mrs. ALLEN

Mrs. WILCOX

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

1942-1943.

Chairman: Alderman W. T. SMITH.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Rev. HARCOURT SAMUEL.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor F. F. MILLER
(Alderman A. B. C. KEMPE, J.P.)	„ P. TURNER
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„ C. R. WOODHAMS	Mrs. H. FARMER
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„ Mrs. F. L. DUNN, J.P.	Rev. J. H. ROUNDHILL
„ Rev. C. R. FARNSWORTH	Rev. B. WINSLOW, O.S.B.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Ramsgate.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Ramsgate. The instructions of the Ministry of Health still demand a rigid curtailment of the report and owing to the continued pressure of war conditions, though fortunately more remote from our immediate consciousness in 1942 than in the two previous years, the borough remained relatively depopulated and with its normal peace-time life suspended.

In spite of these facts the year has been from the point of view of the Public Health Department a successful one, and even a limited return to less critical conditions gave an opportunity for further development in all directions.

It will probably be more satisfactory this year to review progress made under the various headings than to comment upon it in a preliminary essay. By way of introduction it may be said that the health of the borough remained good and although there was an epidemic of both measles and whooping-cough among the children, they were neither of them present in a severe form. Infant mortality remained comparatively low, though higher than last year. The death rate, again uncorrected, as no comparability factor has been supplied by the Registrar-General, is lower than last year, as also is the birth rate.

Staff problems still remained, though during the year the clerical personnel employed by the department actually increased, an index of the expanding work without loss of additional war-time commitments.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and also to the Chairman and members of the Civil Defence Committee for their unfailing interest and support, and my thanks are also due to all members of my staff for their keen and loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	..	..	..	..	..	4,778
Population, Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	33,603
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£249,719
Estimated product of 1d. rate, 42/43	..	..	..	..	..	£430
Total Sunshine in hours, 1942	..	..	..	..	..	1614.4
Total Rainfall in inches, 1942	..	..	..	..	..	25.09
Highest mean temperature	..	..	..	..	79.0° on 5th July	
Lowest mean temperature	..	..	25.5° on 22nd and 23rd January			

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—

							Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	245	119	126
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	219	105	114
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	26	14	12

Illegitimate percentage of total births, 10.6.

Still Births—

							Male	Female
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	—
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total births, 16.1.

Deaths—

							Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	249	120	129

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	} Rate per thousand total (Live and Still) Births.
Other Puerperal causes	4.0	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	44.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	45.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	38.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	33
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping-Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

MORTALITY TABLE.

Classified under the Headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes of Death.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	10	4	14
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	2	3
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	2	2	4
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	1	6	7
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	4	1	5
15. Cancer of breast	—	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	9	18
17. Diabetes	2	1	3
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	9	19	28
19. Heart disease	40	34	74
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	1	2	3
21. Bronchitis	10	4	14
22. Pneumonia	4	2	6
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	1	—	1
27. Other digestive diseases	1	4	5
28. Nephritis	6	4	10
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ..	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1
31. Premature birth	1	2	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	—	2	2
33. Suicide	—	2	2
34. Road traffic accidents	—	1	1
35. Other violent causes	5	5	10
36. All other causes	12	16	28
All causes	120	127	247

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one case of Maternal Mortality in 1942, not due to puerperal sepsis. There were two notifications of puerperal pyrexia.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The following table shows the causes of the eleven deaths under one year.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total
Prematurity	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Malformation	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis .. .. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Bronchitis .. .. .	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Accidental Death .. .. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Total	4	1	...	...	5	2	3	1	...	11

OLD AGE.

It is interesting to note that the reputation of Ramsgate for longevity remains unimpaired in spite of war-time conditions. The percentage of persons living to a ripe age is even better than last year, as the following table shows.

	All Deaths	Deaths over 65 years	Percentage of all Deaths	Deaths over 75 years	Percentage of all Deaths
Men ...	120	80	66.7	45	37.5
Women ...	129	81	62.8	52	40.3
Total ...	249	161	64.7	97	39.0

STAFF.

A complete list of the staff is given at the beginning of this report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No attempt was made to reconstitute the Corporation Laboratory and all specimens submitted for examination were sent during 1942 to the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone. During the year 35 samples of graded and ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to the county laboratory and 25 were reported upon as being satisfactory. Two samples of milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli and all reported to be negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Two Ambulances belonging to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade were available for ordinary civilian needs other than Air Raid Casualties. In addition to them, for these last, another Ambulance, supplied by the British Red Cross and St. John's Society primarily for service casualties, may be used.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

In the Annual Report for 1941 there was a detailed analysis showing the development of the Home Nursing Services during the year. In the year under review it further extended its scope and became universally recognised as a wholly satisfactory and efficient nursing service for the sick.

Health Visitor Miss B. Wilson and State Registered Nurse Miss F. E. Yeadon continued to be in charge of the organisation, under the superior direction of the Medical Officer of Health. With the shifting of all First Aid Post personnel to the Health Centre, it was possible to extend service as District Nurses to the auxiliaries allocated to the fixed post.

When during the course of the year the Mobile Unit ceased to be the direct responsibility of the Local Authority and became stationed at and staffed from the Ramsgate General Hospital, the status of Miss Yeadon was preserved by appointing her as nurse-in-charge to the Medical Aid Posts in the Deep Tunnel Shelters. She was able to combine this duty, which fortunately entailed very light responsibilities, with a most active and diligent attention to the District Nursing Service. As a result of their service under the supervision of two keen and capable trained nurses, the auxiliaries soon became proficient in all aspects of the work, but the primary responsibility remained always with the trained nurses.

Throughout 1942 it was hoped that the organisation so set up might form the nucleus after the war of a Municipal District Nursing Service, an idea which, though as yet no legal sanction exists for it, seems to contain great potentialities. The weakness of the scheme as so organised remained financial. During 1942 £86 5s. 6d. was collected, while the total expenses incurred was £3 4s. 9d. Such expenses and receipts are not, of course, those of a self-contained and self-supporting organisation.

The following is an analysis of the work carried out.

						Patients.	Visits.
Acute Infectious Diseases.							
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	16
Acute Rheumatism ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	20
Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10

Diseases of the Alimentary Tract.

	Patients.	Visits.
Cancer of Colon	1	1
Cancer of Liver	1	7
Cancer of Rectum	2	57
Colonic Fistula	2	23
Diarrhoea	1	2
Dyschezia	13	225
Food Poisoning	1	4
Hæmatemesis	2	3
Post-operative Appendisectomy	1	3
Threadworms	11	130

Diseases of the Blood Forming Organs.

Hodgkin's Disease	1	51
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Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels.

Ascites	2	71
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	16	515
Heart Block	1	32
Mitral Stenosis	1	3

Diseases of the Respiratory System.

Bronchitis	2	20
Pleurisy	1	6
Pneumonia	10	181
Pulmonary Embolism	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	52

Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System.

Cancer of Uterus	2	17
Hysterectomy	1	38
Miscarriage	4	45
Prolapse of the Uterus	1	4
Supra-pubic Prostatectomy	4	378

Endocrine Diseases and Deficiencies—Deficiency Disease.

Diabetes	5	493
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Diseases of the Bones, Joints and Muscles.

Arthritis	5	371
Fractured Femur	1	263
Unspecified	3	36

Diseases of the Skin and Related Organs.

Cancer of the Breast	3	226
Dermatitis	1	1
Furunculosis	1	19
Mammary Abscess	1	16

Senility	16	476
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Other Conditions.

General Debility	16	388
Various dressings	8	71

Total number of visits made during 1942	4,276
Total number of patients visited during 1942	152
Average daily number of visits made	11.7
Average number of visits per patient	28

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Where these have affected school children they are referred to in the report on the School Medical Services, page 20.

Mothers' and Children's Clinics continued to meet throughout the year on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, the Monday session being for mothers and the other two being for infants and toddlers. At the beginning of the year they continued to meet at Curtis House, Princes Street, but from the 1st March they were transferred to the Health Centre, in every way more convenient premises and having the advantage of additional staff through the willing co-operation of Civil Defence (First Aid Post) personnel. This was part of a policy, reflected also in the School Medical Services, to make the Health Centre as far as possible fulfil its original intention. It will be remembered that the building was to have been opened on 1st October, 1939, or as soon after that date as possible. The outbreak of war led to its adoption as a First Aid Post, with certain alterations and adaptations of its original plan to meet the new requirements. The extensions of the functions of the Health Centre in 1942 to include those for which it was originally designed was achieved without prejudice to its use as a First Aid Post and was a step satisfactory from every point of view except, perhaps, in respect of the Friday afternoon clinic. Although geographically very nearly in the centre of the town, the Health Centre is not conveniently placed to enable mothers to combine a shopping expedition with a visit to a clinic, and this led to a certain decline in the number of patrons on Friday afternoons.

The clinic for immunisation against Diphtheria continued to meet at the Health Centre at fortnightly intervals on Thursday afternoons. No applications were received for immunisation against organisms of the typhoid group during the year. One patient received, through the co-operation of the County Medical Officer, a dose of measles prophylactic serum.

Treatment of Scabies.

Following the Scabies Order, 1941, and the several communications from the Ministry of Health both at Whitehall and at Region referring to the treatment of scabetic infestation, means were taken to procure treatment as widely as possible for those in the town suffering from this troublesome complaint. Hitherto the routine had been treatment by a hot bath and the application of sulphur ointment at the town disinfecting station, followed by another hot bath four days later. After the receipt of the letter of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, dated 30th April, 1942, benzyl benzoate was substituted for sulphur ointment and all the doctors in the town were informed of this method of treatment, together with a notification of the availability of such treatment at the Health Department. The disinfecting staff were instructed in the method of application of benzyl benzoate and treated adult male patients. In the case of women and children, one of the Health Visitors carried out this part of the treatment. Use was made of the showers at the Health Centre First Aid Post as a substitute for baths at the disinfecting station, but they were found to be much less satisfactory. A few cases of women and young children were treated at the Health Centre by Civil Defence personnel, instructed first by one of the Health Visitors, and in their case no preliminary bath was received. The results, further confirmed by experience in 1943, were comparable with those obtained at the Disinfecting Station. Few relapses after benzyl benzoate have been brought to my notice.

Cases of Scabies treated at the Disinfecting Station (unclassified according to age): 57 males, 56 females.

Cases of Scabies treated at the Health Centre: Five children under fourteen years, six adult women.

No particular source of infestation in the town was ever definitely determined. A certain number of cases were found among laundry workers and the willing co-operation of the three laundries in the town was obtained to combat the spread of the disorder among their personnel.

HOSPITALS.

The Isolation Hospital of the Herne Bay and Whitstable Joint Board has continued to be the ordinary accommodation for the patients suffering from infectious diseases needing removal to hospital. A few cases were admitted to the City of Canterbury Isolation Hospital.

The Ramsgate General Hospital has continued to meet the civilian needs of the town. Of the 110 beds available, 75 were fully staffed and 60% of these were allowed by the Ministry of Health to be occupied at one time.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—During the year 149 births were notified. Of these 147 were live births and 2 still-births. Doctors notified 7 and midwives 133, and 9 were notified by Doctors and midwives. No births were not notified.

Institutional Provision for Expectant Mothers.—Although the Maternity Ward of the Ramsgate General Hospital was not officially open during the year, the facilities of the hospital were in fact available for complicated Maternity cases, six of whom were admitted there. Another Maternity case was admitted to the Margate and District General Hospital. Under the Ministry of Health Emergency Maternity Scheme, whose operation in 1942 was the same as described in earlier reports, 106 expectant mothers were evacuated.

Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality.

There were two cases of puerperal pyrexia, both notified from the Ramsgate General Hospital. There was one maternal death, also admitted to hospital as the result of an accident of parturition.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres.

The number of children and attendances during 1942 were as follows:—

Total number of children who first attended during the year
and who on the date of their first attendance were

Under one year of age	168
1-5 years of age	15

Total number of children who attended and who at the end
of the year were

Under one year of age	156
1-5 years of age	314

Total number of attendances by children

Under one year of age	2,400
1-5 years of age	1,108

Mothers' Clinic.

Number of individual expectant mothers who attended ..	177
Number of individual mothers who attended for post-natal advice	4

It is difficult to give precise percentages in present circumstances of the total number of expectant mothers and children born in the town who attended the clinic during the year. It was approximately 70% in both cases.

Supply of Milk.

The Welfare Authority has continued to supply proprietary brands of dried milk to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children at the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health. For the most part mothers have availed themselves of the provision made by the Ministry of Food through the local Food Office, and have often preferred, where dried milk has been indicated, the National dried milk to proprietary articles.

Cow and Gate (Full Cream) ..	2,121 packets sold
Cow and Gate (Half Cream) ..	407 " "
Ostermilk (No. 1)	196 tins "
Ostermilk (No. 2)	858 " "
Trufood (Humanised)	81 " "
Trufood (Follow-on)	124 " "

Supply of Vitamin containing products and other accessories.

The transfer of the clinics to the Health Centre simplified the distribution of these various products, expectant and other mothers being able to collect their ration on their visit to the appropriate clinic.

Cod Liver Oil	419 bottles supplied
Orange Juice	906 " "
Black Currant Juice	87 " "
Black Currant Jelly	223 " "

In addition to these supplies by the Ministry of Food, the Council has continued to make the proprietary products and Virol available on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

Virol	280 lbs.
Parishes Food	61 bottles

Further articles supplied to expectant mothers on medical recommendation are Bland's Pills (pil. Ferri) and Calcium Lactate Tablets (grs. 5). Five Maternity Outfits were supplied during the year.

Work of Health Visitors.

The following summary shows briefly the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of infants under one year visited for the first time	247
Number of infants under one year visited	410
Total visits to infants under one year	1,689
Number of children 1-5 years visited	892
Total visits to children 1-5 years	3,182
Number of expectant mothers visited	175
Total visits to expectant mothers	333
Total visits to homes in connection with cases of infectious diseases	97

Infant Life Protection.

The numbers on the registers were:—

			Foster-Mothers.	Children.
On 1st January, 1942	4	4		
On 31st December, 1942	4	4		

Nursing Homes.

The two nursing homes whose names continued on the register received no patients during the year. The proprietor of one of them was advised not to reopen in the present circumstances.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

No changes were made in 1942 of the circumstances described in earlier reports.

THE DEEP TUNNEL SHELTERS.

A comment is made by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, page 19, on the continued application for bunks and the use made by a section of the population during the year of the Deep Tunnel Shelters. As remarked in my last annual report, the more pressing aspects of the problem had been solved by the end of 1941. During 1942 the number of persons making a habitual use of the deep tunnel shelters declined, though any temporary return of enemy air activity soon brought many back to sleep there. Certain persons continued to sleep in the tunnels irrespective of enemy action, but daytime use was restricted to a portion around each entrance and then only during an actual alert.

The Medical Aid Post at one entrance continued to be staffed throughout the year and a steady trickle of minor ailments, for the most part quite unrelated to war conditions, were treated there. The nursing auxiliaries allocated to the post also proved their usefulness in the detection, in co-operation with the shelter wardens, of cases of infectious diseases. Owing to the position of the medical aid post so far towards the north-east end of the tunnel system, the Ministry of Health approved the establishment of a second medical aid post in a more central position. Work towards its completion was in hand by the end of the year and equipment for such a projected post had been received in 1941 from the Ministry of Health. I was not of the opinion that there was any great hurry to see this additional post established.

Another problem solved during the year arose from the epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough prevalent during the early summer. The means adopted to meet the situation was to clear a number of cubicles at the north-east end of the disused Railway Tunnel and to segregate patients there in what was in effect a cubicle isolation block. It was not possible, of course, to separate patients from the other members of their families, but family effects were moved by the Wardens from the cubicles ordinarily occupied and remained in the isolation cubicle until all members of the family were clear of infection. A similar method was adopted in another part of the tunnel to segregate patients known to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. These made use of cubicles, when requested, for permanent occupation at night, away from other users of the shelter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The trend towards more normal conditions in the borough and the return of evacuees, particularly children, and their assembling together at school, may have accounted for the epidemics of measles and whooping-cough from which the child population of the town, and particularly of the East Cliff area, suffered during the late spring and early summer. Fortunately the cases were mild and no deaths of serious complications were recorded.

The total number of cases of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) was 294 for 1942, as compared with 68 for 1941 and 107 for 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	AGE INCIDENCE.												
				Over												
				0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65	
Scarlet Fever ..	7	6	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	130	1	—	10	12	13	20	18	51	2	2	—	2	—	—	
Diphtheria ..	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Measles ..	128	—	—	2	5	15	6	23	73	—	3	1	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ..	18	3	6	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	2	2	5	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Total ..	294	18	6	14	18	29	28	42	127	4	11	6	8	2	5	

In order to illustrate the comparison between conditions in Ramsgate and those elsewhere in respect of certain common infectious diseases, the following table has been compiled from local statistics and from figures provided by the Registrar-General.

COMPARABILITY OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1942

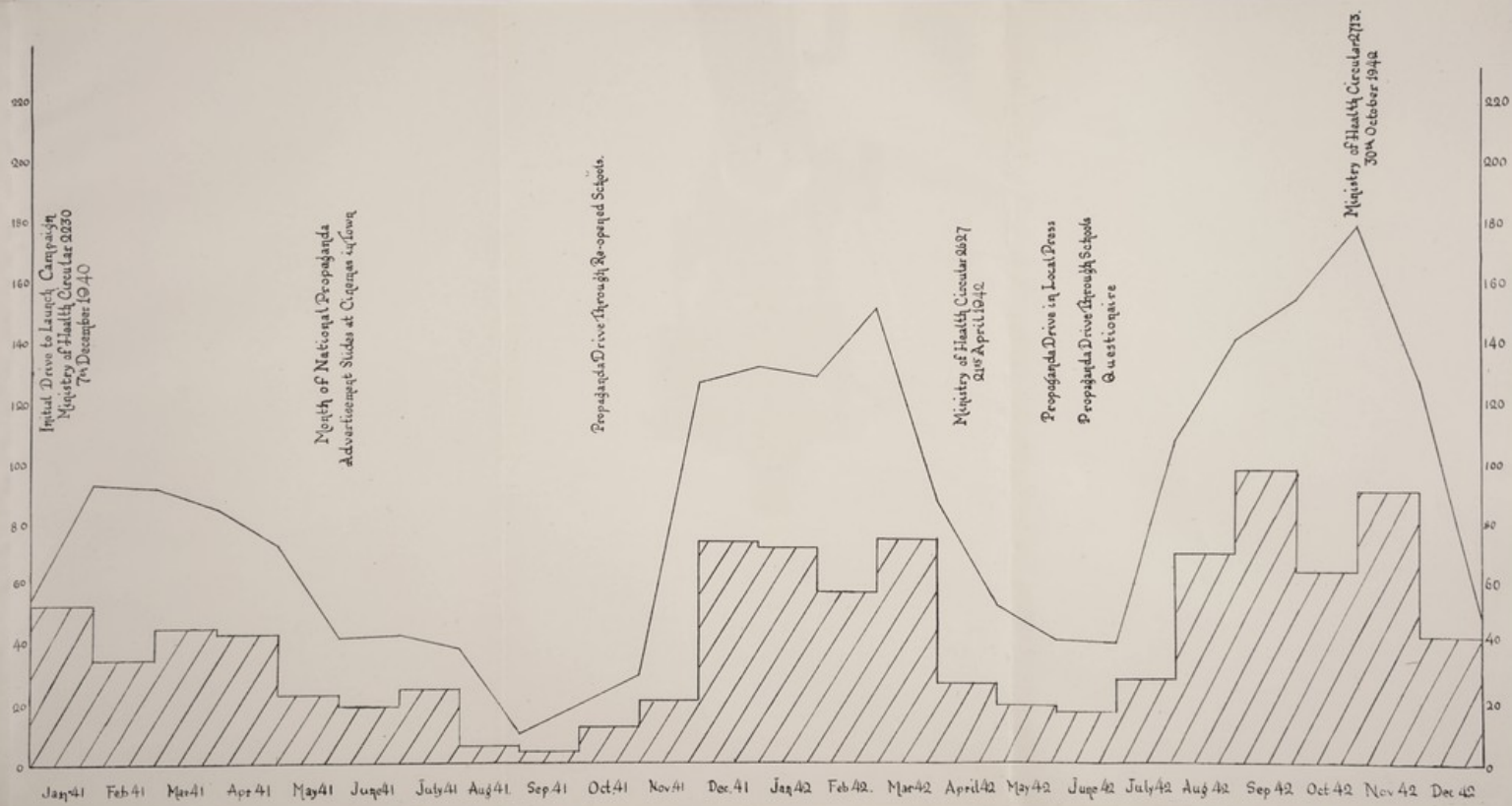
	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000), at 1931 Census.	London Administrative County.	RAMSGATE.
	Notifications: Rates per 1,000 Population (Civilians)				
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.07
Scarlet Fever ...	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86	0.46
Whooping Cough ...	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72	8.61
Diphtheria ...	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	0.26
Erysipelas ...	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	0.20
Measles ...	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	8.48
Pneumonia ...	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	1.19

Diphtheria.

Four cases of this disease were notified during the year. None of them had been previously immunised and three of them occurred in adolescents over school age.

The campaign for active immunisation against diphtheria was continued with vigour throughout the year, when 242 children under 5 years and 414 children age 5 years and over but under 15 years were immunised.

On December 31st, 1942, it was estimated that 29.7% of children under 5 years in the borough and 61.6% of children between 5 and 15 had been immunised. These figures, which are not satisfactory, included those children who had returned from evacuation, having been immunised while away. The accompanying graph indicates the fluctuations in response to propaganda in favour of immunisation, as shown by the numbers of children completing their course each month (the lower line), and the total number receiving injections (the upper line). This graph reflects the progress of immunisation from its beginning in December, 1940, and illustrates the response, up to the end of 1942, to the various campaigns organised either by the Ministry of Health direct or by the Local Authority in response to the suggestions of the Ministry. The reopening of the schools in 1941 gave a considerable scope for effective propaganda and the most satisfactory campaign so far was organised in 1942 by the endeavour to create a public opinion among the school children in favour of immunisation. A questionnaire was given to each child to take home whereon was to be filled in his own name and the names of all his brothers and sisters under 15 years old, with a note as to whether two, one or no immunisation injections had been given and where they had been given, whether in Ramsgate or away. The parent was asked to sign the questionnaire as correct and also to sign a consent form if no immunisation had been carried out. There was a short propaganda talk on the form, including a reminder that one injection was insufficient. (It has been noted incidentally that more parents are prepared to accept one injection than are willing to bring their children a second time, and if a reliable "one-shot" method could be devised it would certainly lead to more satisfactory statistics.) The replies to the questionnaires were, from the point of view of completeness, very satisfactory, and gave a most valuable picture of the state of immunisation among children in the town. A large number of consents were received on behalf of pre-school as well as school children. I should like to pay tribute to the splendid co-operation of the Head Teachers of the schools in making this investigation a success.





The Health Department did not find it necessary during the year to invite the co-operation of private practitioners for immunisation. A certain number of patients were immunised privately, but their number was small. The antigen A.P.T. continued to be used.

Diseases of the Enteric Group.

There was one case of paratyphoid fever in the town during the year. She was a girl of school age and was admitted to Canterbury Isolation Hospital. No source of the infection was traced.

Encephalitis Lethargia.

One case of encephalitis lethargia was notified during the year and admitted to hospital. No source of the infection was discovered.

Vaccination.

The vaccination officers for the district have kindly supplied me with the following particulars:—

Total births registered locally	144
Children successfully vaccinated	46
Children insusceptible to vaccination	—
Number of certificates from conscientious objectors	79
Died unvaccinated	4
Postponed for medical certificate	—
Removed from district	15

Tuberculosis.

Thirty-eight cases of tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year, as compared with thirty-two in 1941 and thirty-three in 1940.

Of these, thirty-one were of pulmonary disease. Seventeen deaths were certified as due to Tuberculosis, fourteen of them of pulmonary disease.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1-5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20-25	4	5	1	—	1	1	—	—
25-35	4	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
35-45	5	—	—	—	3	—	1	1
45-55	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Over 65	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	22	9	2	5	10	4	1	2

Number of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths, 1.

Percentage of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths, 5.9.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR YEAR 1942.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report detailing the work supervised and carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Attention is drawn to the report on Meat Inspection, which may be of particular interest in view of the fact that the meat supply is centralised at Ramsgate before distribution to other towns in the Isle of Thanet, and your Sanitary Inspectors have the onerous duty of examination of same as to fitness for human consumption. I am very pleased to inform the Council that very cordial relations exist between Broadstairs and Ramsgate Sanitary Officers, and I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. F. S. Burrow for his excellent assistance in connection with the training of the Food Treatment Squad and Decontamination of Porous and Protective Clothing personnel.

I desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their help and advice and to acknowledge the loyal co-operation and efficient work of Messrs. T. L. Martin and F. Brown.

Yours faithfully,

E. YOUNG,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Complaints.

Number of complaints received and dealt with	422
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Inspections.

Under Public Health Acts and other Acts, Regulations and Orders	3,481
Of houses, number inspected under Housing Act	13
Inspections of drainage systems and subsequent visits ..	284
Drains tested	40
In connection with Infectious Diseases	28
Animals, keeping of	33
Cowsheds	35
Fish-fryers	25
Food shops	726
Marine stores, etc.	14
Milkshops and dairies	69
Premises licensed for music and dancing	6
Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles	5
Premises with reference to rat infestation	279
Repairs and subsequent revisits	198
Restaurants	37
A.R.P. Tunnels	14
Slaughter-houses	655
Tuberculosis cases	43
Verminous rooms	32
Shops Act	164
Decontamination of Food Scheme	43
Decontamination of Clothing Scheme	93
Miscellaneous	223

Notices Served, etc.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	55
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	79

Work done in connection with Drainage and Housing.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out during the year:—

Houses at which drains were repaired	26
Choked drains cleared	24
Intercepting traps fixed	3
Gully traps fixed	7
Inspection chambers built, new covers provided and rendered	6
Fresh air inlet valves fixed	1
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	7
W.C. pans fixed	56
Additional W.C.'s built	1
New flushing cisterns provided	6
Flushing cisterns repaired	10
Sink wastepipes renewed or trapped	6
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	10
Roofs repaired	16
Stoves repaired or renewed	4
Water supply pipes renewed	6
Rooms fumigated and cleansed for vermin	11
Houses renovated	3
Sash cords renewed	11
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	9
Window frames repaired	2
Damp walls cement rendered	2
W.C.'s rebuilt	1
Yard paving renewed	2
Chimney stacks repaired	1
Windows made to open	1
Miscellaneous	21

Inspection of Controlled Premises.

The following table shows the number of premises, etc., and inspections made to such premises during the year:—

	Number.	Inspections made.
Slaughters-houses	6	655
Fish Fryers	17	25
Marine Store Dealers	4	14
Fat Melters and Bone Boilers	1	2

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the borough at the end of the year was 40, although all were not in use. Fifty-six inspections were made and the few defects discovered were remedied upon the occupiers' attention being called.

Shops Acts, 1934.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 164 visits regarding the requirements of Section 10 as to the arrangements for ventilation, temperature and sanitary and washing facilities, etc.

The following is a summary of work carried out to shop premises:—

Blocked drains cleared	3
Water supply pipes renewed	1
Drains repaired	2
Miscellaneous	2

Disinfestation of Premises.

Number found to be infested:

Council houses	11
Others	3

Number of premises disinfested:

Council houses	11
Others	3

Disinfestation of premises other than Council houses is carried out by local builders under supervision of this department.

Disinfestation of Persons and Clothing.

There are two baths at the Disinfecting and Cleansing Station, Broad Street, used for the cleansing of verminous persons. Considerable use of the baths was made by persons suffering from scabies who, on account of residing in houses not possessing baths, were unable to carry out the treatment recommended by their doctor. As each person passes through the bathroom the clothing and bedding, etc., is fumigated in the disinfecting plant adjoining.

Disinfection.

Fifty rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious diseases or on the request of tenants.

Six hundred and ninety sets of bedding, clothing, etc., were disinfected.

Housing.

There is as yet no shortage of housing accommodation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**Milk and Dairies Order, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year and the number of inspections during the year is shown in the following table:—

	Number.	Number of Inspections.
Cowsheds	6	35
Dairies	23	59
Other shops	144	10

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Licences issued by the Kent County Council:

To produce Accredited Milk	5
------------------------------------	---

Licences issued by the Borough Council:

To distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk bottled outside the Borough	1
To Pasteurise Milk	4
To distribute Pasteurised Milk not bottled on the premises ..	1

Milk Samples taken during 1942 for cleanliness.

As in previous years, samples of milk were taken at the request of the County Council from Accredited producers at the time of milking. Twenty-nine samples were so obtained and the results show:

20 to be satisfactory;

9 not to be satisfactory.

The number of unsatisfactory samples show an increase over the past year and this may be put down to the black-out (there is a tendency among cowmen not to take down the black-out arrangements during the day-time milking) and to the urge to grow more food which produces a desire to hurry through the cleansing of the animals prior to milking, because of the many other jobs waiting to be done. Advice offered on how to overcome the unsatisfactory samples is readily accepted as the repeated production of unsatisfactory samples would mean stoppage of the bonus paid to Accredited producers.

Six samples were obtained from retailers and five of them satisfied tests for cleanliness. The remaining sample, which did not satisfy the test, was submitted for examination in December, 1942, was being followed up at the end of the year.

Results of Biological Tests for Tuberculosis.

Two samples of bulked milk from producers in the Borough were submitted for examination and were found to be free from Tuberculosis.

Other Licences granted under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Number of premises registered for

(a) Sale of ice-cream	67
(b) Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	10
(c) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, pressed pickled or preserved food	13
(d) Fish curing and smoking	2
(e) Ham cooking	7
(f) Manufacture of sausages	15
(g) Fish frying	17

Ice-Cream.

The Ministry of Food prohibited the use of milk in the manufacture of ice-cream for sale and as a consequence no ice-cream was made in the Borough in 1942.

Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughtering of animals for food is under Government control and the whole of the home-killed meat for the Isle of Thanet passes through two Ramsgate slaughter-houses. This centralisation of slaughtering, coupled with the Ministry of Food's desire to crowd the slaughtering into a few days of the week, as opposed to spreading killing over the week, has overloaded the slaughter-houses. It has also meant paying visits late at night in addition to making inspection more difficult by reason of close packing of the carcasses and offal.

As a point of interest it is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Food recently introduced schemes for the salvaging of blood from the slaughter-houses. Hitherto, this valuable commodity has been allowed to run to waste and the scheme is being extended to cover the ductless glands, etc., which will be manufactured into pharmaceutical substances. In pre-war days these products have been obtained from abroad and the Ministry of Food has high hopes of this new venture.

The diseased meat is treated with an approved green dye and sent to the recognised salvage firm for the area.

As in the past, the name and address of the owner of each cow and calf found to be affected with generalised tuberculosis after slaughter was ascertained from the Chairman of the Livestock Control Committee and sent to the County Medical Officer of Health so that enquiries may be made at the farm by the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Surgeon. It is interesting to note the result of the enquiries which were made into the cases of generalised tuberculosis notified to the County Medical Officer of Health during 1942:—

No. of cows and calves reported upon	21
No. of farms from which the infected animals came, upon which the County Medical Officer of Health reports that milk is not produced for sale	7
No. of farms from which a sample of bulked milk showed the milk to be tubercular negative	11
No. of farms from which a sample of bulked milk showed the milk to be tubercular positive. (Subsequent examination revealed a cow with a tubercular udder.)	1

The dam of a calf notified to the County Medical Officer of Health was discovered to have a tubercular udder and was slaughtered.

In the remaining case of a calf the vendor purchased the calf in the market for rearing, so it was not possible to follow up the case.

A considerable amount of time was spent in inspecting other foodstuffs, principally canned goods, and 3 tons 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 19 lbs. were surrendered as unfit.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food relating to disposal of unsound food above minimum weights laid down, several consignments of food, mainly cheese, were returned for re-processing.

This procedure is unique from the usual method of dealing with unsound food and may be necessary under present conditions, but in my opinion is not a method to look on with favour in normal times.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 82 samples (58 formal and 24 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample.	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	40	—	39	1
Milk Powders	—	4	4	—
Milk Condensed	—	1	1	—
Cornflour	2	—	2	—
Cordials	1	2	3	—
Cod Liver Oil	—	3	3	—
Coffee Essence	1	—	1	—
Barlova	1	—	1	—
Vinegar	2	—	2	—
Tea Matte	1	—	1	—
Saccharine	2	—	2	—
Medicines	—	4	4	—
Black Currant Puree ..	—	1	1	—
Paste Meat and Fish ..	—	4	4	—
Sausage, Breakfast ..	1	—	1	—
Meat Pies	2	—	2	—
Sauce (Fruit)	—	1	1	—
Soup (Canned)	—	1	1	—
Porridge (Wheatmeal) ..	1	—	1	—
Oatmeal	—	1	1	—
Egg Powder	1	—	—	1
Pudding Mixture	1	—	1	—
Nutmeg	1	—	1	—
Mints Extra Strong ..	1	—	—	1
Anti-Gas Ointment, No. 2	—	2	2	—

The Public Analyst's reports on the samples of milk show the average to be above the recognised minimum standard.

The average figure being: Fat, 3.76; non-fatty solids, 8.80; total solids, 12.56.

Particulars of the samples reported to be not genuine and action taken in regard to each sample:—

Sample No.	Article.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
499	Egg Powder "Eggette"	Consisted mainly of wheat flour colour and flavour	Vendor cautioned. Stocks withdrawn from sale.
18	Mints extra strong	Only about 1/10 of the oil of peppermint usually found	Vendor cautioned
37	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 8%	Proceedings. Owing to incorrect service of summons by the Metropolitan Police the Local Authority was ordered to pay £25 costs.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

The following 66 samples were taken under the provision of the Food and Drugs Act and were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of preservatives or added colouring matter:—

Milk	40	Vinegar	2
Milk Powder	4	Black Currant Puree	1
Milk Condensed	1	Paste Meat and Fish	4
Cornflour	2	Sausage Breakfast	1
Cordials	3	Meat Pies	2
Coffee Essence	1	Sauce (Fruit)	1
Barlova	1	Soups (Canned)	1
Egg Powder	1	Nutmeg	1

Numerous additional duties were carried out during the year; many, fortunately, did not take up much time, but those which made considerable demands on the time of the Sanitary Inspectors were:—

A.R.P. DUTIES.

Deep Tunnel Shelters.

The improvements effected in conditions during the previous year were maintained throughout 1942 and there is no doubt that the services of the Tunnel Wardens (9 male and 3 female) in a supervisory capacity were responsible for the orderly conduct and freedom from complaints of a public health nature.

Each occupant of a bunk or cubicle has a card issued by this Department bearing name, address, identity number and number of bunk or cubicle allotted.

At one time a considerable number of persons used the shelters for a week or two after disturbed nights and then began to stay at home. In fact in 1941 and the early part of 1942 every night attack brought a number of new applicants for bunk permits the following morning. Now the population appears to be sharply defined into two groups—(a) those who frequent the tunnels every night regardless of whether there is enemy activity, and (b) those who prefer to stay at home and adopt the attitude of "trust to luck."

The parts of the tunnels used for sleeping purposes are barricaded off and unlit between the hours of 9.0 a.m. and 6 p.m. During these times shelter may be obtained near to each entrance to the tunnels.

Special attention was paid to certain persons whose habits were likely to favour the breeding of lice, etc., and these persons were encouraged to avail themselves of the de-lousing facilities at the Corporation's Disinfecting Station. When this personal cleansing is being carried out the bunk or cubicle occupied by the person is sprayed with an approved insecticide.

Decontamination of Gas Contaminated Clothing.

The training of volunteers for this work was continued during the year and at the end of 1942 there were the following persons enrolled under the two sections of the Scheme:—

	M.	F.
Decontamination of gas contaminated clothing ..	30	—
Marking and sorting	3	16

The decrease in the numbers over the previous year is due to some of the men of the First Aid Parties, who had also been trained for the decontamination of clothing, being drafted away from the town, and to several of the women laundry employees belonging to the Marking Sorting Squads being directed to laundries in other parts of the country by the Ministry of Labour.

Once again I should like to place on record my appreciation of the response made by the volunteers for this strenuous and essential part of the Civil Defence organisation and also to the management of the laundries for permitting the training during working hours.

My thanks are due to Mr. F. S. Burrow, Sanitary Inspector, Broadstairs, for his assistance in the training of the volunteers.

Decontamination of Food.

The Food Treatment Squad has been increased to twelve, all volunteers and local traders, and training has been continued under Mr. F. S. Burrow, Sanitary Inspector, Broadstairs, also Mr. F. Brown, Sanitary Inspector, and myself.

The Squad has shown commendable keenness in attending the lectures and carrying out the practice "Gas Exercises," so giving them an opportunity of putting theory into practice.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Service

For the Year ended 31st December, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual School Medical Report for the year 1942. I am happy to call your attention to the retrospect of a highly successful year. The School Medical Service, in abeyance like Educational facilities generally in the borough, since the summer of 1940, has continued the revival begun in the last three months of 1941 until during the year under consideration almost normal conditions were restored.

The Board of Education has requested that the Annual Report should be as brief as possible in order to save paper. At the same time I feel that a slightly longer report than last year's is justified in view of recent developments. I propose to touch with a short comment on all the phases of work carried out.

1. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

During the year thirteen schools were opened for full-time attendance of children. These included some of the most modern as well as older premises. No environmental defects needing attention were noted.

2. MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Routine Medical Inspections were carried out in three series, in February and March, in July and in November and December. The aim was to examine every child admitted to school or returning there, without reference in the first instance to Routine Age Groups, in order to assess the state of the children generally. This was the same principle as that adopted at the Routine Medical Inspections at the end of 1941 and the same procedure was carried out, rather more than twenty-five children being inspected per session and the co-operation of Civil Defence workers being obtained to assist smoothness of working. It will not, I am afraid, be possible to continue inspections on this scale in the future and it is expected that the scale of examination in the future will be restricted to Routine age groups only. The 1,327 children inspected in 1942 represent a very high proportion of the children admitted to school.

Re-inspections were carried out at all schools in two series in March and in October.

3. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

As the Board of Education do not require this year table I (c) "Children found to require Treatment" and table II (A) "Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection," I have ventured to compile a table of my own (while keeping available returns in traditional form and for future reference) which includes some of the items of both Board of Education tables and also of table II (b) "Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected." This table represents an endeavour to summarise the main headings of findings not only among all the children but at the individual schools.

TABLE 1.

	Schools in East Ramsgate			Percentage of Total of East Ramsgate Schools.	Schools in West Ramsgate				Percentage of Total of West Ramsgate Schools	St. George's Selective	St. Augustine's R.C.	TOTAL	Percentage
	Hereson	St. Luke's	Holy Trinity		Ellington	Christ Church	St. Lawrence	Dame Janet					
				416					707				
Total Inspected...	265	114	37	100%	303	130	54	220	100%	87	117	1327	100.0
Parents present...	196	89	29	75.5	222	101	39	193	78.5	53	92	1014	76.4
Satisfactory ...	134	43	13	45.7	132	58	21	86	42.0	47	58	592	44.6
Nutrition A. ...	23	7	5	8.4	26	12	6	15	8.3	18	16	128	9.6
Subnutrition ...	29	12	8	10.8	38	14	6	32	12.3	6	10	155	11.7
Anæmia ...	18	16	4	9.1	25	13	8	27	10.3	7	5	96	7.2
Postural Defects	20	4	1	6.0	17	7	5	13	5.9	—	4	71	5.4
Individual children requiring Treatment for Vision, excluding squint ...	13	6	4	5.5	16	2	5	11	4.8	7	8	72	5.4
Individual children requiring Treatment for all other conditions including Squint, Anæmia and postural Defects, excluding Subnutrition	66	37	11	27.4	83	37	18	76	30.3	16	26	370	27.9

Some notes on the above may be helpful.

The classification "satisfactory" is not one recognised for Board of Education returns but it has seemed to me that a positive assessment of health is something different from the mere absence of defects, and under this heading I have endeavoured to classify those children who by their physical development, appearance and manner seem to me, in my necessarily brief contact with them, to justify the description. It does not follow that a child assessed as "satisfactory" has no defects or that one without defects is necessarily so assessed.

The classification "nutrition A" is a little bit deceptive, as there is a proportion of children who are most certainly above average nutrition whose size and weight is due to a temporary disturbance of growth. It is not the exuberant health of such children, classed A 2 on their records, which includes them in this grade.

It will be noted that a large proportion of children have been found suffering from anæmia. Under this are included those who by pale mucous membranes indicate at least a low hæmoglobin content of their blood. This is probably always a nutritional defect and is usually but not invariably associated with some degree of sub-nutrition. Generally speaking, a simple measure such as an iron containing tonic continued over some months is all that is required.

Postural defects also show a high incidence, but these again are for the most part quite trivial, being minor degrees of round shoulders and flat feet. Not one was sufficiently severe to be referred for special orthopædic treatment, though all were advised as to the remedial exercises they should carry out.

The comparative findings at the Routine Inspections of autumn, 1941, are as follows:—

TABLE 2.

	Routine Medical Inspections, 1942.	Routine Medical Inspections, Autumn, 1941.	Percentage, 1942.	Percentage, Autumn, 1941.
Total inspected	1327	428	100.0	100.0
Parents present	1014	366	76.4	85.5
Satisfactory	592	233	44.6	54.4
Nutrition A	128	35	9.6	8.2
Subnutrition	155	46	11.7	10.8
Anæmia	96	27	7.2	6.3
Requiring treatment for Vision	72	68	5.4	15.9
Requiring treatment for all other conditions (not subnutrition) ..	370	89	27.9	20.8

It is interesting to note that those children who remained in Ramsgate during 1940-1941 appear to have been on average in rather better condition than children who returned from evacuation.

Another interesting classification is as between boys and girls. It will be noted from the following table that for some reason the boys of Ramsgate seem at present to be slightly superior to the girls.

TABLE 3.

	Boys.	Percentage.	Girls.	Percentage.
Number examined ..	630	100.0	697	100.0
Satisfactory	292	46.4	300	43.0
Subnutrition	69	10.9	86	12.4

At Routine Medical Inspections 15 cases of scabies were detected. Another 28 came to the Minor Ailment Clinic and were recommended treatment there. This corresponds with findings among adults, where certainly more cases are brought to the notice of the Health Department than in normal times, a phenomenon widespread throughout the country.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.

(a) **Nutrition.** Children found to be undernourished either at Routine Medical Inspections or otherwise, were followed up by a home visit by the School Nurse. Observations were then made of home conditions and the availability of cheap meals for school children at the British Restaurants was brought to the notice of the parents. Of the parents of children below normal nutrition, only a few were prepared to send them for meals at a restaurant. The average percentage of children receiving milk in school was 85.3% in February, 87.1% in May and 88.4% in October. None of them received it free of charge.

(b) **Uncleanliness.** The School Nurses have continued their routine visits to the schools to inspect the head cleanliness of all children. The results of their visits are summarised in Board of Education Table V. As will be noted, no legal proceedings were taken and reliance was placed on persuasion and public opinion. A few outstanding cases were cleansed by the School Nurses themselves.

Cases of scabies treated by the local authority were for the most part dealt with at the Disinfecting Station, where baths and applications of Benzyl Benzoate were given. Parents of other cases were advised how to give treatment at home.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** The following table shows the development of the Minor Ailment Clinic.

TABLE 4.

	Individual New Cases	Total Attendance
January ..	—	—
February ..	7	15
March ..	10	16
April ..	27	44
May ..	43	73
June ..	48	86
July ..	36	67
August ..	9	39
September ..	25	121
October ..	53	188
November ..	25	144
December ..	35	195
Total ..	318	988

The patients treated were classified as follows:—

Skin Diseases:

Ringworm of Scalp	Nil
Ringworm of body	Nil
Scabies	28
Impetigo	20
Boils, Abscesses, Septic Spots, etc.	21
Other conditions	51
Minor injuries	64
External Eye Disease	12

Ear conditions:

Otorrhœa	9
Other ear conditions	16
Nose, Mouth and Throat conditions	40
Infectious Diseases	12
Other Diseases and conditions	127

Under the last heading, "Other Diseases and conditions," are included a wide variety of complaints, ranging from bronchitis to toothache. While a detailed classification of this group would be too cumbersome, it is interesting to realise for how wide a range of conditions the assistance of the Minor Ailment Clinic is sought.

(d) **Ophthalmic Treatment.** The scheme outlined in last year's report continued in force. Children found to have defective sight were referred to Dr. Dunlop at the Ramsgate General Hospital. Spectacles were prescribed and provided by Messrs. Clement Clarkes, the cost of which was remitted in a few necessitous cases. Dr. Dunlop re-examined all children for whom glasses were prescribed within six months to make sure that they were adequately suited.

(e) **Treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids.** As a result of evacuation and the lapsing of all School Medical Services, the scheme for removal of Tonsils and Adenoids at the Ramsgate General Hospital fell into abeyance. As the Board of Education was known to be prepared to approve a higher charge by the hospital per case admitted for operation, the opportunity was taken to make a new scheme somewhat more in the hospital's favour. It was decided that every patient should remain in hospital for at least three days at a maintenance charge of 12s. 6d. for the first day and 7s. 6d. for the two subsequent days, with charge of £1 1s. and 10s. 6d. for the Surgeon and Anaesthetist respectively. Approval was duly obtained from the Board of Education and the scheme came into operation in April. Since then sixty-three children have received operative treatment, representing a probably higher percentage of cases than in a normal year owing to the arrears accumulating since 1940. At the end of 1942 a complete decision had not been reached as to what proportion of the total cost parents should ordinarily be called upon to pay.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon to the Ramsgate General Hospital, Mr. Charles Oxley, who performs these operations, sees and advises upon children suffering from other conditions who may be referred to him at his out-patients' clinic. A certain number of such patients have been referred.

(f) **Dental Treatment.** Owing to the return from Military Service of Mr. R. O. Barber, noted in the report for last year, it has been possible to organise and operate a successful scheme of Dental Treatment. Here some capital outlay was necessary before progress could be made as all the equipment previously held at Albion House had been damaged by enemy action or had deteriorated with time. It was perhaps a bold step to embark on in the midst of a war and in a town situated like Ramsgate. However, the expenditure has fully justified itself by results obtained and a summary of the year's work is contained in Board of Education Table No. IV. In due course it is hoped to provide orthodontic treatment for deformities of the jaws.

(g) **Orthopaedic Treatment.** As noted above, a large number of postural defects were found at Routine Medical Inspections. Without exception they were of a minor order and no case was referred for in-patient orthopaedic treatment to the Ramsgate General Hospital or elsewhere. Thus it has not proved necessary to review the orthopaedic scheme of previous years.

(h) **Other Defects and Diseases.** Children suspected of or found to be suffering from Tuberculosis were referred to the County Tuberculosis Dispensary. Appropriate advice was given to parents of children suffering from anaemia, rheumatism and heart disease, and from asthma and other chest conditions. Where a parent was not present at Medical Inspection, the School Nurse conveyed the advice of the Medical Officer at a visit to the home. Friendly co-operation exists between the School Medical Department and the practitioners of the town, to whose care all patients suffering from conditions outside the scope of the department were referred.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles and Whooping Cough were both prevalent in the early part of the year and affected school attendance to some extent. The cases of Measles were mostly in the eastern part of the town. In the autumn there was a small outbreak of Mumps. One child of school age suffered from Diphtheria, two from Scarlet Fever and one from Paratyphoid Fever.

In order to save the considerable time wasted through the exclusion of contacts of infectious illness from school, the Education Committee was recommended to consider favourably the policy of some other Local Authorities of allowing contacts to be admitted to school providing always that the Head Teacher was made aware of the fact that they were contacts and that they were submitted to careful surveillance during the normal quarantine period. The teachers were also approached to learn their feelings, as their co-operation was essential to the success of the plan. The Committee and they both approved and the admission of contacts, except in cases of diphtheria, and they when swab-negative, was instituted as a routine from the end of June.

After a decision had been reached in this matter, Circular 1590 of the Board of Education and a Memorandum on "Closure of and Exclusion from School for Infectious Diseases" was received. The recommendations of the latter were less radical than the approved scheme which, however, was not contrary to the intentions of the Board. Thus no change was made in policy.

6. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The policy of urging immunisation against diphtheria among all children was continued, strongly backed by the Board of Education and Ministry of Health. At the end of the year it was calculated that about 60% of the children of school age in Ramsgate had been immunised. Many of them had received their doses of Prophylactic while evacuated.

While this figure is not unsatisfactory in view of the absence of any scheme for immunisation provided by the Local Authority prior to the end of 1940, considerable scope still exists for extension.

Two circulars of the Board of Education were received during the year on this matter, 1590 (5th June, 1942) and 1610 (2nd November, 1942), urging the extension to school children of the facilities for immunisation advised by Ministry of Health Circulars 2627 and 2713. In connection with the former circular an interesting experiment both in the collection of information and to form a public opinion among the children themselves was carried out.

With the full co-operation of the teachers and the consent of the Education Committee, a "Questionnaire" was circulated through the schools and taken home by the children, asking their parents to return upon it the names of all children under 14 years and whether and where they had been immunised. A consent form was attached and from the returns made, covering 1,300 school children, valuable information was obtained as to the state of immunisation among the population at risk and numerous further consents. It was hoped also that the interest of the children themselves had been aroused.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my very great appreciation of the work of the teachers in this matter, and indeed of their co-operation generally, without which the success of this particular enterprise would have been impossible.

7. PROVISION OF MEALS.

The desire of the Board of Education that if possible all school children should receive at school a substantial mid-day meal containing the bulk of the child's requirements of good class protein and a substantial proportion of his total calorific needs has been made clear in a number of circulars and memoranda.

On June 1st, 1942, a scheme was put into operation whereby organised parties of school children attended the British Restaurants established in the premises of Ellington and Hereson Schools in order to obtain at reduced cost (4d. per head) a mid-day meal. This was admittedly much less than the intention of the Board of Education, which has never compromised in expressing a preference for meals consumed by the children at their own schools. It was, however, a beginning.

An immediate difficulty was found in the geographical position of two schools, Dame Janet and Christ Church, whose children did not take advantage of the amenity offered because of the long walk involved. This difficulty was met by the co-operation of the Civil Defence Committee and the allocation of Civil Defence ambulances to take the children to and from the restaurants from their schools. The unexpectedly large number of children from Dame Janet School wanting meals, attracted perhaps by the chance of a ride, put a heavy strain on the existing scheme, which unfortunately broke down before the end of the autumn term.

Another difficulty was found in the impossibility of keeping separate at the two restaurants, which also catered for the general public, the priority supplies for the children from the food supplied for the rest of the population. Every attempt was made to do so, but before the end of the year it had been decided to take over one British Restaurant (Hereson) solely for the use of school children, the public being excluded.

The price of the meal served was, of course, in excess of 4d., and the balance was paid by the Education Committee. The provision of free meals is a recognised obligation in cases of necessity but few have made application for them.

8. EVACUATION AND EVACUEES.

A few children have acailed themselves during 1942 of the still available facilities for evacuation to Staffordshire. No doubt a certain number of other children have left the town with their parents for other areas. The School Medical Department of Staffordshire has from time to time brought to the notice of this Department treatment required for evacuees, for which the Education Committee has borne financial liability. Similar liability has been borne where necessary on behalf of other authorities in whose area Ramsgate children who needed treatment have happened to be.

9. CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

During 1942 the Education Committee acquired the financial responsibility for two children who have been placed in special schools. One was a mentally defective child now at "Littleton House School," Girton, near Cambridge, and the other was a deaf and dumb child at the Middlewich Branch of the Royal Residential Schools for the Deaf, Manchester, who had originally been placed there under the authority of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee and who had now attained the age of five years.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

(A) ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups:

Entrants	282	
Second Age Group	261	
Third Age Group	121	Total 664
(2) Number of other Routine Inspections	663	

Grand Total 1327

(B) OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections	716
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TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected.	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
664	35	5.3	546	82.2	82	12.3	1	0.2

For the purpose of comparison with the above, the following table shows the classification of the nutrition of all children inspected during the year.

Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1327	128	9.6	1041	78.4	156	11.8	2	0.2

TABLE III.

Group I. Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness:

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's scheme	400
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Group II. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint. Under the Authorities' Scheme:

Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	89
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I	2
Total	91

Number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed	86
Number of children for whom spectacles were obtained	84

Group III. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat. Under the Authority's Scheme:

Received operative treatment	63
Received other forms of treatment	—
Total	63

TABLE IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

1. Number of children inspected by the Dentist:							
(a) Routine Age Groups .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,376
(b) Specials .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
(c) Total (Routine and Specials) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,468
2. Number found to require treatment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,017
3. Number actually treated .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	821
4. Attendances made by children for treatment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	929
5. Half-days devoted to—							
Inspections .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Treatment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	162
6. Fillings:							
Permanent Teeth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	519
Temporary Teeth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	881
7. Extractions:							
Permanent Teeth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	367
Temporary Teeth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	705
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,072
8. Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	266
9. Other operations:							
Permanent Teeth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Temporary Teeth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	28

TABLE V.

Verminous Conditions.

i. Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
ii. Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,929
iii. Number of individual children found unclean .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	155
iv. Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
v. Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:							
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance By-laws .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

TABLE VI.

Blind and Deaf Children.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return relates to all such children, including evacuees resident in the Authority's area:

	1	2	3
	At a Public Elementary School.	At an institution other than a Special School.	At no School or Institution.
BLIND Children ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
DEAF Children ..	Nil	Nil	Nil

