

[Report 1935] / Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer of Health, Reading County Borough.

Contributors

Reading (England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1935

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cf3rehzs>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1935.

INDEX.

	Page		Page
Abattoirs, Public	57	Housing Clearance Areas	59
Ambulance Facilities	19	" Overcrowding	61-63
Ante-Natal Clinic	41, 42	Houses let in Lodgings	59
Ante-Natal Clinic (Q.V.I.)	42		
Anterior Poliomyelitis	22	Ice Cream Shops, Kitchens, Food	
Bacteriological Laboratory Work ...	20	Stalls, etc., Supervision of ...	58
Battle Hospital	18, 19	Immunization from Diphtheria ...	22
Births, Birth Rates	5, 11	Infant Mortality	5, 12, 36
Blind, care of the	7	Infant Mortality (Table of) ...	38
Blind Certification	47, 48	Infant Consultation Centres ...	40
Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic		Infant Life Protection	41
Children	85, 86	Infectious Diseases and control	
Blind Persons Act, 1920	46	of	5, 6, 20-22, 75
Borocourt	44	Infectious Diseases (Table of Notifi-	
British Red Cross Orthopaedic Fund	85	cations)	24
Canal Boats	54		
Cancer, Deaths from	16	Local Acts, Bye-laws, etc. ...	20
Caravans	54	Local Government and other Officers	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	22	Superannuation Act, 1922—	
Chemical Analyses	20	Medical Examinations ...	49
Child Guidance Clinic	80		
Children Acts, 1908-1932	41, 90	Manor (Smallpox) Hospital ...	16
Children's Holiday Fund Committee	82	Marriage Rate	11
Clinics and Treatment Centres ...	17	Maternal Mortality	37
Committees, members of	4, 66	Maternity and Child Welfare	6, 36-43
Common Lodging Houses	52	Maternity and Child Welfare	
Comparative Mortality	12	Committee	4
" " Table of	13	Maternity and Nursing Homes ...	20
Co-ordination of Health Services ...	71	Meals, Provision of	84
Cremation	8	Measles	22
		Meat Inspection	57
Deaths, death rates	5, 11	Medical help, Records of Sending for	41
Deaths, Causes of and Ages at ...	16		
Deaths in Public Institutions ...	12	Medical Inspection —	
Deaths, Table of	14, 15	(a) Elementary Schools	72
Dellwood Maternity Home	43	(b) Routine Medical Inspections	72, 91
Dental Clinic	78	(c) Elementary Schools, Return	
Diphtheria	21, 25	of Defects	92, 93
Diphtheria Immunization	22	(d) " (Treated)	97-99
Disinfection	26	(e) Secondary Schools, Return of	
Drainage and Refuse Disposal ...	50-52	defects	100
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	77	(f) Co-operation of Parents ...	84
Education Committee	66	(g) Co-operation of Teachers ...	85
Education Committee's Clinics ...	17	(h) Co-operation of Voluntary	
Employment of Children and Young		Bodies	85
Persons	90	(i) Co-operation of School Wel-	
Encephalitis Lethargica	22	fare Visitors	85
Exceptional Children, Census of	94-96		
Factories and Workshops Acts ...	53	Medical Inspection, Findings of —	
Fees paid to Medical Practitioners	41	Dental Defects	74
Food and Drugs Acts, Sale of ...	55	Ear Disease and Defective Hearing	74
Food, Inspection and Supervision ...	55	External Eye Disease	74
Food, Unsound, Destroyed... ..	57	" Following-up "	75
Functional Nervous Disorders, Clinic		Heart disease and Rheumatism	75
for	7, 44	Heights and Weights, average ...	75
Gas Regulation Act, 1920	49	Infectious Diseases	75
General Provision of Health Services	5, 16	Minor Ailments	74
Gynaecological Clinic	19	Nose and Throat defects	74
Health Committee	4	Nutrition	73
Health Education in the Schools ...	90	Orthopaedic and Postural	
Health Visiting Summary	39	Defects	75
Hospital Accommodation, Summary	16	Skin Diseases	74
Housing	7, 58-60	Tuberculosis	75
Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding		Uncleanliness	73, 74
Survey	8, 61-63	Visual defect	74

INDEX—continued.

	Page		Page
Medical Treatment —		Poor Law Medical Service ...	18
Child Guidance	80	Population	5, 11
Dental Clinic	78, 79	Premises and Occupations controlled	
Dental Defects	78, 99	by Bye-Laws or Regulations ...	52
Diastolisation	78	Psychiatric Clinic	7, 44
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic ...	77	Puerperal Fever and Puerperal	
Heart Disease and Rheumatism	80	Pyrexia Regulations, 1926 ...	37
Nose and Throat defects	76, 98	Queen Victoria Nursing Institute ...	17
Ionisation	78	"Natal Clinic) " " (Ante-	
Minor Ailments	76, 97	" " " " " " " " " " " "	42
Nutrition	75	Rainfall	49, 50
Open-Air Education	82	Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919	55
Ophthalmic Clinic	76	Reading Council of Nursing Services	18
Orthopaedic and Postural		Red Cross Orthopaedic Fund ...	85
defects	79, 98	Refuse Disposal	50-52
Skin Disease	76	Royal Berkshire Hospital	16
Speech Clinic	81	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	49-52
Tuberculosis	80	Sanitary Inspection of the Area ...	52
Uncleanliness	75, 99	Sanitary Supervision and Food	
Defective Vision and Squint ...	97	Supply	7
Members of Committees	4, 66	Scarlet Fever	21, 25
Mental Deficiency	44	School Baths	83
Mental Deficiency (Occupation		School Hygiene	71
Centre)	45	School Medical Services Sub-com-	
Mental Deficiency Regulations, 1928	101	mittee	66
Mental Treatment, Act, 1930 ...	44	Secondary Schools	89
Mental Welfare	7, 44	Secondary Schools (Table shewing	
Mental Welfare Committee ...	4	number of children examined and	
Mentally Defective School ...	88	defects found)	100
Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 ...	58	Sewage Disposal	54
Midwives, Supervision of	40	Shops, Sanitary Accommodation ...	58
Milk Marketing Board (Milk in		Slaughterhouses	57
Schools)	73	Small-Pox Hospital	16
Milk (Mothers and Children Order,)		Smoke Abatement	55
1919	41	Speech Clinic... ..	81
Milk (Tuberculous)	56	Staff	10, 69
„ (Special Designations) Order, 1923	56	Statistical Summary	9, 70
Miscellaneous examinations of		Special Schools —	
student teachers, employed		Mentally Defective School ...	88
children, etc.	90	Physically Defective School ...	87
National Society for Prevention of		Open-Air School	88
Cruelty to Children	85	Nursery Schools	89
Neo-natal Mortality	37	Still-births	11
Notification of Births Act, 1907 ...	40	Suicides	16
Nursery Schools	89	Swimming	84
Nursing in the Homes	17	Theatres and Cinemas, Inspection of	55
Nursing Homes Registration Act,		Tuberculosis Scheme	26-34
1927	20	Tuberculosis Dispensary Care	
Occupation Centre	45	Association	34
Offensive Trades	54	Tuberculosis Pavilions	32
Open-Air Education	82	„ Table of Notification	27, 28
Open-Air School	88	„ Officer, report of	29-34
Ophthalmia Clinic	76	„ Sanatorium Treatment	31
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	39	„ Shelter Treatment ...	30
Overcrowding of Premises	8, 61-63	„ Supplemental Return	27
Overcrowding Survey	8	Vaccination	23
Parents' Payments towards		Venereal Diseases	35, 36
Cost of Medical Treatment	89	Vermineous Houses	61
Park Hospital	25	Violent Deaths	16
Pasteurised Milk	56	Vital Statistics	5, 11, 12
Physically Defective School ...	87	Water Supply	50
„ Courses of Training for ...	88	Whitley Special School	86
Physical Training	83, 84		
Physical Training—Voluntary			
Associations	84		

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Henry Bale).

Aldermen.

HENRY DOWNING.
ALICE JENKINS, J.P.
ALBERT JAMES MAKER.

THOMAS MASON.
LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.
JOHN RABSON, J.P.

Councillors.

GEORGE WILLIAM COOK, J.P.
ANNIE PHOEBE ELLEN CUSDEN, J.P.
GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.
(*Chairman*).
HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT, M.B.E., J.P.
DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(*Vice-Chairman*).

HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON.
FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS.
FRANK EDWIN MORING.
MARY ANN PATEY.
HENRY WOOLDRIDGE.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Henry Bale).

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK (*Chairman*).
ALICE JENKINS, J.P.

WILLIAM MATHIAS NEWHAM.
LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.

Councillors.

REGINALD COLGATE, D.Sc.
GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.
HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT, M.B.E., J.P.
DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(*Vice-Chairman*).

THOMAS WILLIAM KNIGHT.
WILLIAM EWART CLARKE McILROY
MARY ANN PATEY.
ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.

Non-Members of the Council.

Mrs. K. SHORTER.

Mrs. F. F. WHITLEY.

MENTAL WELFARE COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Henry Bale).

Aldermen.

HENRY DOWNING.
ALICE JENKINS, J.P.

LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH,
ALBERT WILLIAM TUDOR, J.P.

Councillors.

ALFRED PERCY HATT.
GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.
DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
EDWARD ERNEST LANGSTON (*Chairman*).

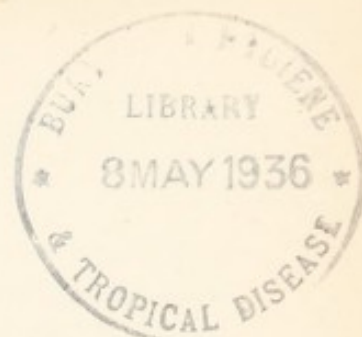
FRANK EDWIN MORING.
MARY ANN PATEY.
ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.
RONALD SOWERBY RUSTON.

Non-Members of the Council.

Mr. M. L. GUILDING.

Mr. W. D. SCOTT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS,
ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD,
READING,
April, 1936.



**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the borough during the year 1935.

The report is a statutory duty placed upon the Medical Officer of Health and is prepared in a form laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Vital Statistics.

Population. The Registrar-General estimates the population of the borough to have been 99,600 persons at the middle of the year 1935.

Birth Rate. The birth rate for the year was 14·8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The birth rate shows an increase for the second year in succession after a long period of decline.

Death Rate. The crude death rate for the year was 12·3 per 1,000 persons living. This rate is slightly above that of the preceding year but is almost identical with the average of recent years.

Infant Mortality Rate. The number of infant deaths during the year was equivalent to a death rate of 51·5 per 1,000 births. This rate is notably higher than the record low rate reported in 1934 but accords closely with the average of the preceding ten years.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

A summary of all hospital and auxiliary medical services of the area is included in the report.

Extensions to these services which have been approved by the Council but not yet completed include—extended accommodation in the nurses' homes at Battle and Park hospitals, extension of the children's ward and nursery accommodation at Battle hospital, further provision for female tuberculosis patients at Park hospital and arrangements for maternity and child welfare clinics on the Whitley and Norcot estates.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

The past year witnessed an increase in the prevalence of scarlet fever that has only once been exceeded in the past twenty-five years and an epidemic of diphtheria that has not been approached in extent during the same period.

The occurrence of these two epidemics, which in part overlapped in incidence, placed a severe tax on the hospital resources available and at

one period auxiliary hospital accommodation for convalescent diphtheria patients had to be provided in the old casual ward at Battle hospital. All diphtheria patients were admitted to hospital without exception and without delay. It was not always possible to admit cases of scarlet fever. Where reasonable isolation and care can be maintained at home, home treatment of the present mild form of scarlet fever is not believed to cause any undue hardship and may indeed have certain advantages. Such a course is recommended in suitable conditions by the Ministry of Health.

The type of diphtheria prevailing was not unduly severe and the fatality rate was rather below the average for this disease. There was little evidence of the 'gravis' strain of the disease which had appeared in Reading and elsewhere previously. A large proportion of the cases of diphtheria occurred on the Whitley housing estate. After a long period of freedom from epidemics and with the large child population now collected there an invasion of this nature is readily explained. An experience of this nature has been paralleled at Norcot and in similar circumstances in other areas.

Provision has been made to provide for the immunization of children against this disease.

The incidence of measles and the other acute infectious diseases was notably below the average.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis were lower than in any previous year but the mortality due to this disease was considerably above the record low rate of the preceding year.

The report on the work of the venereal diseases centre shows that recent infections of syphilis are inconsiderable in number but that the incidence of gonorrhoea shows a continuing increase which has now been going on for several years.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The infant mortality rate of 51.5 per 1,000 births is considerably higher than the record low rate of the previous year.

The maternal mortality rate was 1.9 per 1,000 births, including stillbirths. This rate is comparable with a rate of 3.9 per 1,000 births throughout England and Wales which rate is itself probably better than that of most other countries in the world where comparable statistics are available. It is possible that the prominence and indiscriminating criticism that has been brought to bear on this subject may be in danger of defeating its own purpose.

The extension of the ante-natal services mentioned in the report may assist in reducing the remarkably low rate of mortality prevailing.

The number of births occurring in Dellwood maternity home exceeded those for any year since the home was opened in 1920. Approximately one-fifth of all the births occurring in the borough during the year occurred at Dellwood.

The routine work of the infant welfare centres and the supply of milk and foods to necessitous mothers and children have been continued on the

lines that have proved satisfactory in previous years. The number of children under one year and of those from one to five years attending the centres both show a notable increase on those of the previous year.

Mental Welfare.

The psychiatric clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital has been continued during the year. The numbers availing themselves of this service, though not greatly increased, continue to be maintained. Rather more persons now avail themselves of the provisions of the Mental Treatment Act.

There are now 44 patients in the Borocourt institution for mentally defectives, 8 males and 36 females, an increase of five during the year.

The occupation centre at Watlington House has continued to serve a useful function in providing occupation and training suitable to the age and mental condition of 34 patients who are maintained under supervision at home.

Care of the Blind.

There were 140 blind persons on the register at the end of the year. During the year the Council made provision for increased financial assistance to the unemployable blind. The supervision of the work under the Blind Persons Act has been delegated to the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind which acts as agent for the Council. New arrangements of the relations between the Association and the Council have been effected during the year and new premises taken over.

I am indebted to Mr. G. T. Willoughby Cashell for the note on the causes and prevention of blindness to which your attention is directed.

Sanitary Supervision and Food Supply.

The inspectors' reports indicate that the standards maintained in the production and preparation of articles of food are satisfactory. Three prosecutions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts were undertaken during the year. A new test, the phosphatase test, devised by Dr. H. D. Kay at the National Institute for Research in Dairying, to aid in the supervision of pasteurised milk, was brought into use during the year with satisfactory results.

The decision of the council to provide new abattoirs will remedy a situation long felt to be unsatisfactory.

A note on the subject of improved methods of sewage purification and refuse collection by Mr. A. S. Parsons, borough surveyor, is included in the report.

Housing.

The number of new houses constructed during the year, namely 970, exceeded the record number of the preceding year and represents the record amount of new construction in the history of the borough.

The programme of slum clearance has been continued as in previous years and it may be claimed that the main areas have been dealt with.

Only small numbers of insanitary houses in isolated groups now remain.

During the year proceedings in respect of six clearance areas, totalling 37 houses, were completed.

Proceedings in respect of three further areas totalling 31 houses were initiated and proceedings in respect of one of these areas has been completed during the present year.

In addition to the above, 22 demolition orders in respect of individual houses were made during the year.

Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding Survey.

By this Act each authority is required to make a survey of working-class dwellings in its area to ascertain the extent of overcrowding and to make proposals for its abatement.

Standards of what constitutes overcrowding have been laid down to provide for the maximum number of persons permitted in any house and the due separation of the sexes.

For the purposes of this survey 19,626 houses were inspected, affecting 20,074 families.

As a result of the survey it was found that 299 families, or 1.50 per cent. of those coming under inspection, were living in overcrowded conditions as defined by the standards laid down by the Act. By scrutiny of individual cases it was found that the degree of the overcrowding in the majority of families amounted to one person or half a person over the permitted number.

Both in respect of the extent and the degree of overcrowding this census can be regarded as highly satisfactory when compared with other areas.

It was found by ward distribution that the areas with the greatest incidence of overcrowding were Castle, Church and Tilehurst wards.

Your attention is directed to the details of the report on this subject.

Cremation.

The medical officer of health is the medical referee to the Reading crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. Up to the present time 264 cremations have been carried out. It is noteworthy that applications for cremation are received in the majority of cases from persons resident in other areas. During the past year, of 102 applications received, 72 were from non-residents of the borough.

In conclusion, I should like to express my indebtedness to all members of the staff for the zeal and loyalty with which they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. MILLIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health,

Area of borough (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	9,106
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	97,153
„ (Estimated mid-year, 1935) (Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	99,600
Number of inhabited houses (approximate) 1935	...	...	...	...	...	26,000
Rateable value (October 1935)	...	...	...	...	...	£803,100
Sum represented by a penny rate (October 1935)	...	...	...	...	...	£3,190
Number of births registered	...	...	...	...	...	1,475
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1,401
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	74
Nett birth rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	14.81
Average birth rate, preceding ten years	...	...	...	...	...	14.99
Number of deaths registered	...	...	...	...	...	1,230
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	12.35
Average crude death rate, preceding ten years	...	...	...	...	...	12.45
Number of persons married	...	...	...	...	...	1,624
Marriage rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	16.03
Number of infant deaths (under one year)	...	...	...	...	...	76
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births) :—						
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	49.9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	81.08
Total infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	...	...	51.5
Average infant mortality rate, preceding ten years	...	...	...	...	...	50.72
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	{ All forms					0.83
	{ Pulmonary					0.74
Average tuberculosis death rate (preceding 10 years)	{ All forms					1.00
	{ Pulmonary					0.84
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—						
From sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	2
From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	4

STAFF.**Medical Officer of Health.**

H. J. MILLIGAN, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.,
of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law.

Tuberculosis Officer.

H. R. MINKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Acting Tuberculosis Officer.

ALAN CARLING, B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (commenced 22/7/35).

Medical Officers (part time) Maternity and Child Welfare

SIDNEY GILFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

MARGARET I. PORTEOUS, M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.), D.P.H.

ALFRED HENRY PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

Visiting Medical Officer (part time) Park Hospital.

E. W. ROWLAND, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Resigned 31/3/35).

LIONEL CHARLES WILLIAM CANE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Appointed 1/4/35).

Medical Superintendent, Battle Hospital.

D. CYRIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Resident Assistant Medical Officer, Battle Hospital.

JOHN CHARLES THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Resigned 30/9/35).

GAVIN C. GORDON, M.B., Ch.B. (Appointed 7/10/35).

Medical Officer, Caversham district of Reading (Public Assistance).

G. H. CHEYNEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Vaccinator, Reading and Caversham Districts.

F. W. STANSFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Vaccinator, Tilehurst District of Reading.

B. B. HOSFORD, M.B., B.Ch.

Consultants.

C. B. BAXTER, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., Ed. M.C.O.G., (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulation, 1926).

G. O. LAMBERT, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926).

G. T. W. CASHELL, F.R.C.S., Ed. (Ophthalmia Neonatorum).

Certifying Officer, Blind Persons Act, 1920.

G. T. W. CASHELL, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)

Public Analyst.

JAMES THOMPSON, D.Ph., F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

* † JAMES DODD.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

* † W. E. BOND.

* P. B. BROCK.

* E. L. W. GEEN.

* † G. G. GARDINER. (Resigned June, 1935).

* F. A. K. STREETER. (Appointed 1/3/36).

Chief Clerk and Vaccination Officer.

* Geo. S. HAWTHORNE.

Assistant Clerks.

D. W. L. GOODALL. Miss K. CLAYDON-SMITH.

Miss J. ROBSON SMITH. Miss CONSTANCE STORK.

Miss N. HULBERT. ERIC FEW.

C. AUST (temporary duty).

H. E. de TUTTE "

F. LIPSCOMBE "

Clerical Staff, Battle Hospital.

T. J. FARMER (Clerk and Steward).

Assistant Clerks.

A. B. COOMBES.

J. P. KINGSLEY.

L. A. G. WICKS.

Chief Lady Health Visitor, Inspector of Midwives, and Visitor under the Mental Deficiency Act.

° * † MISS SARAH DUTTON.

Lady Health Visitors.

× † MISS M. P. GREEN.

° * † MISS E. F. WHEELER.

× ° † MISS E. V. LEE.

× ° † MISS S. PRUDDEN. (Resigned 8/7/35).

× ° † MISS K. CLACK.

MISS H. A. MORTIMER. (Appointed 29/7/35).

Tuberculosis Nurses.

× * MISS M. B. WARD.

× * MISS D. WATSON.

Matron Battle Hospital.

× † MISS EMILY B. SLACK.

Matron Park Hospital.

× MISS AGNES WEIR.

Matron Dellwood Maternity Home.

× † MISS IDA MAY COOPER.

Resident Caretaker Manor (Smallpox) Hospital.

W. A. HENSON.

* Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Meat Inspector's Certificate.

° Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

° Health Visitors' Certificate.

× State Registered Nurse.

County Borough of Reading.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. The Registrar General estimates that the population of the borough at mid-year 1935 was 99,600 persons. This shows an estimated increase of 350 persons over the corresponding estimate for the preceding year. The increase is principally the result of a majority of 245 births over deaths.

As stated in previous reports it is believed that the University and school populations are not fully considered and that the total resident population considerably exceeds 100,000 persons during the greater part of the year.

Birth Rate. After making the necessary corrections in accordance with the place of residence of the parents the number of births assigned to Reading was 1,475, which represents a birth rate of 14·8 per 1,000 of the population of the borough. The birth rate shows an increase for the second successive year which may be the result of the improved housing and general economic situation.

The number of male births was largely in excess of females, the figures being 785 and 690 respectively.

Illegitimate Births. The number of illegitimate births assigned to the borough was 74, being 5 per cent. of all births registered. This rate is slightly below the average rate of such births, which remains remarkably constant.

Stillbirths. It is now legally necessary to register stillbirths. The number registered was 46 which is 3·1 per cent. of live births. This rate is definitely below the average rate, which varies between four and five per cent.

Marriage Rate. There were 1,624 persons married during the year, a marriage rate of 16·0 per 1,000 persons living in the borough. The marriage rate is notably below that of the preceding year.

Death Rate. After deducting the deaths of persons not normally resident in Reading whose deaths occurred in institutions or elsewhere within the borough and adding the deaths of Reading residents whose deaths occurred in other areas the deaths of 1,230 Reading persons of all ages were registered during the year. This number is equivalent to a crude rate of 12·3 deaths per 1,000 persons living. This rate is slightly higher than the corresponding rate for the preceding year but accords closely with the average of recent years.

To render the death rate comparable with that of the Country as a whole and other very large centres of population, a 'comparability factor' must be applied. The factor for Reading is .89 owing to the undue proportion of persons of advanced years living in the borough. By application of this factor the adjusted death rate becomes 10.9 which rate should be used for comparison with other large centres of population.

Deaths in Public Institutions. A total of 578 persons died in public institutions or private nursing homes during the year. This is equal to 45 per cent., or nearly half of all deaths occurring during the same period.

There were 328 deaths in Battle hospital, 32 in Park hospital and 32 in various mental hospitals, or approximately one-third of all deaths in institutions under public control.

Infant Mortality. There were 76 deaths of infants under one year of age. This represents an infant mortality rate of 51.5 per 1,000 live births. This is considerably in excess of the record low rate of 41.0 per 1,000 births reported last year. Further reference is made to this subject elsewhere in the report.

Comparative Statistics. I again append in tabular form a record of the more important vital statistics of the borough for a long period of years, together with a table which gives an analysis of mortality in Reading and the whole country for the past year.

TABLE I.

Period.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Infant mortality.	Death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis.
1874-83 (average)	36.5	18.1	131.6	1.99
1884-93 do.	32.0	16.5	127.9	1.47
1894-1903 do.	27.1	14.1	133.7	1.13
1904-13 do.	22.7	12.1	99.2	1.01
1914-23 do.	19.0	12.7	73.2	1.05
1924	17.1	10.7	53.6	0.96
1925	16.0	11.1	56.3	0.79
1926	17.6	12.2	50.5	0.99
1927	15.3	12.3	42.5	0.89
1928	15.4	11.9	53.6	0.84
1929	14.9	14.1	50.5	1.10
1930	14.4	11.4	54.8	0.96
1931	15.1	12.0	44.6	0.69
1932	14.3	12.8	55.2	0.68
1933	13.9	13.6	63.0	0.89
1934	14.2	11.9	41.0	0.65
1935	14.8	12.3	51.5	0.74

TABLE II.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Disease Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1935.

England and Wales, London, 121 Great Towns and 140 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	England and Wales.	121 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	140 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Ad- ministrative County.	Reading (County Borough).
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births—					
Live	14.7	14.8	14.8	13.3	14.8
Still	0.62	0.68	0.64	0.52	0.46
Deaths—					
All Causes	11.7	11.8	11.2	11.4	10.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough ...	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.12
Influenza	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.11	0.09
Violence	0.52	0.45	0.41	0.51	0.50
Notifications—					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	2.96	3.19	2.75	2.64	3.20
Diphtheria	1.60	1.96	1.34	2.25	1.94
Enteric fever ...	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.42	0.48	0.37	0.45	0.33
Pneumonia	1.15	1.36	0.98	0.89	0.17
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	5.7	6.2	5.5	5.8	5.1
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.7	7.9	3.8	11.2	2.7
Maternal Mortality—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1.68	Not available			1.36
Others	2.42				0.68
Total	4.10				2.04
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1.61	Not available			1.31
Others	2.32				0.65
Total	3.93				1.96
Notifications—					
Puerperal fever ...	3.60	4.55	2.76	4.32	1.98
Puerperal pyrexia ...	9.44	11.14	8.25	11.89	4.60

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1935.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					All Ages	0-1	1-	2-	5-	15-	25	35-
All causes. Certified					1230	76	8	15	25	36	54	61
Uncertified					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Measles				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever				1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria				12	—	—	6	6	—	—	—
6	Influenza				9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica				1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System				75	1	1	—	1	20	21	12
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases				8	—	—	4	2	—	—	—
11	Syphilis				2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	Cancer				154	—	—	—	2	—	4	9
14	Diabetes				18	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage				84	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
16	Heart Disease				194	2	—	—	2	4	3	6
17	Aneurism				2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases				148	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Bronchitis... ..				98	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms)				69	12	4	1	1	5	2	1
21	Other Respiratory Diseases				6	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
22	Peptic Ulcer				10	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
23	Diarrhoea, etc.				4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis				4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver				3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	Other Diseases of liver, etc.				7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases				16	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis				32	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis				2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
30	Other Puerperal causes				1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.				48	46	2	—	—	—	—	—
32	Senility				39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	Suicide				22	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
34	Other Violence				50	1	—	2	4	3	6	—
35	Other defined diseases				111	5	1	1	4	3	7	1
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals					1230	76	8	15	25	36	54	61

* 328 died in Battle hospital, 143 in the Royal Berkshire hospital, 32 in Park hospital, 43 in various private nursing establishments and 32 in various mental and other institutions outside the borough.

Allocated to Municipal Wards.														Deaths in Institutions.	
65-	75 and upwards	Abbey	Battle	Castle	Caversham	Church	East	Katesgrove	Minster	Redlands	Tilehurst	Victoria	West	Residents of Borough	Non-Residents of Borough.
291	362	32	106	75	142	187	153	88	42	56	161	92	96	578	188
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	12	—
3	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	2	8	2	4	17	11	3	3	1	12	6	6	36	—
—	—	—	1	—	1	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
42	35	4	18	11	12	15	17	14	8	9	20	10	16	71	25
10	1	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	1	2	3	3	3	8	4
25	24	2	11	6	13	8	14	6	—	5	12	1	6	32	6
55	67	3	19	6	24	39	22	12	6	12	22	14	15	53	20
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
50	91	2	12	7	20	17	18	10	13	7	17	12	13	82	4
28	49	3	7	9	8	9	14	8	3	7	9	12	9	44	4
13	13	1	4	6	7	14	7	11	1	—	8	5	5	32	17
1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	3	1
2	—	—	2	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	10	5
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	4	5
1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	5	2
4	3	—	—	3	3	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	2	13	15
10	8	—	1	3	6	5	8	1	—	—	5	2	1	12	9
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
—	—	1	4	3	6	9	5	3	—	2	7	6	2	22	9
6	32	1	2	3	5	5	4	2	—	5	5	6	1	8	1
3	—	3	3	2	2	4	3	1	—	—	2	1	1	3	1
7	15	1	4	3	4	12	6	6	—	1	5	3	5	32	11
26	21	5	9	9	14	15	13	5	1	3	23	5	9	84	38
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
291	362	32	106	75	142	187	153	88	42	56	161	92	96	*578	†188

10 died in Battle hospital, 149 in the Royal Berkshire hospital, and 29 in various institutions in the borough.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

The large table on pages 14 and 15 gives a detailed analysis of the causes of death, the ages at which they occurred and their allocation to the various municipal wards.

More than half of all deaths occurring were those of persons who had passed the age of 65 years and approximately one third were of persons who were over 75 years.

The classified causes of death are in accord with the experience of previous years. Respiratory and cardiac diseases account for the largest number and occur for the most part in persons enfeebled by old age.

Deaths assigned to cancer still make a formidable total but are very considerably below the record number of the preceding year.

Deaths registered as resulting from violence numbered 72 of which 22 were suicidal. The deaths due to violence other than suicide accorded closely with the average but the number of suicides was considerably in excess of the average of such deaths.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The following summary indicates the hospital and other medical and nursing services available in the area.

Hospital Accommodation Summary.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of Beds.</i>	<i>Management.</i>
Battle hospital	General	292	Borough council
*Royal Berkshire hospital	General	150	Voluntary board
Park hospital	Infectious diseases, including tuberculosis	102	Borough council
Dellwood maternity home	Maternity	16	„ „
Manor hospital	Smallpox	12	„ „
*Various sanatoria in the country	Tuberculosis	31	Various
*Berkshire mental hospital Moulsford	Mental diseases	280	Joint hospital committee
*Borocourt, Peppard, Oxon	Care and training of mental defects	50	Joint hospital committee
Total accommodation		933	

* The institutions so marked provide accommodation for other areas in addition to Reading. The number of beds given in the table are those normally available for Reading patients.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

The following clinics and treatment centres are in operation in the borough.

Infant welfare centre	Star Lane, London St.,	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 2.30 p.m.
"	Elm Park hall, Oxford Road	Tuesdays (mornings at 10 a.m. and afternoons at 2.30 p.m.)
"	Whitley Hall	Wednesdays, at 2 p.m.
"	West Memorial institute Caversham	Thursdays, at 2.30 p.m.
"	Tyndale Free Church hall, Cressingham Rd.	Thursdays, at 2.30 p.m.
"	Park Institute, Wokingham Road	Fridays, at 2.30 p.m.
"	Village hall, Tilehurst	Mondays, at 2.30 p.m.
Ante-natal clinic	Star Lane, London St.,	Tuesdays, at 9 a.m. and at 2.30 p.m.
Tuberculosis dispensary	1, London Street	Daily, from 9.30 a.m.
Venereal diseases clinic	Royal Berkshire hospital	Wednesdays, at 2 p.m. and Saturdays, at 5 p.m. for men. Wednesdays, at 5 p.m. and Saturdays, at 3 p.m., for women.
Gynaecological clinic	Battle hospital	Tuesdays, at 2.15 p.m. and 3.15 p.m.

The Education Committee's clinics are :—

Inspection clinics, Monday and Friday, at 3.45 p.m.	...	} Held at the School clinic, Queen's Road.
Minor ailments clinic, 8.30 a.m. every morning	...	
Dental clinic, daily, by appointment	...	
Clinic for errors of refraction, Wednesday and Thursday, at 10 a.m.	...	
Clinic for the treatment of speech defects, Tuesday and Friday, at 10.30 a.m.	...	
Aural clinic, Tuesday and Saturday, at 8.30 a.m....	...	
Operating clinic for tonsils and adenoids, once monthly at the Royal Berkshire hospital.		

Nursing in the Homes.

The Queen Victoria Nursing Institute undertakes all the professional home nursing in the borough. The staff consists of the Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent and 14 nurses, of whom 5 are practising midwives. One of the latter is responsible for the midwifery in Caversham, and two for that in Tilehurst.

The institute is in part subsidised by the borough council and an agreement exists for the nursing when required of cases of puerperal fever and ophthalmia neonatorum. There is no other arrangement for the nursing of cases of infectious disease in their own homes.

The Reading Council of Nursing Services has arranged for skilled nursing as an additional benefit of certain approved societies under the National Health Insurance Act.

Poor Law Medical Service. The Medical Superintendent of Battle hospital and his assistant, together with Dr. Cheyney in the Caversham district, are responsible for the out-door medical services under the poor law.

BATTLE HOSPITAL.

The following is the report of Dr. D. Cyril Thomas, the medical superintendent :—

“ Battle hospital occupies an extensive site covering some 36 acres in the west-end of the town, and opening into the main Oxford road.

The hospital buildings fall naturally into two groups lying on either side of a main road running north from the Oxford road entrance. Those on the west side comprise the appropriated hospital, those on the east the public assistance institution. The remainder of the site is largely reclaimed marsh land. It is laid out as market garden and recreation grounds. It serves the purpose of keeping occupied such persons as are able to work, and of supplying the hospital with fresh eggs and garden produce. Any surplus is sold at current market prices.

The work which falls to the lot of this hospital is mainly of the chronic variety, but there is a decided and maintained increase in the amount of acute work done. The following figures are taken from the returns for the year ending December 31st, 1935, and will give a general indication of the amount and variety of the hospital's activities.

Hospital Section.

Number of beds	...	...	...	...	...	292
Number of admissions for the year	...	...	...	...	...	1242
Discharges	...	...	...	...	...	917
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	328
Number of operations	...	...	...	...	...	136
X-ray examinations	...	...	...	...	...	155
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	31
Outpatient department—						
patients seen	...	...	...	...	...	2124
domiciliary visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	328
Average duration of stay per patient	...	...	...	...	...	10 weeks

The public assistance portion of the institution contains 288 beds, making a total of 580 beds. The number of persons admitted to this section in 1935 was 230, making a total of 1,472 admissions.

Mental cases. Of 80 admitted, 27 were sent to the Berkshire mental hospital.

The hospital is well equipped for general medicine and surgery, midwifery and diseases of women. Battle hospital has been a full training school for nurses recognised by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales for some years. There is a scheme of co-operation with the Royal Berkshire hospital.

The number of sick children admitted to the children's ward during 1935 was 293.

The gynaecological clinic has been carried on during the year by Mr. C. B. Baxter, O.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), M.C.O.G. A weekly session is held on Tuesday afternoons at 2.15 p.m.

The hospital supplies the necessary medical services and requisites to the following institutions :—

The children's homes at London Road and Milman Road ;
Woodley institution for casuals (450 casuals were examined during the year) ;
The remand home.

The poor law district medical services for the whole of the borough except Caversham, are incorporated in the out-patient department.

In general, the policy of the hospital is to make adequate provision for such classes of patients as find their way to it, without expensive and unnecessary reduplication of services provided elsewhere."

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service of the area is sufficient for all purposes, and is as follows :—

	For infectious cases.	For non-infectious and accident cases.
Reading Corporation	Motor Ambulance	
do.	do.	For all work at Battle hospital.
Watch Committee	—	Motor ambulance in charge of the police.
Royal Berkshire hospital	Two motor ambulances for all the work of the hospital, and for emergencies when required.	
British Red Cross	—	Two ambulances, available to the public.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work.

The bacteriological work carried out during the year and the results of the examinations are as follows :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For the detection of the tubercle bacillus	73	305	378
For the detection of the diphtheria bacillus, health department and Park hospital	316	1588	1904

Bacteriological and blood examinations for the diagnosis of venereal diseases are included in the venereal diseases agreement with the Royal Berkshire hospital. These examinations are now carried out under the agreement at St. Thomas' hospital, London.

The bacteriological examination of milk for the purposes of the Milk (Special Designations) Order and for the detection of the tubercle bacillus is carried out at the Research Institute, Reading University. The results of these examinations will be found on page 56.

Chemical Analyses. The chemical work required for the purpose of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by Mr. James Thompson, D.Ph., F.I.C., Agricultural Analyst at Reading University, who is the public analyst for the borough of Reading. Details of the results of his examinations will be found on page 55.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are 16 nursing homes registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927. The total accommodation for patients in these homes is 114 beds. One home with 12 beds is a charitable institution, controlled by voluntary agencies. Of the remainder, two large homes with 33 beds receive mainly surgical cases, and one with 13 beds is devoted chiefly to the reception of neurasthenic and incipient mental disorders. One home of 16 beds caters almost entirely for the nursing of babies. Four homes, with a total of 16 beds, receive principally maternity cases.

Local Acts, Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc.

A complete list of local acts, adoptive acts and bye-laws in force in the borough was included in the report for the year 1930.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The past year has been notable for the excessive prevalence of scarlet fever and for an epidemic of diphtheria without equal since the year 1911.

The following short table shows the number of notifications of these diseases during recent years.

Notifications received during

	1935.	1934.	Average 1923-33.
Scarlet Fever	319	213	138
Diphtheria	193	86	64

Scarlet Fever. In the annual report for 1934 it was stated that scarlet fever had begun to assume epidemic proportions in the autumn of that year and that the increased prevalence had continued into the past year. The number of notifications received during 1935 has only once, in the year 1922, been exceeded for the past twenty-five years. From the short table given above, it will be seen that 319 cases were notified against an average annual incidence of 138 cases over a period of years. It is not possible to prophesy even approximately the epidemic wave of scarlet fever. From the records it would appear that immunity to this disease is much greater than was the case at the beginning of the present century when the number of cases occurring was in several years largely in excess of anything that has been experienced since. In general, as will be seen from the report on Park hospital, the disease maintains its mild character, both fatalities and serious complications being few in number.

As the epidemic in part coincided with the more serious epidemic of diphtheria it was not possible at times to admit all notified cases of scarlet fever to hospital. With the mild type of the disease and the greatly improved housing conditions, home nursing in suitable cases creates no serious hardship and is frequently desired. All patients whose condition appeared to be serious or whose housing conditions were unsatisfactory were removed to hospital and the incidence of secondary cases was no higher in houses with home-nursed patients than in those where patients were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria. The past year witnessed an outbreak of diphtheria which has not been approached in extent since the year 1911. The total number of cases coming under review as diphtheria or suspected diphtheria was 224 and 193 patients were notified as suffering from the disease. During the past two years many parts of the country, including county districts near Reading, have experienced a markedly increased prevalence of diphtheria. In some cases the increased prevalence has been accompanied by an increased severity or gravis strain of the disease.

For many years Reading has enjoyed a comparative immunity and it will be noticed from the table given above that the average number of cases during the period 1923-33 was no more than 64 annually. Up till the latter part of June the number of cases occurring was below even this low average and at times during May we were in the unusual position of not having a single case of the disease in the borough. During June the numbers under treatment at Park hospital varied from two to a maximum of six towards the end of the month. In July the outbreak assumed a

somewhat explosive character when 27 notifications were received during a period of two weeks, of which 21 occurred on the Whitley housing estate. After a slight intermission notifications continued to be received in excessive numbers until towards the end of the year.

From the fact that similar outbreaks of diphtheria have been occurring throughout the country, it is clear that no particular local explanation can be found for this epidemic. It would appear that the infecting organism of the disease has recently assumed greater potency and the long period of comparative immunity enjoyed by Reading has largely increased the number of susceptible children open to infection. This latter aspect was probably emphasised by the large aggregation of children transferred during recent years to the Whitley housing estate.

Outbreaks of this character have been reported from new housing estates in other areas and a similar outbreak, more fatal in type but less in extent, occurred after the completion of the Norcot estate here.

Fortunately the disease on the whole maintained a mild character, only 12 cases proving fatal. The fatality rate was rather lower than the average fatality rate experienced for this disease in Reading over a long period and markedly lower than that occurring amongst cases on the Norcot estate in the year 1927 and 1928.

The Council has established a clinic for the immunization of children against diphtheria and also provides anti-toxin free to general practitioners for the treatment of children suffering from the disease. The material used for immunization is toxoid anti-toxin mixture and three doses are given at intervals of a week or a fortnight. The Schick test is used before and after immunization. No reactions have been experienced.

Measles. The year 1935 was an inter-epidemic period and only 16 notifications were received. There are indications that an epidemic will occur during the present year.

Anterior Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Encephalitis Lethargica. These three diseases are all grave infections of the central nervous system. Two notifications of poliomyelitis were received, both from the Royal Berkshire hospital. One patient, an infant of seven months, recovered from this infection but died during the present year from pneumonia. The second patient was non-resident in the borough and was admitted to the hospital for treatment.

Two notifications of cerebro-spinal meningitis were also received from the hospital. In neither case was the patient a resident of Reading.

One notification of encephalitis lethargica was received from the hospital, a boy aged ten years. He remained under treatment for a little over a month and at the end of that period was discharged to his home quite well. One death was assigned to encephalitis lethargica of which no previous notification had been received.

Vaccination. Mr. G. S. Hawthorne, the vaccination officer for the borough, reports as follows :—

“ The number of children successfully vaccinated during the year was 235 or 15·1 per cent. of the total births registered during the year 1934.

Details as follows :—

TABLE IV.

Districts.	Number of births Registered.	Number of children successfully vaccinated.	Insusceptible of vaccination.	Had Small Pox.	Died un-vaccinated.	Exemption from vaccination by Statutory Declaration of “Conscientious Objection.”	Postponement by Medical Certificate.	Removed to other districts.	Removed to places unknown.	Number of births remaining (unaccounted for).	
										No.	Rate per cent of total births
St. Mary's	797	140	—	—	24	534	—	22	32	45	5.7
St. Giles'	661	81	—	—	23	495	1	19	12	30	4.6
Caversham	100	14	2	—	3	73	—	2	2	4	4.0
Whole Borough	1558	235	2	—	50	1102	1	43	46	79	5.1

“ The following further table shows the number of persons successfully vaccinated and re-vaccinated, at the cost of the rates, by the medical officer of the poor law institution and the public vaccinators, *during the year ended 30th September, 1934* :—

Name of the Poor Law Institution or Vaccination district.	Name of the Medical Officer or Public Vaccinator.	Number of successful primary vaccinations of persons.			Number of successful re-vaccinations, <i>i.e.</i> , successful vaccinations of persons who had been successfully vaccinated at some previous time.
		Under one year.	One year and upwards.	Total.	
Battle Hospital, Reading.	Dr. D. C. Thomas	1	7	8	—
Reading and Caversham districts (less Tilehurst).	Dr. F. W. Stansfield	111	19	130	4
Tilehurst district of Reading.	Dr. B. B. Hosford	23	1	24	—
Totals		135	27	162	4

TABLE V.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1935. CLASSIFIED IN AGES AND LOCALITIES.

Notifiable diseases.	Number of cases notified								Total cases notified in each municipal ward.										Notified cases removed to isolation hospital.	Total deaths in isolation hospital.			
	At ages—Years.								Abbey	Battle	Castle	Caversham	Church	East	Katesgrove	Minster	Redlands	Tilehurst			Victoria	West	
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.															
Small Pox	...	4	4	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	2	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
Measles...	...	1	50	118	14	9	1	—	—	—	5	—	101	19	18	8	4	25	6	5	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	2	1	2	14	7	—	—	—	3	4	5	2	—	1	2	8	3	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	1	59	210	29	19	—	—	—	—	20	12	110	48	13	3	7	32	18	25	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polionyelitis	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	3	—	3	21	38	15	2	—	—	9	4	14	6	6	3	1	7	11	9	—	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	2	3	8	3	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	—	2	—	1	2	3	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	17	1	—	1	4	5	3	—	—	1	2	2	4	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	705	22	121	350	72	96	31	13	13	36	29	46	251	83	40	15	24	86	39	43	4563	—	32

† Includes 16 admissions ("other diseases.")

PARK HOSPITAL.

I am indebted to Dr. L. C. W. Cane for the following record of work at Park hospital during the year :—

Owing to the excessive prevalence of both scarlet fever and diphtheria the number of patients admitted was much greater than in any previous year since the hospital opened. The previous highest number, namely 447, was treated at the hospital during the preceding year.

TABLE VI.

Disease.	Remaining in hospital 1 Jan., 1935.	Since admitted.	Since discharged.	Died in hospital.	Remaining in hospital 31 Dec., 1935.
Scarlet Fever	34	239	243	1	29
Diphtheria	12	224	188	12	36
Tuberculosis	21	86	78	19	10
Other Diseases	—	14	14	—	—
Totals	67	563	523	32	75

Scarlet Fever. The type of scarlet fever occurring continues to be mild although one death occurred, a case fatality rate of less than one per cent.

As in previous years a note is made for the purpose of record of the incidence of the common complications. There were 37 cases or 13·0 per cent. of rhinitis, 11 or 4·0 per cent. of adenitis and six or 2·0 per cent. of otitis media. Cases of rhinitis were in excess of the average incidence and cases of otitis media well below the average.

Return Cases. There were six "return" cases of scarlet fever, an incidence of 2·4 per cent. of cases discharged. This is not an excessive number during an epidemic period.

Diphtheria. The number of cases of diphtheria admitted during the year was greatly in excess of the admissions for any previous year. It was necessary to bring all available accommodation including wards normally used for the treatment of tuberculosis into use for the treatment of the exceptional number of cases of diphtheria.

For a short period auxiliary accommodation at Battle hospital had to be provided for convalescent cases.

The epidemiological aspects of the outbreak of diphtheria are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Of the total of 224 cases admitted as diphtheria, further investigation permitted a revision of the diagnosis in 38 cases. It is a matter of sound policy that all suspected or doubtful cases of diphtheria should be admitted

and treated without waiting for bacteriological confirmation. Fortunately the type of the disease throughout the epidemic was not unduly severe. Only one case required tracheotomy. Evidence of cardiac weakness occurred in thirteen cases but diphtheritic paralysis, a usual complication of severe cases, was exceptional. The case fatality rate of just over 6.2 per cent. of notified cases was below the average mortality rates for the district.

Other Diseases. During the period when the demand for accommodation was less severe it was possible to admit cases of other infectious diseases including erysipelas, measles, etc. There were also cases of mixed infection of scarlet fever and diphtheria for which special accommodation had to be provided.

DISINFECTION.

As in previous years, the work of disinfection was carried out by the public health department. This includes all the work arising in connection with infected homes in the district and all the necessary disinfection for Dellwood maternity home and other nursing homes, as well as in certain of the adjoining rural districts, with whom the Corporation have agreements to carry out disinfecting work as required.

The following summary shows the nature and extent of the work carried out during the past year :—

	Number of			
	Houses.	Rooms.	Beds and Mattresses.	Miscellaneous Articles.
Reading district	686	809	149	3353
Adjoining districts	15	9	15	664
Dellwood maternity home ...	—	2	14	57
Miscellaneous institutions in Reading	—	13	20	155
Total	701	833	198	4229

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following return shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths due to that disease annually since 1918.

It will be seen that notifications of the pulmonary form of the disease were fewer than in any previous year.

Deaths due to this form however, were in excess of those of the preceding year which showed a record low mortality.

Notification returns are for various reasons never quite complete. Amongst the deaths registered during the year were nine due to pulmonary tuberculosis of which no previous notification had been received.

PART I.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1935, to the 31st December, 1935, in the area of the County Borough of Reading.

Age periods.	Formal Notifications.												Total Notifications.
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis.												
	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)	
Pulmonary, males ...	1	—	1	1	2	6	20	6	8	3	2	50	51
„ females ...	2	—	—	1	9	4	9	3	3	1	—	32	32
Non-Pulmonary, males ...	2	2	3	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	13	13
„ females ...	—	1	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	7

PART II.

SUPPLEMENTAL RETURN.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the abovementioned period, *otherwise* than by formal notification.

Age periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total.
Pulmonary, males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	3	1	12
" females ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	2	1	1	1	10
Non-Pulmonary, males ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
" females ...	1	2	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	8

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns { from local Registrars	9	5
transferable deaths from Registrar General	1	—
Posthumous Notifications	1	1
"Transfers" from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	11	3

PART III.

NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining at the 31st December, 1935, on the Register of Notifications kept by the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Cases.
	Males. 257	Females. 248	Total. 505	Males. 55	Females. 54	Total. 109	
Number of cases <i>removed</i> from the Register (s) during the year by reason <i>inter alia</i> of :—							
1. Withdrawal of notification	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
2. Recovery from the disease	—	1	1	—	2	2	3
3. Death	38	24	62	3	1	4	66
4. Transfers to other areas	9	10	19	—	2	2	21

Notifications and deaths due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis were both below the average of recent years.

TABLE VIII.

Year.	Number of cases notified.		Number of deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
1918-27 (average)	128	18	86	13
1928	183	21	81	28
1929	175	31	108	14
1930	127	15	93	10
1931	108	22	68	17
1932	114	31	66	19
1933	99	13	89	10
1934	102	29	64	13
1935	82	20	75	8

Report of the Tuberculosis Officer. The following report compiled by Dr. Alan Carling, the acting tuberculosis officer, in the continued absence of Dr. H. R. Minkley, the tuberculosis officer, owing to illness, shows the nature and extent of the work carried out during the year :—

" Number of new cases examined	...	...	...	...	319
Transferred from other areas—males	...	...	...	...	1
" " " " females	...	...	...	...	6
					—
					326
					—

Of these 326 cases :—

Persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis numbered—

Adult—males	...	40
" females	...	39
Children—males	...	2
" females	...	2
		—
		83
		—

Persons suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis numbered—

Adult—males	...	3
" females	...	4
Children—males	...	5
" females	...	2
		—
		14
		—

Persons presenting such symptoms and signs as gave rise to suspicion and necessitated extended observation—

Adult—males	...	6
„ females		20
Children—males	...	17
„ females		8
		—
		51
		—

Persons found to be *not* suffering from tuberculosis—

Adult—males	...	50
„ females	...	56
Children—males	...	40
„ females	...	32
		—
		178
		—

It will be noted that 51 of these cases were remaining undiagnosed at the end of the year. The acting tuberculosis officer agrees with Dr. Minkley's policy of delaying the diagnosis in doubtful cases if necessary for a considerable period. Once a patient has been labelled tuberculous it is difficult to remove the slight social stigma should the diagnosis not be confirmed at a later date.

Total number of attendances by patients during the year was 3162.

Examination of Contacts. The tuberculosis nurses have continued to encourage contacts of new patients to attend the dispensary as soon as possible after a definite diagnosis has been made. The total number of contacts examined was 108. In two cases unsuspected disease was discovered at an early stage when particularly amenable to treatment. In 20 others it was thought desirable to continue observation at infrequent intervals as the patients had some departure from the normal. In a recent investigation in Lancashire it was found that manifest signs of pulmonary tuberculosis in contacts did not appear on the average until three years after notification of the infecting case.

Home Supervision. The tuberculosis officer paid visits to the homes of 120 patients, and held consultations with the medical attendants of 153 cases either at their homes or at the dispensary.

The two tuberculosis nurses paid 2,317 visits to the homes of patients, including 167 to ex-service men and 163 cases not in attendance at the dispensary.

Shelter Treatment. In certain chronic cases sleeping in the open air is found to be a great comfort to the patient, although not a remedy for the disease; 15 shelters have been supplied by the Corporation and have been in regular use throughout the year.

Sanatorium Treatment. Patients have received treatment at the following institutions :—

Grosvenor sanatorium, Ashford, Kent	38
Berks and Bucks joint sanatorium, Peppard, Oxon ...	15
Cotswold sanatorium, Gloucestershire	1
Burrow Hill sanatorium colony for youths, Frimley, Surrey	3
Church Army sanatorium for lads, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey	8
Papworth Village settlement, Cambridge	2
Preston Hall, Maidstone, Kent	2
Wingfield-Morris hospital, Headington, Oxford	11
Children's hospital, Cold Ash, Berks	1
Royal sea-bathing hospital, Margate	3
Brompton hospital for consumption	1
	—
	85
	—

The total number of patients sent to sanatoria shows an increase on that of the previous year. During the last five months of 1935 the pavilion reserved for treatment of female patients had to be converted to use for zymotic diseases. Certain early cases, therefore, were sent straight to sanatorium instead of receiving preliminary treatment in Park hospital.

It has been found desirable to send girls with suspicious symptoms for a period of observation to the Berks and Bucks joint sanatorium. The Board of Education permit such children to attend the recognised sanatorium school for two months without notification. In two instances girls were able to leave at the end of that time remarkably improved in health.

The patients at Papworth village settlement and Burrow Hill sanatorium colony receive vocational training in addition to sanatorium treatment.

	Remaining in sanatoria, Dec. 1934		Admitted during the year 1935.		Totals.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Adults ...	14	5	29	14	43	19
Children ...	6	2	11	4	17	6
Totals ...	20	7	40	18	60	25

The condition of patients on discharge from sanatoria shows :—

Disease quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	12
Improvement maintained	...	...	...	...	...	27
Disease progressive	...	...	...	...	...	6
Died in Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	1
Observational cases doubtfully tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	4
" " " non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " " tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	1
Remaining in sanatoria on 31st December, 1935	...	...	...	...	...	33
						—
						85
						—

The Tuberculosis Pavilions, Park Hospital, Reading. Forty-two beds (26 for males and 16 for females) are available for the treatment of acute, semi-acute, and advanced cases, and for institutional observation of early cases.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Remaining in pavilions, December, 1934	12	9	21
Admitted during year 1935	57	29	86
	—	—	—
	69	38	107
	—	—	—

The condition of patients on discharge from the pavilions is shown below :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Observation cases doubtfully tuberculous	2	4	6
" " " non-tuberculous	1	3	4
Disease quiescent	2	0	2
Improved	31	17	48
No material improvement	8	8	16
Died in institution	13	6	19
Remaining in pavilions on 31st Dec., 1935	12	0	12
	—	—	—
	69	38	107
	—	—	—

Eleven males and one female proceeded to sanatoria after preliminary treatment in hospital. Other patients were pressed to follow up their stay with a period in sanatorium but declined to do so.

Dental Treatment. As in former years, Mr. Cooper-Jones has kindly given his services to those patients requiring treatment who were unable to obtain dental aid under the National Health Insurance scheme. This help has greatly benefited those patients on the waiting list for a sanatorium, where such preparation is necessary to enable them to obtain maximum benefit.

The following is a summary, furnished by Mr. Cooper-Jones, of cases referred to him by the tuberculosis officer :—

Number of patients still attending from 1934	...	2
„ „ new patients attending in 1935	...	7
„ „ cases completed	... ..	7
„ „ „ failing to complete treatment	...	2
„ „ „ still attending	... ..	—
Total attendances	... ..	41
Number of teeth extracted	... ..	31
„ „ „ fillings	... ..	37
„ „ „ scalings	... ..	2
Number of sessions devoted to treatment	...	27

X-ray Examinations. The tuberculosis officer has good reason to be grateful to Dr. Thomas for X-ray examinations at Battle hospital. Fifty-seven patients attended for photographs of the lungs. Not only is an X-ray film of great value in cases presenting difficulty in diagnosis, but in definite cases also the suitability for special treatment can be much more readily gauged.

Special Treatment. In most early cases showing signs of disease in one lung only, it has been the policy of the tuberculosis officer to arrange for collapse therapy when the patients have been prepared to accept sanatorium treatment. As has been found in other areas it is better to delay the induction of the artificial pneumothorax until the patient has settled down in sanatorium. For patients under treatment in Park hospital with bilateral disease it has been usual to try a course of intramuscular injections of gold salts. Whereas in some instances marked benefit has been noted, in others the progress of the disease has not been arrested. For the control of haemorrhage, subcutaneous injection of colloidal calcium has been found a useful adjunct to treatment by complete rest.

Examination of Specimens for tubercle bacilli.

		Sputum.	Other.	Positive.	Negative.
Number sent in by doctors	...	185	3	23	165
„ „ from Battle hospital	19	0	3	16	
Dispensary cases	... ..	164	4	47	121
Ante-natal clinic	... ..	0	3	0	3
		—	—	—	—
		368	10	73	305
		—	—	—	—

Battle Hospital. The following is a summary of those cases of tuberculosis which received treatment at Battle hospital during 1935 :—

	Adults.		Children.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Remaining in institution on 31st Dec., 1934 ...	7	1	0	0	8
Admitted during 1935 ...	11	20	4	5	40
	18	21	4	5	48
Discharged during 1935 ...	8	8	2	2	20
Died in institution ...	4	5	2	2	13
Remaining in institution, 31st December, 1935 ...	6	8	0	1	15
	18	21	4	5	48

Tuberculosis Dispensary Care Association. As the treatment of tuberculosis is almost as much an economic as a medical problem, the tuberculosis officer derives much assistance from the care committee which is empowered to spend £2 per 1,000 of the population of the borough on provision of extra nourishment for tuberculosis patients.

The total number of cases dealt with during the year was 108; 53 being new cases, re-applications 23, and continuation of assistance 32.

Analysis of assistance given shows :—

Granted extra nourishment ...	78
Provided with clothing and boots ...	15
Children sent to country homes ...	6
Dental treatment ...	4
Money grant ...	1
	104
Applications considered not necessary ...	4
	108

Five boys were sent to cottage homes at Appleton, near Abingdon, and one to Sonning Common for country holiday. All except one made very satisfactory improvement and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. One mother wrote a letter of thanks to the committee saying her boy had had a grand time, plenty to eat and drink and plenty of sport."

VENEREAL DISEASES.

From the returns furnished by the Medical Officer the following short table has been prepared to show the number of persons attending the venereal diseases treatment centre at the Royal Berkshire hospital during the year 1935 and the conditions from which they suffered.

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Persons
Under treatment January 1st, 1935—	96	29	70	39	234
Treated for the first time during 1935—	56	31	106	77	270
Totals	152	60	176	116	504

In addition to the number shown in the table as coming under treatment for the first time during the year, 23 patients suffering from syphilis and 26 from gonorrhoea were also seen who had attended treatment centres elsewhere for the same infection.

There were also examined at the centre 61 persons who were found to be suffering from conditions other than venereal disease.

The number of new patients treated for the first time shows an increase of two in the case of syphilis and of 19 in the case of gonorrhoea, compared with the preceding year.

It is part of the national scheme for combating venereal disease that treatment centres should be established in all large centres of population. The Reading centre, therefore, is designed to meet the needs of the County of Berkshire and the adjacent parts of Oxon, Bucks and Surrey. It is also noteworthy that so considerable a number of patients had attended other centres before coming under treatment at the Royal Berkshire hospital. As mentioned in previous reports the major purpose of the scheme is preventive and is designed to treat effectively the earlier and communicable phase of these diseases with a view to preventing the transmission of infection and the graver sequelae which may occur.

Of the total of 87 patients suffering from syphilis who attended for the first time during the year only eight were in the earlier and more infectious stage of the disease. This number compares with 4, 17 and 8 during the three preceding years. Fourteen of the syphilitic patients were suffering from the congenital form of the disease.

The number of patients suffering from gonorrhoea who attended for the first time, namely 183, shows an increase of 19 over that of the preceding year. All patients suffering from gonorrhoea must be regarded as infectious and it is, therefore, important to note the increasing prevalence of this disease. The new cases of gonorrhoea seen during the three preceding years were 164, 140 and 135, respectively.

It would also appear from the records that the increase in the number of these patients is mainly confined to the female sex.

As the clinic serves several areas, the area of residence of patients who attended for the first time during the year is of interest.

		Reading.	Berkshire.	Other areas.	Total.
Syphilis	...	43	44	23	110
Gonorrhoea	...	77	97	35	209

It is not possible from the returns to classify early and late stages of syphilis in accordance with the area of residence but it is clear from the report that the increase in the case of gonorrhoea is distributed throughout the whole area served by the clinic.

The extent of the routine work of the clinic will be more fully appreciated from the following record of attendances and in-patient treatment :—

Out-patient attendances.	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
For individual attention by medical officer	1,548	1,079	1,086	597	4,310
For intermediate treatment ...	109	74	2,238	2,041	4,462
Totals ...	1,657	1,153	3,324	2,638	8,772
Number of patients admitted for treatment	14	13	20	25	
Aggregate number of inpatient days	356	181	680	790	

Perhaps the most outstanding features of the records are the comparatively small number of recent infections of syphilis, namely eight from the whole area served by the clinic and the continuing increase in the incidence of gonorrhoea which has now been going on for several years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Mortality. During the year 76 infants died before attaining one year of age. These deaths are equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 51.5 per 1,000 live births. As has been mentioned in previous reports, these rates are liable to considerable fluctuations year by year though the whole trend is markedly downwards.

The present rate compares with a record low rate of 41 during the preceding year.

Neo-natal Mortality. This name is given to deaths of infants in the first month of life. The great majority of these deaths result from causes operating before birth or are the result of the fact of birth and a large proportion occur within a few hours or even minutes of birth.

The following short table shows the proportion of infant deaths assigned to three principal causes. It will be seen that the increase in the neo-natal deaths and an unusual increase in the deaths assigned to bronchitis and pneumonia account for the whole increase in the total infantile mortality. It is to be presumed that the inclement weather during the later part of the year accounted for the latter increase.

Period.	Neo-natal mortality.	Mortality from bronchitis and pneumonia.	Mortality from gastro-intestinal diseases.
1905-08	34.7	17.2	17.6
1909-12	37.3	10.1	11.9
1920-23	31.7	10.0	4.7
1924-27	25.6	10.5	3.5
1928-31	29.3	10.5	2.5
1932	34.4	6.5	4.3
1933	44.2	5.8	6.5
1934	26.8	4.2	2.1
1935	33.2	10.2	2.7

Rates per 1,000 births.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926.

During the year there were three notifications of puerperal fever and seven of puerperal pyrexia. Two cases of puerperal fever proved fatal.

Notifications of these diseases is probably far from being complete.

Maternal Mortality. In addition to two fatal cases of puerperal fever, one other death was assigned to puerperal causes. These three deaths represent a maternal mortality of 1.9 per thousand births which is a rate less than half of that for the Country as a whole.

There were no adverse social conditions in the case of any of these three patients. One case of puerperal fever had a history of antecedent illness of a toxic character and was under medical care. The second had an acute streptococcal infection of the tonsils which also affected the baby, both dying as a result. The non-puerperal fatal case resulted from a caesarian section undertaken in hospital for placenta praevia.

TABLE IX.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1935. (CAUSES OF DEATH under one year).		Allocated to Municipal Wards.										Deaths in Institutions	
Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 mos.	3 months and under 6 mos.	6 mos. and under 9 mos.	9 months and under 12 mos.	Total under 1 year.	Residents of Borough.	Non-Residents of Borough.
All causes Certified	...	30	7	11	1	49	8	9	4	6	76	36	14
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis, not Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	28	5	5	—	38	2	5	—	3	48	22	10
Other Causes	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	5	1	1
Totals		30	7	11	1	49	8	9	4	6	76	36	14

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were nine notifications of ophthalmia neonatorum received during the year. In only two of these was the inflammation severe in character. One was admitted for treatment to Battle hospital and the other was nursed at home under medical supervision by the nurses of the Queen Victoria institute.

All the infants made good recoveries without any permanent injury to the eyes.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision un-impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
9	8	1	9	—	—	—

Health Visiting Summary. The scheme of health visiting has been carried out on the same lines as in previous years. All infants except those under medical care or those whose circumstances indicate that all necessary attention will be available are visited soon after birth and at regular intervals during the first year of life.

Less frequent visits are paid during subsequent years until the children attain school age when they come under the care of the school medical department.

Records of all exceptional children are maintained and transferred to the school medical records when the children attain school age.

The following summary indicates the amount of work done under the scheme during the year :—

First visits after receipt of notification	...	...	...	1,353
Visits to children aged one to five years	...	...	...	11,783
Re-visits to children under one year	...	...	...	6,125
Special visits	...	...	...	161
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	756
Special visits to cases of measles	...	...	...	4
Special visits to cases of ophthalmia	...	...	...	3
Special visits in regard to still-births	...	...	...	40
Special visits in regard to infant deaths	...	...	...	70
Special visits to nursed-out children	...	...	...	220
Totals				20,515

It will be seen that the great majority of new-born infants come under the supervision of the health visitors and that an average of five visits are paid to each during the first year. Some children whose progress is not satisfactory are visited more frequently whilst others more favourably placed require fewer visits and can be seen at the infant welfare centres.

TABLE X.
INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRES.

Centre.	Number of Sessions.	New Attendances	Re- Attendances	Average Attendance
Star Lane, Monday... ..	48	104	2329	51
" Wednesday... ..	51	126	3333	68
" Friday... ..	50	108	2782	58
Elm Park Hall (morning session)	51	106	3297	67
" " (afternoon session)	51	212	5763	117
Park Institute, Wokingham Road	50	178	5094	105
West Memorial Institute, Caversham	52	118	2740	55
Tilehurst, Village Hall... ..	48	54	1696	37
Shinfield, St. Barnabas Church Hall	52	91	3231	64
Whitley Hall... ..	51	160	4518	91
Totals	504	1157	34783	713

The numbers in attendance and the average attendances at the various infant consultation centres throughout the borough have been well maintained.

Clinic.	No. of children on registers at end of year.		Total attendances.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.
	Under 1 year	1-5 years.			
West Memorial Institute, Caver- sham... ..	102	310	2858	1877	981
Park Institute... ..	150	400	5272	3720	1552
Shinfield... ..	80	247	3322	1925	1397
Tilehurst... ..	48	111	1750	1105	645
Star Lane, Monday... ..	275	1043	2433	1561	872
" Wednesday... ..			3459	2135	1324
" Friday... ..			2890	1804	1086
Elm Park Hall (morning)... ..	245	469	3303	2233	1070
" " (afternoon)... ..			5975	3716	2259
Whitley Hall... ..	131	432	4678	2432	2246
Totals	1031	3012	35940	22508	13432

Notification of Births Act, 1907. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, 1,385 notifications were received during the year, representing 93 per cent. of all births assigned to Reading which were registered during the same period. The proportion of registered births notified continues to be satisfactory. Seventy-nine per cent. were notified by midwives and the remaining 21 per cent. by doctors.

Supervision of Midwives. Thirty-three midwives gave notice of their intention to practice during the year. The manner of employment of the midwives was as follows :—

In public institutions	...	...	...	...	10
By nursing associations	...	...	...	...	8
In private practice	...	...	...	...	8
In private homes	...	...	...	...	7

The inspector of midwives paid 58 visits to midwives during the year. She reports that the general standard of work carried out continues to be satisfactory.

Records of sending for medical help. During the year, medical assistance was sought by midwives on 331 occasions, of which 262 were for the mother and 69 for the child. The occasions on which a midwife must send for medical assistance are clearly defined in the rules of the Central Midwives Board. The local authority is statutorily responsible for the payment of doctor's fees in these cases, in accordance with the terms of a prescribed scale. The expenditure under this heading during the financial year was £375 of which £50 was recovered from the patients.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1919. The average number of persons in receipt of milk during the year was 39 expectant mothers, 98 nursing mothers, and 673 children under three years of age. The gross cost to the Corporation during the financial year ended 31st March, 1935, was £5,500, the income from sales being £1,250, making a nett figure of £4,250.

Children Act, 1908 to 1932 (Infant Life Protection). The number of children on the register at the beginning of the year was 56. During the year, 36 children were added to the register. Three children who reached the age of nine years and ceased to be under supervision were notified to the education authority, 14 were returned to their parents (including four whose home address was outside the borough), four left the district of whom details were forwarded to the areas concerned, and two were legally adopted. The number of children on the register at the close of the year was 69 and the number of foster-mothers, 59.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

I am indebted to Dr. Margaret Porteous for the following record of the work done at the ante-natal clinic during the year.

The clinic holds two sessions weekly on Tuesdays at Star Lane and the following table shows the progress of the work over a period of years.

	Average Attendances.					
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
New cases ...	347	353	364	318	322	364
Attendances ...	1537	1583	1668	1515	1393	2213

The total number of patients attending was in excess of the average of previous years partly due to the fact that an extra day is included in the year but the number of attendances is greatly increased. More patients now attend during the earlier months of pregnancy and maintain their attendance throughout.

Unless they are under the care of their own medical attendant all patients are examined prior to their admission to Dellwood. The various patients were referred respectively by :—

Dellwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Health visitors	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Friends	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Doctors	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total							364

Each patient on her first visit is submitted to a thorough medical examination to detect any serious defect or disease which may prove a menace to mother or child. Such patients were referred for treatment to—

Own doctors	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dental clinic	...	...	...	...	...	151

From the foregoing it will be seen that dental caries is an exceedingly common defect which on occasion may have serious consequences on the puerperal state. Unfortunately, despite all attempt at persuasion, many patients still refuse dental treatment entirely. It is, however, gratifying that as many as 141 patients did attend the Education Committee's dental clinic.

The co-operation of the x-ray department at Battle hospital was sought for the confirmation of multiple pregnancy in two cases.

It is one of the aims of the ante-natal clinic to enable the patients, especially when expecting the first baby, to regard pregnancy and parturition as a normal physiological process and to relieve any apprehension they may have. Such minor disturbances of pregnancy as incipient albuminuria, high blood pressure, low backache, cramp and varicose veins are treated, and a simple code of rules regarding exercise and diet laid down for each patient to follow as far as possible to enable her to equip herself perfectly and with confidence for parturition and lactation.

During the past six months patients have been encouraged to report post-natally should they have any complaints or symptoms whatever. During 1935, 21 post-natal patients have attended with a total attendance of 32. A few of these have been referred to the gynaecological clinic for further treatment and advice.

In addition to the clinics conducted by the Maternity and Child Welfare committee the Queen Victoria nursing institute has established an ante-natal clinic under the direction of a local medical practitioner for the examination of patients to be attended by the institute's midwives. One hundred and thirty patients attended during the year.

One important firm of medical practitioners also conducts an ante-natal clinic at which over 100 patients attended.

Including patients under the care of their own private medical advisers, approximately two-thirds of all parturient women receive careful medical ante-natal supervision apart from those who receive similar care from midwives.

DELLWOOD MATERNITY HOME.

The total number of patients admitted to Dellwood maternity home during the year was 297 of whom eight were admitted for ante-natal care or were found not to be in labour. The actual number of patients delivered was 289 which is in excess of the admissions for any year since the home was opened. The previous highest number of infants born at Dellwood in any year was 285 in 1923.

The infants born at Dellwood last year represent 19 per cent. of all births occurring in the borough during the same period.

Unless patients engage their own doctors the matron and the nursing staff are responsible for the conduct of all cases. In the event of emergencies occurring the doctor of the patient's own choice is called in.

Of the total cases attended during the year 37 were delivered by doctors and the remaining 252 by the nursing staff.

Emergencies in which medical assistance, as required by the rules of the Central Midwives Board, was sought occurred in 57 cases or approximately 20 per cent. of the total. This is slightly below the average of such cases.

There were no maternal deaths and no case of puerperal septicaemia was notified. There were four notified cases of puerperal pyrexia in none of which was the patient seriously ill.

No case of either ophthalmia neonatorum or pemphigus neonatorum occurred in the home during the year.

Dellwood was designed to assist people whose social circumstances or whose housing conditions were such as would render it difficult for them to make the necessary provision independently.

From the subjoined summary it will be seen that the home does fulfill this dual function. Each patient makes a contribution towards her care and maintenance in accordance with an income scale. It was found that the average income of the husbands of patients admitted was £2 8s. 0d. per week, exclusive of those who were either unemployed or engaged on part-time work, and the average fee paid £3 11s. 0d. or £1 15s. 6d. per week. As a matter of experience it has been found that the income status of patients varies little from year to year. Patients without resources or whose circumstances indicate special hardship are admitted free.

As in previous years a record is maintained of the housing conditions of all patients admitted, with the following result :—

Occupied one room	...	...	...	...	12
„ two rooms	...	...	...	...	64
„ more than two rooms	...	...	...	...	10
Living with parents	...	...	...	...	9
In domestic service, etc.	...	...	...	...	1
In separate houses	...	...	...	...	193
					<hr/> 289 <hr/>

As would be expected from the reduction of the housing shortage the proportion of patients described as occupying separate houses has steadily increased in recent years.

Part of the function of the home is to train pupil midwives of whom eight are accepted each year. All of the eight pupils who completed their training during the past year gained the certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The following is the report of the medical officer in charge of the clinic :

“ **Psychiatric Clinic.** The weekly psychiatric clinic has been regularly held at the Royal Berks hospital and continues to provide means by which cases of early breakdown and others may avail themselves of treatment. During the year, while no great increase, an average number have attended and advantage has been freely taken in seeking advice. Treatment has been in conjunction with the patient's own doctor, and in suitable cases opportunity has been given for the patient to take advantage of the provisions of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930, and enter the Berks mental hospital as voluntary patients.”

Mental Deficiency. Accommodation. There are now 44 patients in Borocourt, 8 males and 36 females, an increase of 5 during the year.

Ascertainment. During the year 5 new cases were notified and 20 died or removed from the district—showing a net decrease of 14. The following table gives particulars of the cases under care :—

<i>Mental Defectives, December 31st, 1935.</i>				Males.	Females.
In certified institutions	...	...	...	31	41
In places of safety or approved homes	...	...	...	1	—
On licence from institutions	...	...	...	3	1
Under statutory supervision...	...	...	...	80	70
Under guardianship	...	...	...	11	7
Cases under public assistance	...	...	...	1	5
In Borocourt	...	...	...	8	36
				<hr/> 127 <hr/>	<hr/> 124 <hr/>

New cases notified during the year :—

Idiots	...	...	...	...	—	1
Imbeciles	...	...	...	...	2	1
Feeble-minded	...	...	...	...	—	2
Moral defectives	...	...	...	...	—	—
Died during the year	...	...	...	...	4	1
Removed to other districts	...	...	...	...	4	11

Occupation Centre. I am indebted to Miss E. M. Barkas, supervisor of the Occupation Centre at Watlington House, for the following account of the past year's work :—

“ During the year 17 males and 17 females have attended. For the most part the attendances have been regular during the past year. Owing to the lack of special transport we are unable to obtain an increased attendance of children and low grade defectives.

The days and hours on which the centre is open are as follows :—

Monday, 2-5 p.m. for boys only—shoe repairing class for high grades.

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-3.45 p.m.—for girls and children and boys up to the age of 16. Mid-day meal provided.

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-3.45 p.m.—for girls and children and boys up to the age of 16. Meal provided.

10 a.m.-12 p.m.—carpentry class for high grade boys.

Friday, 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m.. Meal provided.

Girls, 10 a.m.-1.45 p.m.

Children, full time.

Boys, 1.30-4.30 p.m.—shoe repairing class.

Mr. E. White instructs the shoe repairing class.

Mr. M. C. Canning is in charge of the carpentry class, and

Mrs. Saunders supervises the preparation of the meals.

Miss M. Holloway assists me on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

The subjects taught are as follows :—

Handwork. For senior girls—Needlework, knitting, rugmaking, simple weaving, straw basket-making.

For boys. Shoe repairing, carpentry, rugmaking, straw and cane basket-making, cane seating and seagrass seating.

For children. Needlework, knitting, toy making from waste material, scrap book making, chalking and plasticine work.

Domestic Work. Senior girls work in turn in the kitchen. The children work at polishing shoes and furniture, scrubbing tables, washing, cleaning windows, laying tables for meals.

Physical Work. This includes marching, exercises, action games, nursery rhymes, folk dancing and percussion band, also singing.

We have no voluntary helpers at present, but Mrs. Hallett who helped us so efficiently in the past has kindly consented to assist in case of emergency.

Last July Miss Holloway attended a short course of training arranged by the C.A.M.W. and the ideas and experience she obtained there have proved useful to us.

We held our annual small sale on December 11th and 12th which was opened by the Mayoress. Some of the children gave a short display of nursery rhymes—the sale realised £3 15s. 10d. and a few orders for work.”

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The following is the report of the work of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, during the year :—

“ *Registration.*—The number of persons in the borough registered as blind is 140 of whom 60 are males and 80 females. The statistical information is as follows :—

Names on register at commencement of year ...	137
Newly registered cases	14
	<hr/>
	151
Deaths notified	7
Removals out	1
De-certified	3
	<hr/>
	11
	<hr/>
	140
	<hr/>

Home Workers. There are nine approved home workers in the Council's scheme, including piano tuners, basket workers, chair caners and a carpenter, a Braille copyist working for the National Institute for the Blind and a boot repairer working at Swiss Cottage, London.

Unemployable Blind. Under the new regulations approved by the Ministry of Health, an increase in the allowances has been made as the result of which a larger number of persons have become eligible for assistance. Whereas 37 blind persons were in receipt of an allowance for the corresponding period of last year the number is now 70, the total amount paid being over £1,700. Grants have been made from the voluntary funds for the provision of an artificial eye, spectacles and dentures and 128 cwts. of coal distributed to the more necessitous cases at Christmas-tide.

The Pastime class continues to meet weekly ; the number on the roll now being 25. This class not only serves to provide suitable occupation for the unemployable blind but social intercourse and the amount of pleasure derived from this may be judged from the weekly average

attendance numbering 20. In spite of the excellent car service provided each week by the members of the Reading Round Table and other friends of the association it becomes increasingly difficult to arrange for the transport of the blind and additional help would be greatly appreciated.

Voluntary Pensions. The Association continues to act as almoner for the Trustees of the Reading Endowment Trust, a total sum of £157 11s. 0d. being paid to fifteen blind persons in the borough.

Outings. The Jubilee Celebrations Committee kindly granted £20 towards a Jubilee tea, which was held jointly with the Reading Blind and Cripple Social Club, on 16th May. This was attended by 237 persons; those who were too infirm to be present received gifts in their own homes.

On July 23rd, an outing was arranged at Erleigh Park, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Foquett Sutton, the cost of the tea to some 200 guests being defrayed through the kindness of the members of the Rotary Club of Reading.

Wireless and Literature. A generous response has been received to an appeal letter issued to local wireless firms and a scheme for the overhauling and re-conditioning of wireless sets is in progress. These firms are undertaking the work free of charge, but the Association has to meet the cost of the necessary replacements from its voluntary funds, the allowance from the National Institute for the Blind, *i.e.*, 6d. per set being inadequate.

There are 13 Braille and 3 Moon readers for whom supplies of books are obtained."

BLIND CERTIFICATION.

Mr. G. T. Willoughby Cashell, F.R.C.S. (Ed.), certifying surgeon for the purposes of the Blind Persons Act, contributes the following interesting information on the causes of blindness of those persons examined during the year and suggestions for the prevention of blindness:—

" Since publishing the last report upon the cases examined for blind certification in February, 1935, 50 persons have been examined for admission to the blind register.

These cases have been classified in the table given below:—

Disease.	Certified blind	Certified not blind.	Total.
Cataract	8	1	9
Glaucoma	1	3	4
Optic Atrophy	5	1	6
Myopia	5	2	7
Congenital, hereditary ...	14	3	17
Degenerative changes ...	2	—	2
Keratitis	4	1	5
Totals	39	11	50

Interesting information can be obtained by making an analysis of these figures as before.

There were nine cases of senile cataract, one was found not blind as it had been operated upon successfully with restoration of useful vision. Among the eight that were found to be blind seven could be treated by removal of the cataract with the probable restoration of sight.

The four cases of glaucoma that were examined had all been operated upon or treated, so that the three found not blind had retained their sight and the one case in the group certified as blind had been neglected too long although what sight remained with a very constricted field of vision in one eye had been saved by operation ; the other eye in this case was absolutely blind from the disease.

There were five cases blind from atrophy of the optic nerve and in two of these the cause was venereal disease. The others were due to tumours, injuries, etc.

Among the seven cases suffering from high myopia, the blindness in three of these was caused by detachment of the retina, and in the remaining four by the degenerative changes that take place in the eye with this condition. Two of the seven cases were not sufficiently blind to be certified.

The most interesting group in the report this year was that headed 'congenital and hereditary diseases.' There were 17 cases examined ; eight of these were suffering from retinitis pigmentosa, and of these, five came from two families. There were five cases of congenital cataracts : two of these came from one family. Out of this large group only three were found to be not blind within the meaning of the Act.

The cases of keratitis revealed that four out of the five examined were caused by venereal disease, neglect in infancy or at birth. Only one case in this section was not blind enough for certification.

It will be seen from this report that probably seven of the cataract cases might be removed from the blind category by operation. Six cases of blindness due to venereal disease causing either optic atrophy or keratitis should have been prevented by adequate treatment in the past. Early advice and treatment should be the rule for all cases of suspected glaucoma as is seen by the fact that treatment has been invaluable to the cases mentioned in this report.

In conclusion, as by far the largest group of blind cases in this report is the one headed 'congenital and hereditary diseases' it shows that emphasis cannot be laid too strongly on the fact that the public should be educated in the knowledge that blindness is a hereditary disease in so many cases, and that special attention should be paid to the part played by consanguinity in marriage in the production of these diseases."

GAS REGULATION ACT, 1920.

The Medical Officer of Health is also officially appointed gas examiner under the Gas Regulation Act, 1920. In accordance with the prescription of the gas referees, a weekly examination of the gas supplied by the Reading Gas Company has been made throughout the year.

Under the act the company undertakes to supply gas of an average calorific value of not less than 460 British thermal units gross per cubic foot, at not less than two inches pressure, and free from any trace of sulphuretted hydrogen.

The following table shows the average maintained throughout the year as recorded in the quarterly reports :—

	Number of testings made.	Average number of British thermal units per cubic ft.	Pressure in inches (average).	Sulphuretted hydrogen.
1st Quarter	13	463.9	7.2	No trace.
2nd Quarter	13	461.2	7.5	do.
3rd Quarter	13	463.4	7.4	do.
4th Quarter	13	463.3	7.1	do.

Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922. The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee for the Corporation in connection with appointments to the municipal service for the purposes of the above act.

The total number of medical examinations carried out up to the present time is 1035, of which number 131 were during the past year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Rainfall. The drought which had been more or less continuous during the years 1933 and 1934 was broken during the past year when the total rainfall as recorded in the Forbury Gardens reached the comparatively high figure of 28.09 inches.

The average annual rainfall in Reading over a long period of years has been between 25 and 26 inches and for the two preceding years 1934 and 1933 it was 21.04 and 20.24 inches respectively.

The effect of the heavy rainfall has been to considerably improve the levels of the underground supplies.

The monthly rainfall during the year 1935 is set out in the following table.

January	...	...	...	...	·73
February	...	...	...	...	1·96
March	...	...	...	...	·41
April	...	...	...	...	3·09
May	...	...	...	...	1·33
June	...	...	...	...	4·17
July	...	...	...	...	·39
August	...	...	...	...	2·36
September	...	...	...	...	3·86
October	...	...	...	...	3·46
November	...	...	...	...	3·77
December	...	...	...	...	2·56
Total					28·09

Water Supply. I am indebted to Mr. Leslie C. Walker, Waterworks Manager and Engineer, for the following information in regard to the water supply of the borough during the year :—

Periodical collections for bacteriological and chemical examination of samples of water from all Corporation supplies are regularly carried out. The water is described chemically as clear and bright, neutral in reaction, generally hard in character and of a high degree of organic purity and there is no evidence of undesirable contamination.

The chemical analyses summarised describe the water as pure and wholesome and suitable for domestic use. As regards the filtered water, apart from that extracted from the chalk bores, it is stated the results show that filtration has been efficient.

Bacteriologically, the water is of a very high degree of purity, clear and bright and suitable for the purpose of a public supply. The number of bacteria is very low and B. Coli is never present even in so large a quantity as 100 c.c.'s.

The capacity or output from the chalk-derived waters is :—Pangbourne, 600,000 gallons per day ; Gipsy Lane, 325,000 gallons per day and Southcote, 700,000 gallons per day, these showing a maximum of 1,625,000 gallons per day. These chalk-derived supplies, however, are not always drawn upon to their full capacity, but generally speaking are made full use of during times of heavy rainfall when the river is in a turbid condition and it is considered desirable to restrict this source and slow up the filtration, ensuring at all times efficient purification.

The average daily consumption for the year ended 31st December, 1935, was 3,751,000 gallons.

Drainage and Refuse Disposal. I am indebted to Mr. A. S. Parsons, Borough Surveyor, for the following information regarding methods of drainage and refuse disposal in the borough. During the year 1935 an

average daily flow of 3,450,000 gallons of sewage have arrived at the works. This sewage has been subjected to partial treatment in the activated sludge plant and the effluent from this plant was passed to the farm lands for final purification.

The new filter beds were completed and opened during September. The construction of new sludge tanks and drying beds is nearly complete and it is hoped that it will be possible to digest and dry all the crude sludge with the minimum of nuisance.

There were 33,152 water closets and 97 pail closets in use in the borough at the end of 1935. Three dry closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year.

The coming financial year will see the completion of the reorganisation scheme for the collection of Reading's house refuse. At the moment, there is a twice-weekly collection of refuse throughout the borough.

The new scheme is based on the most modern method, known as the "relay system" whereby vehicles work in pairs, and collection is continuous.

The borough has been divided into sections, according to the density and type of property, in order to obtain the maximum efficiency.

The problem of further development has been carefully considered.

Trade refuse is charged at the rate of 6d. per bin above the allocated quantity for each premises.

Practically the whole of the scavenging is done by mechanical vehicles, the exception being the remaining narrow courts within the older part of the town, where a horse and cart is still used.

The fleet of vehicles numbers 15. All are made by Shelvoke & Drewry, and comprise :—

Five 7 cu. yd. machines ; six 10 cu. yd. machines and four 15 cu. yd. machines.

All refuse is transported to one tip, *viz.*, Manor tip, off Basingstoke road, which gives an average haulage distance per trip throughout the borough of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Paper, cardboard, tins and vegetable matter are predominant in the town refuse, although no accurate analysis has yet been undertaken.

As will be seen from the following tables, the refuse is remarkable for its bulk (cu. yd.) and not its weight in tons :—

	Cu. yds.	Tons.	Cwts.
April 1st to Sept. 30th, 1935 	73,318	9,839	14
Sept. 30th, 1935, to Jan. 1st, 1936 	39,468	6,699	11
Estimated for Jan. 1st, 1936, to March 31st, 1936	40,000	7,000	—
Total ...	152,786	23,538	25

The mileage run by vehicles on collection is approximately 100,000 per annum.

The tipping and disposal of the town refuse is carried out on the principle known as "controlled tipping" and is undoubtedly the most economical type at present in use. The refuse is spread in layers giving a finished thickness of 6 ft. and is covered with soil to seal completely the face.

On completion of an area the land is covered with 18 inches of good mould and is then transferred to the Allotments Committee for allocation as allotments.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The following report on the sanitary inspection of the area has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. J. Dodd, chief sanitary inspector :—

TABLE XI.

Total number of visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	9,893
Number of complaints received and investigated	576
Number of informal notices served (on owners)	124
(on occupiers)	27
Number of verbal notices	340
Number of written notices (statutory) on owners	1
Number of prosecutions	—
Number and nature of nuisances :—	
Dirty, damp or dilapidated houses	152
Overcrowded dwelling houses (complaints)	85
Dirty tenants	36
Defective roofs, gutters or down spouts	24
Defective sanitary fittings	25
Yards and areas, dirty or defective	5
Accumulation of refuse	22
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	19
Miscellaneous	68
Verminous houses	75

All the notices served in respect of the above-mentioned nuisances were complied with.

Sixty-one house drains were tested during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses. There are three common lodging houses in the borough which, though leaving something to be desired, are generally well kept. The registered accommodation of these houses is 150 men and three married couples, a total of 156. It will be noticed that there is no accommodation for single women. One hundred and sixty-eight inspections were made during the year and no breaches of the bye-laws were found. Night supervision and the maintenance of order are carried out under the direction of the police.

TABLE XII.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework

(a) Inspection.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (including factory laundries)	39	3	—
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	185	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this report)	26	—	—
Total ...	250	3	—

(b) Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	39	39	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation:—	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part c of this report)	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	42	42	—	—

(c) Homework.

Nature:—Wearing apparel (Tailoring, Knitting, Hosiery, etc.)							
Lists received twice a year from employers	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of outworkers	Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	24
Lists received once a year	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of outworkers	Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	—
	Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in infected premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(d) Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the register at the end of the year.							Number
(1)							(2)
Retail Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Upholstery	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Laundries...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Photography	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Total number of workshops on register							271

Offensive Trades. There are five premises in the borough where offensive or allied trades are carried on. These include blood drying, fat melting, bone boiling, tripe dressing, gut cleaning and stomach drying. This last trade relates to the handling and drying of the fourth stomach of calves which is used in the trade of rennet manufacturing. It is not always possible to carry on trades of this nature without some nuisance in unfavourable conditions of wind and weather. The Health committee has given special attention to this matter, which is still under consideration.

Canal Boats. There are eight boats on the register. Nineteen visits were paid during the year. Very few boats are now being used as dwellings, and inspection under the Canal Boats Acts is now unimportant. Many of the boats coming into the area are either propelled or towed by power and the journeys are accomplished much more rapidly. Men working on the boats usually take lodgings at night.

Caravans. There are still a few caravans in the borough permanently used as dwellings in addition to the large numbers that visit in connection with the various fairs. No case of infection was notified from any van and no serious nuisance has been reported since the removal of the colony of vans from the fair ground. Two hundred and seventy visits were paid during the year.

Smoke Abatement. No serious nuisance occurred during the year. Six minor complaints were received and the firms concerned warned. Three observations were made. Alterations were made in each case and the nuisances were abated.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. The inspectors paid 203 visits to various premises in connection with the work of rat destruction, a problem which often presents very real difficulties. During "National Rat Week" owners of such properties as are likely to harbour rats were circularised in regard to the obligations imposed by the Act, and advised as to the best means of destroying the vermin. Considerable work was done to make premises rat proof. The importance of this subject is being increasingly realised and much continuous work was done during the year.

Theatres and Cinemas. Twenty-one visits were made and the conditions in the various premises were at all times found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928. The number and description of the samples submitted for examination by the Public Analyst are set out in the following table:—

Articles.	No. of samples taken.	Number found to be genuine.	Not up to standard.
Milk ...	273	226	47
Butter ...	6	6	—
Coffee ...	1	1	—
Tinned Cream	1	1	—
Tinned Peas	1	1	A small trace of tin was found, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain.
Margarine	1	1	—
Trex ...	1	1	—
Fish Paste...	1	1	—
Totals	285	238	47

Police court proceedings were instituted in three cases. In the first case the milk showed a deficiency of 7.33 per cent. of milk fat and 11.7 per cent. of milk solids other than fat. The defendant was fined £3 11s. 0d.

In the second case the deficiency was 6.7 per cent. of milk fat, and the defendant in this case was fined £2 11s. 6d.

Proceedings in the third case were instituted in the latter part of the year and the case twice adjourned.

Although there were some samples of milk found not to be up to standard, the deficiency was so small or there were extenuating circumstances that police court proceedings were not instituted.

In a few cases of deficiency in milk solids other than fat, the Health committee after consideration issued warnings to the vendors concerned.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ORDER, 1923.

Pasteurised Milk. The supervision of the efficiency of the process of pasteurisation with the present varied and complicated apparatus now in use proved to be a matter of some difficulty. The development of a test for this purpose by Dr. H. D. Kay and his colleagues at the National Institute for Research in Dairying was therefore of great practical importance. There was emphatic evidence that the efficiency in working and the supervision of pasteurising plants left much to be desired.

The test depends on the fact that the enzyme phosphatase, always present in raw milk, is destroyed by the temperature required for legal pasteurisation. Its survival in milk that has been treated, therefore, indicates :—

that the required temperature has not been attained ;
or, that the required temperature has not been maintained for the required period ;
or, that untreated milk has been permitted to mix with the treated article.

The importance of detecting the presence of phosphatase rests in the fact that the tubercle bacillus often found in raw milk can survive up to a slightly lower temperature than the enzyme.

The results of the application of the test during the latter half of the year and during the present year indicates a very marked improvement in the methods and results of pasteurisation.

Forty-four licenses were granted under the Regulations during the year, as shown in the following table :—

Licences granted by		Producers licence " Certified " milk.	Producers licence " Grade A " (Tuberculin Tested) milk.	Producers licence " Grade A " milk.	Producers licence " Pasteurised " milk.	Dealers licence " Certified " milk.	Bottling licence " Grade A " (Tuberculin Tested) milk.	Dealers licence " Pasteurised " milk.	Supplementary licence " Grade A " (Tuberculin Tested) milk.	Dealers licence " Grade A " (Tuberculin Tested) milk.
Ministry of Health	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Authority	...	—	—	3	3	1	7	6	2	20

Tuberculous Milk. During the year 41 samples of milk were examined for the presence of living tubercle bacilli at the National Institute for Research in Dairying.

None of the samples were taken from milk derived from tuberculin-tested herds or milk which had been pasteurised or subjected to heat in any way. Two positive reports were received showing an evidence of infectivity of 4.88 per cent. of the samples examined.

These figures are below the average of former years and compare favourably with that of the whole country. Only in one instance was it possible to trace the affected animal which was destroyed. The remaining sample was taken from a thousand-gallon tank and unfortunately neither the farm nor the cow could be isolated as a large number of farm premises were implicated.

Meat. Slaughterhouses. There is a block of 14 slaughterhouses owned by the Corporation adjoining the public cattle market. Of these 11 are let to private tenants, the remaining three being retained for public use at fixed head rates for animals slaughtered. The general condition of these premises has been adversely reported on in many former reports and active steps are now being taken for the erection of new public abattoirs. A site has been chosen embracing the existing slaughterhouses and plans are in course of preparation. Various causes have delayed action being taken on this matter before, particularly the possibility of legislation in relation to regional slaughtering of animals.

The new abattoirs when erected will prove a great acquisition to the town.

The following is a list of meat and other foodstuffs destroyed during the year as being unsound and unfit for human consumption.

Unsound Food destroyed.	For tuberculosis.	For other causes.
530 carcasses of beef	354	176
63 part carcasses of beef	47	16
32 carcasses of mutton	—	32
6 part carcasses of mutton	—	6
93 carcasses of pork	60	33
30 part carcasses of pork	1	29
1720 heads or internal organs of beasts, sheep or pigs	1286	434
22 carcasses of veal	2	20
1 part carcase of veal	—	1
4066 tins of foodstuffs	—	4066 tins
1785½ lbs. imported meat	—	1785½ lbs.
508 lbs. fish	—	508 lbs.
10 boxes of haddocks	—	10 boxes
17 lbs. Irish salmon	—	17 lbs.
280 lbs. cod	—	280 lbs.
38 imported rabbits	—	38
3 English rabbits	—	3
31½ lbs. tinned ham	—	31½ lbs.
1 chicken	—	1
39 lbs. imported bacon	—	39 lbs.
7 lbs. tinned beef	—	7 lbs.
15 lbs. suet	—	15 lbs.
9 lbs. imported pork	—	9 lbs.
131 lbs. imported kidneys	—	131 lbs.
3 doz. imported eggs	—	3 doz.
2 carcasses of sheep	—	2

The majority of animals slaughtered in the borough are slaughtered at the Corporation abattoirs, and much of the meat is dispatched to Smithfield Market, London. This central slaughtering greatly facilitates the work of meat inspection. The proposed new abattoirs would include facilities for dealing with waste products that are now handled by private contractors.

There are eight registered and two licensed slaughterhouses in the borough, which, with three exceptions, are of old design and very inconvenient.

Nine licenses were granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926. Seven hundred and forty-four visits were made to shops and stalls in the open market to ensure the carrying out of the Act. Several warnings were given but no prosecutions were instituted.

Kitchens and Ice Cream Shops. The standard of cleanliness of these premises has been maintained. Eighty-three visits were made and a few minor defects were rectified. No action was considered necessary. There are now only a few manufacturers of ice cream in the town. The bulk of the ice cream sold is produced by large wholesale firms whose premises and plant are generally well kept.

Shops Act, 1934. Sanitary accommodation in Shops. Twenty-three shops were reported to the department as being without sufficient and suitable sanitary convenience. All the complaints were investigated and 21 informal notices were sent to the owners or occupiers. Twelve of these have been complied with. In five cases no action was necessary and exemption certificates were recommended in six other cases. Eighty visits were made during the progress of the work required under the Act.

HOUSING.

There are approximately 26,000 inhabited houses in the borough.

During the year the total number of houses erected in the borough was 970, of which 312 were erected as part of the municipal housing scheme.

The number of houses erected in Reading during the last nine years, including houses erected by the Council as well as those erected by private enterprise, is as follows:—

Year.	No of houses erected.		Total.
	By the Council.	By private enterprise.	
1927	332	220	552
1928	21	211	232
1929	203	275	478
1930	111	271	382
1931	280	284	564
1932	522	324	846
1933	268	503	771
1934	228	707	935
1935	312	658	970

It will be seen that the number of new houses erected was higher than that of the preceding year which was itself a record of new house construction during the period for which records are available.

Fitness of houses. The standard of housing in the borough is good. Of the houses provisionally included in the five years' programme after the passing of the 1930 Housing Act, only 12 now remain. During the same period a large number of houses included in the amended programme of 1933 have been represented and demolished.

There now remain only a comparatively small number of houses in isolated groups to be dealt with.

During the year the procedure in respect of six clearance areas was completed and the houses demolished, namely :—

Clearance Area No. 13 (Coley)	...	...	...	5 houses
„ No. 14 (Roseberry Cottages)	...	...	...	5 houses
„ No. 15 (Hope Street)	...	...	...	6 houses
„ No. 16 (Coley)	...	...	...	8 houses
„ No. 17 (Lavender Place)	...	...	...	6 houses
„ No. 18 (East Street and Minnow Court)	...	...	...	7 houses

Action was also taken during the year in respect of further clearance areas and representations were made in respect of the following properties :

Clearance Area No. 19 (Silver Street)	...	...	...	5 houses
„ No. 20 (Katesgrove Lane)	...	...	...	9 houses
„ No. 21 (Coley)	...	...	...	17 houses

The order in respect of No. 19, Silver Street, has since been confirmed and demolition is in progress.

In addition to the above, representations were made in respect of 22 individual houses on which demolition orders were made. Twenty-one individual houses were demolished in pursuance of demolition orders including nine represented during the preceding year.

Houses let in lodgings. During the year new bye-laws for the regulation of houses let in lodgings came into operation. Registration and inspection of these premises has to some extent been deferred until the full results of the survey under the Housing Act, 1935, are available. This Act supersedes all Local Acts and Byelaws in so far as they deal with overcrowding.

During the year 85 complaints of overcrowding were reported to the Health department. Investigation showed that not in all cases was the complaint justified. Suitable cases are recommended for special consideration by the Housing committee.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	683
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	2558
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	531
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	531
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	22
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	417

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, including 6 from 1933	421
--	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	1
(c)	Undertaking not to let until made fit	...	...	...	...	2

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	22
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, including 9 from 1934	...	...	...	...	21

D. Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	nil

Verminous Houses. The problem of verminous houses has exercised the attention of the health department to a considerable degree during the year. Complaints in respect of 132 houses were received and 354 rooms were fumigated. During recent years this nuisance has become either considerably more extensive or more widely recognised than previously. The succession of summers with temperatures above the average may have contributed to this result. Arrangements have been made for the fumigation of furniture of tenants from clearance areas before they proceed to the new housing estates. Later inspection has shown that infestation by bugs in the houses of tenants removed from slum properties does not constitute a large proportion of infestation on new estates.

HOUSING ACT, 1935.

Overcrowding Survey.

Under the Housing Act, 1935, a duty was placed upon each local authority to carry out a survey of all working-class houses in their respective areas with a view to discovering the extent of overcrowding existing and to provide for its alleviation.

Definite standards of what constitutes overcrowding have been set out in a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

These standards are as follows :—

TABLE I.

Number of rooms.	Permitted number of persons.
1	2
2	3
3	5
4	7½
5	10

Note.—Add 2 persons for each additional room. No room under 50 sq. ft. to be counted.

TABLE II.

Size of rooms.	Permitted number of persons.
110 sq. ft. or over ...	2
90 sq. ft. or over, but under 110 sq. ft. ...	1½
70 sq. ft. or over but under 90 sq. ft. ...	1
50 sq. ft. or over but under 70 sq. ft. ...	½
Under 50 sq. ft. ...	Nil

In applying these standards certain conditions must be borne in mind:—

- (a) The 'permitted number' of persons to occupy any house is the lesser number arrived at by application of the two standards given above.
- (b) The 'permitted number' of persons must provide for the separation of the sexes in unmarried persons over 10 years of age.
- (c) 'A room' includes a living room but does not include a bath room or scullery.
- (d) Persons under 10 years of age are to be regarded for classification purposes as $\frac{1}{2}$ a person.
- (e) Children under one year of age are not to be counted.

In carrying out the survey, an arbitrary standard of houses of a gross assessment value of £20 per annum or less was fixed as suitable for occupation by the working classes. In addition, certain houses known to be occupied by more than one family, such as houses let in lodgings, were inspected. On this basis a total of 19,626 houses were inspected for the purposes of Table I. given above. These inspections related to 20,074 families in occupation.

As a result of this preliminary inspection, 2,246 houses were scheduled as possibly overcrowded and subjected to further inspection and measurement for the purposes of Table II.

Result of Survey. Extent of Overcrowding. There were 299 houses found to be *definitely* overcrowded under the standards laid down by the Act.

There were a further 70 houses that as a result of increasing ages of children would become overcrowded within the meaning of the Act within 2 years.

There were three houses which by reason of temporary residents were overcrowded at the time of the survey.

The nett result of the survey indicates that 1.50 per cent. of the houses occupied by working-class families in the borough were found to be overcrowded, at the time the survey was made.

Degree of Overcrowding. Of the 299 dwellings found to be *definitely* overcrowded:—

122	were overcrowded to the extent of	$\frac{1}{2}$	person.
90	" " " "	1	"
37	" " " "	$1\frac{1}{2}$	persons.
23	" " " "	2	"
10	" " " "	$2\frac{1}{2}$	"
6	" " " "	3	"
5	" " " "	$3\frac{1}{2}$	"
3	" " " "	4	"
1	" " " "	5	"
1	" " " "	$5\frac{1}{2}$	"
1	" " " "	$6\frac{1}{2}$	"

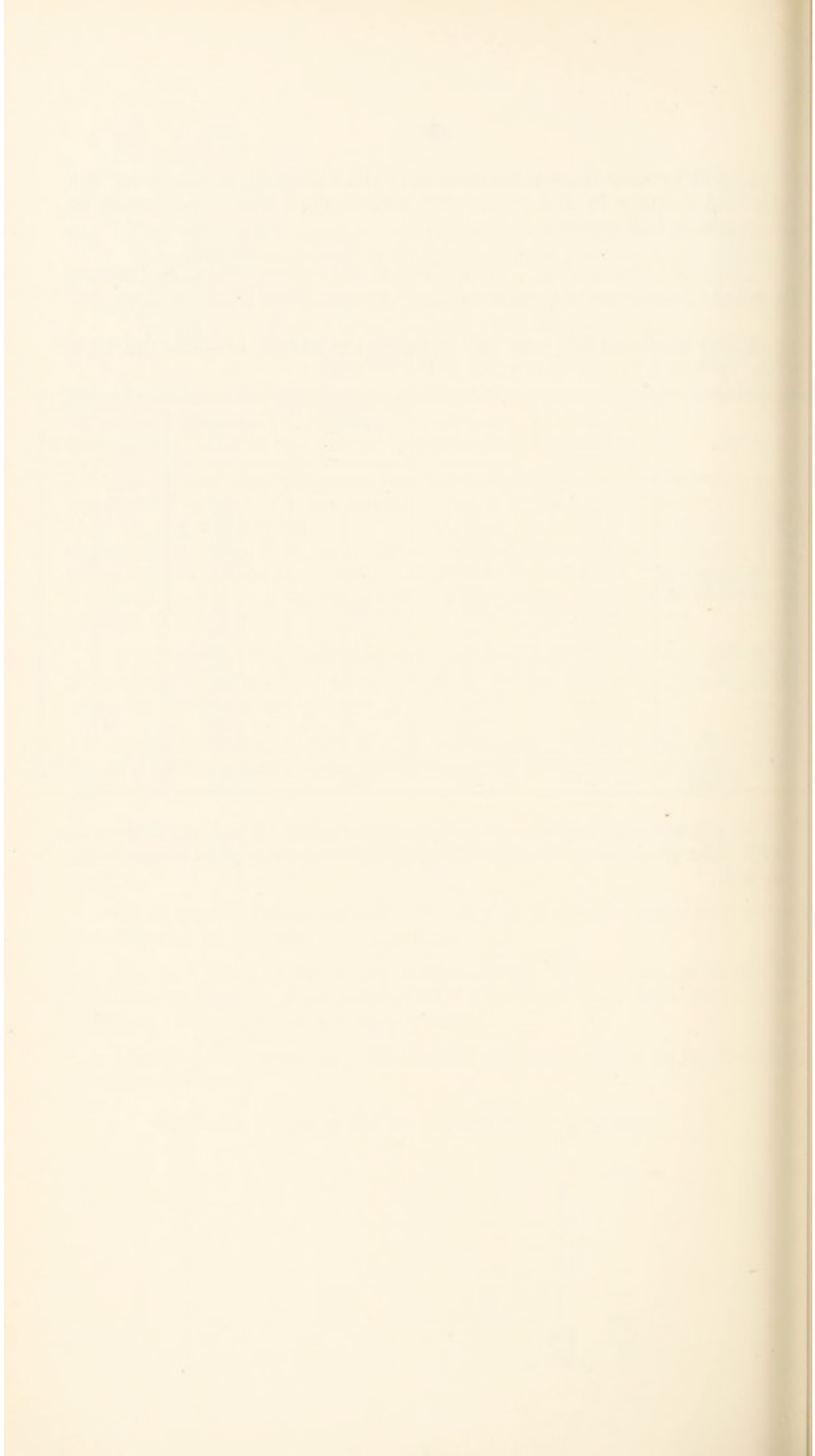
It will be seen from the above that the excess of persons over the permitted number in 212 of the 299 overcrowded houses amounted to one person or half a person.

Areas of Overcrowding. To appreciate the overcrowding in Reading the areas of incidence of overcrowding by wards should be scrutinized.

The following table sets out in detail the extent and the degree of overcrowding in the various wards of the borough :—

Ward.	Total No. of houses inspected.	Total No. of houses measured.	No. of existing cases of definite overcrowding	Percentage of Ward overcrowding	No. of houses which will be overcrowded within 2 years
Abbey	388	32	4	1.03	—
Battle	2,164	257	24	1.11	2
Castle	1,062	159	41	3.86	6
Faversham East	1,516	211	20	1.32	7
Faversham West	222	16	1	0.45	—
Church	3,662	745	105	2.87	33
East	2,269	150	12	0.53	5
Katesgrove ...	1,706	153	12	0.70	2
Minster	641	74	9	1.40	2
Redlands	1,000	52	3	0.30	—
Victoria	1,058	62	8	0.76	1
Tilehurst	2,872	238	54	1.89	11
Vest	1,514	97	6	0.39	1
Totals	20,074	2,246	299	1.50	70

It will be seen from the above table that Castle, Church and Tilehurst wards show an extent of overcrowding greater than the other wards of the borough.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Annual Report

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1935.

READING EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Henry Bale).

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.	LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.
ALICE JENKINS, J.P.	JOHN RABSON, J.P. (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>).
EDITH MARY SUTTON, J.P.	

Councillors.

ANNIE PHOEBE ELLEN CUSDEN, J.P.	DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
GEOFFREY SIMPSON FIELD, B.A. (<i>Chairman</i>).	HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON.
WALTER GEORGE GALE.	FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS.
GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.	ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.
HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT, M.B.E., J.P.	HENRY DUNCAN SIMONDS.
HENRY WOOLDRIDGE.	

Co-opted Members.

Miss L. ASHCROFT.	Mr. W. C. COSTIN.
Mr. F. W. ACKRILL.	The Very Rev. Canon F. J. KERNAN, B.A.
Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL COOKE, M.A.	Miss K. E. MOORE.
Dr. F. SIBLY.	

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Henry Bale).

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.	LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.
ALICE JENKINS, J.P.	JOHN RABSON, J.P. (<i>Chairman</i>).
EDITH MARY SUTTON, J.P.	

Councillors.

GEOFFREY SIMPSON FIELD, B.A.	DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.
GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.	FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS,
HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT, M.B.E., J.P.	ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.
HENRY DUNCAN SIMONDS.	

Co-opted Members.

Mr. F. W. ACKRILL.	Miss L. ASHCROFT.
Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL COOKE, M.A.	

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS,
ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD,
READING,

April, 1936.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the medical inspection and treatment of school children.

The scheme of work is laid down in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education.

Each child is submitted to routine medical examination three times during school life so that more than one third—37 per cent.—of those in attendance come up for medical examination each year.

Children suffering from specific defects are referred for examination at any time. There were 1,696 such examinations during the year.

It is found as the result of routine medical examination that 11·5 per cent. of children attending school suffer from defects which require medical treatment.

The Education Committee has made complete arrangements at clinics and otherwise for the treatment of defects commonly found amongst school children. Details of the work of these clinics are embodied in the report.

Great attention through government inquiries and otherwise has been given in recent years to the subject of malnutrition. The sufficiency and the quality of diets in regard to food values has been subjected to the closest scrutiny. All of these investigations have emphasised the value of milk as a complete article of food. The scheme of the Milk Marketing Board by which approximately half the children attending the elementary schools now receive a third of a pint of milk each morning is therefore likely to assist materially in the solution of a problem that is clearly of the first importance. For those who are unable to purchase this milk at the reduced rate the Education Committee has arranged for a free supply in addition to the provision of dinners for children from the very poorest families.

The estimate of the state of nutrition of groups of children is not a particularly easy matter and is largely dependent on the personal equation of the examiner. It is probable that the relation of height and weight to age is the most reliable single factor and it is therefore satisfactory to report that the records of heights and weights of Reading children show progressive increases and that they compare favourably with the corresponding records for the whole Country.

The report of the work of the school dentists, Miss M. S. Mackinnon and Mr. W. L. Cooper-Jones, shows that more than 90 per cent. of the children attending the elementary schools were inspected by the dentists during the year, of whom rather more than half were found to be in need of some dental treatment. Although the number of parents who realize the value of early treatment increases year by year there is still a surprisingly large number who refuse to take advantage of the treatment offered until acute symptoms make such treatment imperative.

The examination of mal-adjusted children and juvenile delinquents has been continued during the year by Dr. Taylor. Perhaps as a result of the circumstances of the present generation the psychological approach to questions of this nature has been given increased prominence. The project for the establishment of a nursery school under voluntary auspices is another evidence of like nature. The progress of developments of this character are worthy of the closest attention.

I should like to express my thanks to my medical and dental colleagues and to the nursing, education and teaching staffs for their valuable support in the work of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. MILLIGAN,

School Medical Officer.

STAFF.

School Medical Officer.

H. J. MILLIGAN, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law.

*Senior Assistant School Medical Officer
and Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Act.*

J. MAXWELL TAYLOR, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

MARGARET I. PORTEOUS, M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.), D.P.H.

Dental Surgeons.

MARION SMITH MACKINNON, L.D.S.

WILLIAM LESLIE COOPER-JONES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

Nursing Staff.

Miss O. EDGAR.

Miss N. MORLEY.

Miss E. F. ROBINSON.

Miss M. K. STEPHENS.

Miss G. WHITE.

Instructress for Stammering and Speech Defects.

Miss M. P. PECHEY.

Clerical Staff.

Miss W. M. DIX.

Miss J. HUTCHINGS.

SUMMARY.

The following tabular statement represents the numbers of children who came under review by the officers of the school medical department during the year :—

Children in average attendance at elementary schools	...	11,271
Elementary school children examined	... ..	4,241
Examined at Secondary Schools	... ..	460
Miscellaneous examinations (employed boys, etc.)	... ..	312
Treated at minor ailments clinic	... ..	1,057
Treated at ringworm clinic	... ..	15
Treated at eye clinic	... ..	849
Treated at ear clinic	... ..	211
Examinations by school dentists	... ..	10,862
Treated by school dentists	... ..	3,952
Total attendances at various clinics	... ..	32,890
Total examinations by nurses for cleanliness	... ..	32,862
Home visits by nurses	... ..	808
Number of baths given to children	... ..	824

Number of meals provided for school children	142,093
--	--------	---------

SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT.

STAFF.

The staff is detailed in the beginning of this report. On April 1st Dr. Margaret I. Porteous was appointed to the permanent staff in place of Dr. Agnes Bernfeld who had resigned owing to ill health. On the nursing staff Miss E. F. Robinson was appointed in place of Miss C. E. Wells who resigned on taking up another appointment.

CO-ORDINATION.

The arrangements for the co-ordination of the school medical service with the general public health service are complete. The tuberculosis officer examines all children suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis. The infant welfare visitors transfer records of all exceptional children to the school medical officers when the children attain the age of five years. The school dental service has also been able to extend its assistance to children attending the welfare centres and to tuberculous patients recommended for sanatorium or hospital treatment.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

A general description of the schools has been given in previous reports. During the year 1935 improvements were effected in the undermentioned schools.

New Town school—The whole of the old slate topped iron lavatory basins in all departments were removed, and new cane glazed earthenware trough lavatories installed in their place.

These troughs are not divided into separate compartments, and the waste is left unplugged, while the taps are of the spray type.

The effect is that a child cannot wash in another's dirty water, nor can it operate the tap so that only a dribble of water comes out.

It will be appreciated that this system is probably the most hygienic in use up to date.

Some improvements to artificial lighting were also carried out, and re-flooring works.

E. P. Collier school—A large sum of money was spent in renovating and relaying the flooring.

The whole of the interior of Grovelands school was re-decorated, together with St. Anne's, Caversham, and the east wing and main hall of Kendrick girls' school.

A good deal of improvement to artificial lighting has been carried out in various schools to both gas and electric installations.

Improvements generally, resurfacing of two playgrounds and drainage thereto, have been carried out, resulting in cleaner and well drained surfaces.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The number of children on the rolls of the elementary schools is 12,576 with an average attendance of 11,271·6. The former figure shows a decrease of 296 on the number in the preceding year and the average attendance an increase of 124·5.

The groups of children inspected are those set out in the recommendation of the Board of Education, namely :—

- (a) Those admitted to school during the year. Children who are admitted at three years of age are again examined on reaching the age of five.
- (b) Those between the ages of eight and nine years.
- (c) Those between the ages of 12 and 13 years and all older children who have not been examined after attaining 12 years. In the central schools the 15-year age group is also examined.

In addition to the routine groups examined, any child reported as suffering from a particular defect is examined specially, either in school or at the clinic.

Each school is visited four times a year, three times for routine inspections and once for re-inspections. This method enables close touch to be kept with the general health conditions in the schools.

The examinations are carried out on the school premises, either in a special room or in a classroom.

The numbers examined this year represent 37 per cent. of the average attendance. The subjoined table shows the average numbers examined in each group of routine and special cases and the average numbers of re-examinations each year since 1921:—

	1921-1925.	1926-1930.	1931-1934.	1935.
" Routine " examinations	4,517	4,358	4,442	4,241
" Special " examinations	1,721	1,536	1,463	1,696
Re-examinations	7,153	8,295	5,845	6,812

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) **Nutrition.** The following tables, which show the average heights and weights of the three routine groups for the past year with comparisons of similar groups for the whole of England and for previous years, give some indication of the state of nutrition of the children. Reading children compare very favourably with the average of the whole country and this year's figures are if anything an advance on last year's.

The scheme for supplying milk through the Milk Marketing Board has now been in operation for over a year and the benefit derived through the consumption of this large amount of additional milk may be expected to show itself in an increase in the heights and weights of the children.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Height in Inches.

1935			English elementary school children,	Reading children, 1933.	Reading children, 1934.
Age.	No. of children.	Av. height of Reading children.			
$\frac{3}{2}$ (boys)	334	42	41.8	$41\frac{3}{4}$	$42\frac{1}{4}$
(girls)	366	$41\frac{3}{4}$	41.5	$40\frac{1}{4}$	42
$\frac{3}{4}$ (boys)	566	$48\frac{3}{4}$	48.1	$48\frac{1}{2}$	$48\frac{1}{2}$
(girls)	483	$48\frac{1}{2}$	47.8	48	$48\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{3}{2}$ (boys)	594	$56\frac{1}{2}$	55.3	$56\frac{1}{4}$	56
(girls)	526	$56\frac{3}{4}$	55.9	$57\frac{1}{4}$	57

Weight in Pounds.

1935			English elementary school children,	Reading children, 1933.	Reading children, 1934.
Age.	No. of children.	Av. weight of Reading children.			
(boys)	344	$40\frac{1}{2}$	39.3	$41\frac{1}{4}$	$41\frac{3}{4}$
(girls)	366	$39\frac{1}{4}$	38.1	$39\frac{1}{4}$	40
(boys)	566	$54\frac{1}{2}$	51.9	$54\frac{1}{2}$	$54\frac{1}{2}$
(girls)	483	$53\frac{1}{4}$	50.2	$53\frac{3}{4}$	$52\frac{3}{4}$
(boys)	594	$79\frac{3}{4}$	72.8	$78\frac{1}{2}$	$78\frac{1}{2}$
(girls)	526	80	75.1	$80\frac{1}{4}$	81

(b) **Uncleanliness.** The figures for 1935 in the routine medical inspections show an improvement on previous years. It is disappointing, however, to have to record that, as in 1934, the nurses in their cleanliness surveys found some deterioration.

The following figures show the prevalence of uncleanness of head and body at the routine medical inspections since 1921.

Average percentage of uncleanness :—

			1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1934	1935
Head	...	...	7.1	3.9	2.1	1.2
Body	...	...	2.4	1.06	.24	.07

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** These complaints comprise impetigo, ringworm and sores. The only notable feature is an increase in the number of scabies cases.

Table showing the average number of principal skin complaints found at routine and special inspections since 1921 :—

			1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1934	1935
Ringworm, Head	...	...	93	47	26	20
„ Body	...	...	65	39	21	9
Scabies	...	...	17	7	14	30
Impetigo	...	...	412	250	134	137

At the routine inspections, 29 cases, or .7 per cent. of those examined were found to be suffering from skin disease.

(d) **Visual Defects and External Eye Disease.** The number of children with defective vision was 424 or 9.9 per cent. It should be noted that the vision of the entrants is not tested unless they have a squint, so that the actual percentage of children with defective vision would be much larger than this. In the previous year the percentage was 9.9.

There were 11 cases of external eye disease (chiefly blepharitis).

(e) **Nose and Throat Defects**—Enlarged tonsils and adenoids. The total number of cases requiring treatment or to be kept under observation was 168, or 3.9 per cent. compared with 3.8 per cent. in 1934. In the different age groups this year, 21.5 per cent. of the leavers, 14.3 per cent. of the intermediates and 5.4 per cent. of the entrants had already been operated on.

(f) **Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.** Cases of defective hearing amounted to .8 per cent. and of discharging ears to .28 per cent.

(g) **Dental Defects.** At the medical inspections, cases of dental caries are reported only if the disease is extensive or if it is considered that affected permanent teeth are capable of being saved. The results of the inspections by the dentists are shown elsewhere.

(h) **Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.** One hundred and twenty-eight cases were noted at the routine inspections. Most of these were round shoulders and flat foot. In 1934 the number was 120.

(i) **Heart Disease and Rheumatism.** There were 17 cases of organic and eight of functional heart defects.

(j) **Tuberculosis.** There were nine non-pulmonary cases of which three were quiescent. There were four cases of tubercular cervical glands, one of tubercular spine and one of tubercular knee.

(k) **Other Defects and Diseases.** These were mostly hernias, enuresis, etc.

Infectious Diseases. The practice of the authority in the exclusion of children from school follows the principle laid down in the joint memorandum of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education. The following summary shows the number of patients and contacts excluded during the year:—

					Patients.	Contacts.
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	206	351
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	136	215
Measles	...	...	...	...	6	—

Following-up. Parents of all children with defects are notified and recommended to obtain medical advice. A "following-up" card is made out for each of these children and a list is also sent to the head teacher. In the case of parents who cannot afford to send their children to a private doctor an invitation is sent to them to attend the school clinic. Once a year children with defects are re-inspected in the schools and, when necessary, the nurses visit the homes. During the year 808 visits to the homes were made by the nurses.

The schools are divided into three groups to each of which a nurse is attached. The nurses attend all the medical and dental inspections, the minor ailments, inspection and other clinics of which the work is described under "treatment." The nurses also undertake cleanliness surveys in the schools, each child being inspected once a term or oftener if necessary.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) **Nutrition.** The means available for dealing with cases of sub-normal nutrition include school meals, the voluntary milk scheme, provision of cod liver oil on the advice of the medical staff at the school clinic and, if necessary, transference to the day open-air school. A number of subnormal children who appear to be pretubercular or are contacts of cases of tuberculosis are under the observation of the tuberculosis officer.

(b) **Uncleanliness.** Regular inspections are carried out in the schools by the nurses. Children who are habitual offenders against cleanliness attend the school clinic on Saturday mornings and if necessary the parents are prosecuted.

In 1935, no prosecutions were undertaken under Section 87 of the Education Act, 1921. Proceedings under the school attendance bye-laws were taken in the case of three parents in respect of five children, and fines to a total amount of £1 7s. 6d. were inflicted.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** The school clinic is open every morning from 8.30 till 12 noon. As will be seen from the treatment table, group I., the total number of cases treated, namely 1,057, is similar to that of last year, when 1,058 children came under treatment. The cases dealt with in addition to skin diseases include the majority of the external eye defects, ear defects and minor injuries.

The total number of new cases attending the ringworm of the scalp clinic during the year was 15. This compares with 15 new cases last year.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

A clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of defects of vision is held weekly (two sessions) and is conducted by Dr. Taylor.

During the year, 849 children, including 307 new cases attended and the total number of attendances was 1,749. Glasses were prescribed for 302 children and the following are the various errors of refraction from which they suffered :—

Myopia	...	...	...	...	...	93=30 per cent.
Myopic astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	19= 6 „ „
Hypermetropia	...	...	...	...	...	114=37 „ „
Hypermetropic astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	60=20 „ „
Mixed astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	16= 5 „ „

Forty children were found not to require glasses and three cases were referred to the Royal Berkshire hospital.

All children for whom glasses are prescribed are examined at intervals of one year. They are also seen at the re-inspections in the schools.

Seventeen children attended for external eye defects.

Spectacles are provided through the agency of the Education committee, the parents contributing to the cost in accordance with the terms of an income scale. Table IV., group II. on page 97 sets out in detail the number of children dealt with at the clinic or otherwise and the agency through which their defects of vision were remedied.

(e) **Nose and Throat Defects.** The Authority's scheme for the operative treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids at the Royal Berkshire hospital has been continued during the year. Six children were operated on. All children are detained in hospital for one night or longer if required.

Fifty-seven children received operative treatment apart from the special arrangements made by the committee and 102 of the less severe cases were treated by means other than operation. The treatment of the latter is described in the report of the ear and throat clinic.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

An ear, nose and throat clinic is held every Saturday morning under the charge of the Assistant School Medical Officer. The following are the particulars of the work of the clinic during the year :—

Number of children attending	...	...	...	211
Number of new cases	...	...	...	124
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	730

New cases classified—

Otorrhoea	...	...	...	19
Deafness without discharge	...	...	...	18
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	71
Earache	...	...	...	8
Other defects—Wax in ears	...	...	...	8
Furunculosis, etc.	...	...	...	8

Old cases who attended, classified—

Otorrhoea	...	...	...	46
Deafness without discharge	...	...	...	3
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	31
Earache	...	...	...	5
Other defects—Wax in ears	...	...	...	2
Furunculosis, etc.	...	...	...	—

Result of treatment of new cases—

	Cured.	Improved
Otorrhoea	16	2
Deafness without discharge	16	2
Throat and nose defects	6	64
Earache	8	—
Other defects—Wax in ears	7	1
Furunculosis, etc.	—	—
Referred to hospital	1 case	
„ own doctor	1 „	

Result of treatment of old cases—

	Cured.	Improved.
Otorrhoea	40	6
Deafness without discharge	—	1
Throat and nose defects	20	11
Earache	5	—
Other defects—Wax in ears	2	—
Furunculosis, etc.	—	—

Two old mastoid operation cases, condition quite stationary.

Ionisation. During 1935, nine cases of otorrhoea were treated by ionisation, of which seven were cured. Of the remaining two, one was greatly improved and one was referred to his own doctor in view of the fact that he refused to attend regularly. All the cases which had been treated at earlier periods and who reported during 1935, were found to be well.

The method of treatment by ionisation, therefore, continues to give satisfactory results.

Diastolisation. During the year 26 cases completed treatment, and so far have had no recurrence of symptoms. There are still however, many cases among the school children, who should attend for treatment.

DENTAL REPORT.

" During the year 10,414 children were inspected, being 91.3 per cent. of those in average attendance at school. Of these, 5,382 or 51.6 per cent. required treatment and 3,087 or 57.3 per cent. consented to treatment.

All children are inspected and all requiring treatment are given forms to be signed by the parents if they consent to have the treatment carried out at the clinic. That over 40 per cent. of these are returned refusing treatment is to be deplored, as in only a very small number of cases, is private treatment sought.

If the children get toothache, the parents soon come to the clinic with them, and 184 children, who had refused during the current year, came in this way, as well as 182 who had refused previously. It is a pity that all these children had to suffer from toothache before their parents sought dental treatment.

The percentage of children requiring treatment is lower than it used to be, and this is noticeably so in the infant schools and also in the older age groups. In the first case, the credit must go to the Infant Welfare clinics, where the mothers are instructed in the care of the children before school age, and in the second case, to so many of the children having their teeth made artificially sound at the Dental clinic during their school-days.

Since we started treating pre-school children some years ago, the numbers have greatly increased and this year 116 attended in addition to 54 referred from the Infant Welfare centres, making 291 attendances in all. This work also contributes to the small percentage of infants requiring treatment during their first year at school.

It has been stated that drinking water has an effect on the teeth, and that where it is hard, the teeth are better calcified than where it is soft. Reading water is hard, and certainly on the whole, the teeth of the children are well formed, with good arches.

Hard teeth are not necessarily immune to dental caries, but are certainly more resistant and where decay occurs, it tends to take a narrow and deep course, as opposed to the wide soft rapid decay usual in soft teeth.

The number of children who have naturally perfect sets of teeth throughout their school days, is practically negligible, but where the teeth are hard, the work of conservation can be carried out most effectively.

Where crowding occurs, it is treated by judicious extraction, and during the year 242 permanent teeth were extracted for this purpose, and in most cases, with very good results. Children requiring regulation treatment are advised to attend the clinic every six months, when the eruption of the teeth can be kept under review and the extractions done at the best possible moment.

Reading school boys and Kendrick school girls, who have been referred by the school doctor in the first instance, also attend every six months to have their teeth inspected and any necessary treatment done. During 1935, 77 attended making 262 attendances.

The Dental Board again sent lecturers to talk to the senior school children, and this is a great help to the school dentists, who have not the time to include talks in their work.

We again offer our thanks to the teachers for their unfailing interest and help in our work."

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects. An agreement has been entered into with the Royal Berkshire hospital for the treatment of orthopaedic defects. In addition to the patients treated there during the year, seven boys received treatment at other institutions, five at Headington, one at Cold Ash and one at the Royal Sea Bathing hospital, Margate. In five instances monetary assistance was given towards the supply of surgical appliances for physically defective school children.

The following table gives a description of the Reading school children under treatment at the Royal Berkshire hospital during the year :—

	Boys.	Girls.
Flat foot	—	1
Osteomyelitis	1	1
Infantile paralysis	2	3
Spastic diplegia	2	—
Tuberculosis (osseous)	5	6
Talipes	3	4
Congenital deformities	4	—
Injury, etc.	1	2
	—	—
	18	17
	—	—

In addition to the above, 24 children of ages varying from one to five years received orthopaedic treatment at the Royal Berkshire hospital.

Children suffering from minor postural defects, for example, round shoulders, receive a leaflet of instruction in home exercises and are kept under observation.

Heart Disease and Rheumatism. A register is kept of all children suffering from heart defects and they are kept under observation. The total number is 19 boys and 28 girls. Eight children in whom the defect is more pronounced attend the Whitley special day school.

Tuberculosis. These children come under the charge of the public health department. Incipient cases attend the open-air school.

Other Defects and Diseases. Owing to the fact that most parents are subscribers to the Royal Berkshire hospital, little difficulty is met with as regards operations for hernia, etc. Children requiring medical treatment receive it through their own doctor, the dispensary and in a few instances the public assistance committee.

CHILD GUIDANCE.

During the year 17 new cases attended the clinic. Twelve of these were boys and five were girls. They were accompanied by their parents or guardians.

Since the institution of the clinic in 1933, 54 cases have attended (41 boys and 13 girls) and with few exceptions an improvement in behaviour has been noted. The exceptions have been mainly where the parents have adopted an attitude of indifference or opposition. Another cause of non-success has been the existence of a physical defect in the child, for instance in two cases of post-encephalitis lethargica. Their conduct was characterised by cruelty to younger children and animals. They proved quite incorrigible and had to be notified as feeble-minded.

The principal features of the cases have been nervous mannerisms and general misbehaviour, sleep-walking and night terrors, stealing and truancy, speech defects and enuresis. Backwardness, though not always marked, was a feature in most cases. The emotional disturbances, which underlie the difficulties of these children, interfere with normal school progress and thereby sets up a vicious circle.

As regards causation, while many factors, principally in the home but sometimes in the school, come into play, the cases can be divided into three main groups—pampering at home, family disturbances and neglect, and physical defect due to illness or accident. In some cases there was evidence of inherited nervous instability. The ages ranged from 4 to 13 years.

The following examples give some indication of the types of children dealt with.

A.B. (girl 11 years) plays truant, stays out late and steals from shops. There has been trouble in the home. Mother is in a mental hospital.

- C. D. (boy 11½ years) poor physique, stutters badly, has missed much schooling through illness and has been given in to by his parents. He can copy from the blackboard but cannot repeat all the letters of the alphabet. His stuttering is an attempt to shut out school work altogether.
- E. F. (boy 13 years) only child, suffers from enuresis and is depressed. The father is elderly and weak.
- G. H. (boy 12 years) has been adopted by a Reading family, previously lived abroad, of good physique, walks in his sleep and one night attempted to strangle a younger child in the next room. His past history reveals that his parents have separated and that once when he was small his mother had threatened to choke him in his bath.

The method of approach to all cases was first to gain the confidence of the child, encourage him to tell his story, find out his interests and track the cause of the disturbance to its source. Most of the children were suffering from discouragement in some form or other. Frequently early recollections gave a hint of the beginning of the trouble. Sometimes it was possible to explain to the older children the exact position. For the younger ones suggestion, persuasion and encouragement was sufficient together with adjustment of home and school environment.

As an adjunct to the clinic 34 cases of delinquency were reported on for the magistrates. Such examinations are undertaken at too short notice to be of much use from a child guidance point of view. Most of the cases were backward in their school work. In some instances the parents seemed to feel quite acutely the position into which their children had brought themselves but in others there was an attitude of parental indifference which was regrettable. As delinquency appears if anything to be increasing and has its roots in the backward classes of the school population it would appear that some profitable work might be done in studying that section of the elementary schools.

SPEECH CLINIC.

Miss Maysie P. Pechey has continued in charge of this clinic during the year. Miss Pechey gives the following interesting record of her work :—

“ The classes for speech defects during the past year 1935 have on the whole been very well attended, and there has been an increase in the number of patients.

There are two classes for stammerers at the clinic each Tuesday and Friday, there are also a number of cases to be taken separately : cleft palate, baby talk, etc. Each of these ‘ special ’ cases needs at least 15 minutes twice a week, and with the new arrangements for longer tuition, in most of the clinic cases this can I hope be arranged.

In the group classes for stammerers, pupils are encouraged to lead and show initiative—when sufficient confidence is obtained and the pupil is willing, speech is encouraged in exercises and games, reading, reciting and story telling.

The practice books provided are most popular, and used daily in most cases—children are occasionally allowed to write their own weekly practice under my supervision, and encouraged to invent new exercises and word games which will benefit them—this increases the interest, makes the child feel responsible for his progress, and provokes thought.

During 1935 we had 31 children attending at the clinic. Six have been discharged cured, four left much improved, and three are likely to be discharged early in 1936.

The work at the Whitley special school is inevitably slower, but all the children respond to treatment, and learn gradually to feel the formation of words and sounds.

In many cases I combine speech with gesture and movement, to enable the children to make mental pictures, and to associate the feel and sight of an object with the correct pronunciation of its name. I also take breathing exercises, and simple head and arm exercises, to correct uncontrolled movements, and 'mouth breathers,' poorly developed chests, and to aid fundamentally poor or delayed intelligence, and lack of co-ordination from nervous disorders.

Pupils in all cases must—

- (a) see movement ;
- (b) feel movement and vibration ;
- (c) do movement ;
- (d) hear sound (if possible).

There are at the moment 56 pupils, of whom 31 are at the Whitley special school."

OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

Arrangements are made in nearly all schools to hold classes in the playgrounds when the weather permits. Nature study walks are also frequently arranged, especially for the younger children and school journeys to places of interest in London and to various seaside places are undertaken by some of the classes.

The work of the open-air classes at Whitley special school is reported on below.

Summer Holidays. The Reading Children's Holiday Fund Committee were able, as the result of funds collected and contributions paid by parents, to arrange for 144 Reading children to have two weeks holiday at the seaside during August, 1935. Of the children so provided with a holiday, 43 were sent at the entire expense of the fund. Before leaving Reading, the children were examined at the school clinic by the school medical officers. The fund also provided means for maintaining two delicate children in convalescent homes for longer periods.

School Baths. A large and well-lighted bathroom fitted with two baths and a spray is installed at St. Giles' (Church of England) boys' school. This enables practically all the boys attending the school to have a hot bath each week. As the boys come mostly from homes where bathing facilities are very limited, the provision of school baths is undoubtedly a great boon. No other elementary school is equipped with baths.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

I am indebted to the organisers of physical training for the following report :—

“The progress mentioned in our report of last year has been maintained as far as the gymnastic lesson is concerned. The gymnastic tables compiled to meet the need in central and senior schools have been published in book form and the books are now in use in all central and reorganised senior schools.

All the schools except three give either three lessons of twenty minutes (junior schools) or two of thirty minutes (central and senior schools) to physical exercises, one hour to organised games and one hour to swimming from May to September (20 to 40 scholars).

The Education Authority has continued its policy of providing plimsols for necessitous scholars and with a continual urge from the teachers a large percentage of scholars provide their own.

We again urge the necessity of having at least two members of each central and senior school with specialised knowledge in physical work.

Organised Games. The inclement weather during the winter months has greatly interfered with field games. Consequently it has been necessary on a number of occasions to take the games lesson at the school. The lack of floor space in some of the schools has made the work very difficult.

Facilities for playing cricket on proper lines are still sadly needed, for at present little of real value can be accomplished from an instructional point of view.

Additional net-ball and hockey pitches in the public parks are required, if all the needs of the schools are to be satisfactorily catered for.

Staff Courses. A dancing course was arranged for the teaching staff when short dances suitable for three age groups were taken :—

- (a) 3 years to 7 years.
- (b) 7 years to 11 years.
- (c) 11 years to 14 years.

The large entry necessitated two classes being held as over one hundred mistresses attended.

Swimming The season was generally a cold one and the work of the instructors was somewhat handicapped. The scholars, however, showed a fine spirit in spite of the weather conditions and 299 girls and 464 boys learned to swim. The decrease in the number of learners is due to :—

- (1) The exceptionally cold weather during May and early June.
- (2) In the case of the girls, the fact that they were unable to use the bath on Wednesday afternoons.

Voluntary Associations. We again take this opportunity of placing on record the value of the assistance given to physical work in general by the—

- (1) Schools' Football Association,
- (2) Schools' Swimming Association,
- (3) Schools' Athletic Association.

In conclusion we again express our thanks to the Education Committee for its practical assistance, to the Education Officer for his valuable guidance and to the head teachers and teaching staff for their welcome co-operation."

PROVISION OF MEALS.

The provision of meals for necessitous school children has been continued during the year as before. The meals provided consisted of two-course hot dinners cooked at the central council kitchen in Southampton street. The feeding centres in use during the year were :—

Southampton street, St. Barnabas room—Shinfield road,
New Town school, Grovelands school and Whitley Park school.

The number of individual children provided with meals was 774, and the total number of meals supplied was 142,093. The number of children is over one hundred less than last year with a corresponding reduction in the number of meals.

Under the scheme for supplying milk to schools through the Milk Marketing Board, a comprehensive plan has been evolved affecting all the schools with the exception of two where malted milk is supplied. In this way during the year an average daily number of 5,138·2 scholars received one third of a pint of milk at the mid-day break. Of these 419 who had been examined by the school medical officers and recommended to have milk were supplied free as being necessitous cases. All the milk supplied is pasteurised.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

The attendance of parents at medical inspections very considerably facilitates the work of the school medical officers and it is evident that parents are becoming increasingly interested, the percentage of attendance having risen within the last few years from 43 per cent. to 75 per cent. At the entrant inspections, the attendance of parents reached the high total of 91·3 per cent. For the intermediates and leavers' inspections it was 79·8 and 55·6 per cent. respectively.

Forty-one parents objected to the medical inspection of their children representing ·08 per cent. of all children examined.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

Reference has been made in the past to the many ways in which the work of the school medical service is helped by the ready co-operation of the teachers. This help has been given unstintingly in the past year. In particular a considerable demand on their services is caused by the mid-day supply of milk to the scholars.

CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL WELFARE VISITORS.

There is a cordial co-operation between the school medical department and the welfare visitors whose help is particularly valuable in the investigation of crippling defects in children who may be absent from school for lengthened periods.

Moreover, any medical records which the welfare visitors obtain are available for the information of the school medical service. The prosecution of parents who have wilfully neglected to keep their children clean is carried out through the welfare department.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. I am indebted to Inspector Grocott of the local branch for the following details of the work carried out during the past year :—

Number of cases dealt with.	Type of case.	Number of children concerned.			Number of Supervision visits paid.
		Under school age.	Of school age.	Over school age.	
59	Neglect ...	75	97	14	298
11	Exposure ...	21	—	—	2
29	Ill-treatment	28	38	3	147
9	Other reasons	12	14	—	25
37	Advice sought	37	37	5	82

Fifty-six of these cases were still under supervision at the end of the year. Five prosecutions were undertaken and in each case a conviction was obtained. A number of families were provided with blankets, clothing and coal, as well as toys, etc., given out at Christmas time.

British Red Cross Orthopaedic Fund. This association has maintained close touch with the work of the local authority during the year. Members of the association attend the weekly clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital encouraging the children to attend and assisting in the provision of orthopaedic appliance in necessitous cases. Patients requiring home supervision are referred by the association to the health department for visitation by the lady health visitors.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

(a) Table III. in the Appendix gives statistics regarding the school children in the Reading area who require more specialised treatment,

educational or medical. They are conveniently classed together as the "blind, deaf, defective and epileptic." A register is kept of all children found to be suffering from those defects and it is kept up-to-date through the instrumentality of teachers, welfare visitors and health visitors who are continually referring cases. During the year, the following cases were examined at the weekly clinic which is held for that purpose.

	Boys.	Girls.
Feeble-minded	10	5
Imbecile	1	1
Phthisis and suspected phthisis or delicate children	14	1
Physically defective	8	6
Dull and backward	6	7
Idiot	—	1
Deaf and dumb	1	1
Epilepsy	1	1
Delinquent	2	—
No defect	3	1
	—	—
	46	24
	—	—

Blind and Deaf. These children are maintained at residential institutions not directly controlled by the committee. There is no "Myope" class owing to the numbers being insufficient to warrant one being formed. If the defect of vision is so great that the child cannot be reasonably educated in the ordinary school he is sent to a school for the partially blind. Six Reading children come under this description and have been sent to residential schools.

(b) **Mentally Defective.** These children are educated in the special day school and are described in that report. Where they are not suitable for the day school they attend the occupation centre, a description of which is given in the report of the medical officer of health, or are sent to a residential institution. One is maintained in the latter.

WHITLEY SPECIAL SCHOOL.

I am indebted to Dr. Taylor for the following report on the work of the special school :—

"The general management and work of each department has been carried out on the lines of recent years. Weekly visits are paid by the school medical officer and all the children examined in routine.

The Physically Defective Department. Two children were treated with thyroid extract and one of them has shown marked improvement. One girl receives insulin treatment with suitable dietary.

Speech Training. Miss Pechey has attended twice weekly and her treatment is of great assistance in the training of the scholars. During the present year she will devote two hours weekly to this work.

Swimming. During the season, eight certificates were gained.

School Gardens. These are worked by the three departments :—the allotment in Northumberland Avenue and a portion of Christchurch Vicarage garden kindly lent by the Vicar.

I am much indebted to Mr. Scott, the headmaster, and his staff for their kind assistance in my work of the school and in the compilation of this report."

The number of children in attendance at the physically defective and the mentally defective schools was as follows :—

	Mentally. defective school.		Physically. defective school.		Open-air school.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
On roll January, 1935 ...	50	35	29	20	33	22
Admitted during the year ...	9	6	8	6	17	3
Left during the year ...	10	4	8	6	9	5
On roll December, 1935 ...	49	37	29	20	41	20

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE SCHOOL.

There have been 63 children in attendance at this school during the year with the following disabilities :—

Cardiac	...	...	...	...	...	13
Paralysis—(a) birth	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) infantile	...	...	...	...	...	3
(c) meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
(d) convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis (osseous)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Deformities (congenital talipes, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Epilepsy (minor)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pseudo hypertrophic	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defects	...	...	...	...	...	16

All the cases of paralysis and deformity have been under treatment at the Royal Berkshire or London hospitals. Fifteen are at present in attendance as out-patients at the former hospital.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE SCHOOL.

One hundred children have attended during the year. An inquiry is made into the family history of each of these children which so far as it can be ascertained tends to throw light in many cases on the cause of the mental defect. The inquiry revealed in parents, grand-parents, or other near relatives a history of :—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	8
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	1
Backwardness	...	...	...	...	...	30
Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dementia and amentia	...	...	...	...	...	28
Not known or normal	...	...	...	...	...	32

Of those children whose antecedent histories are recorded as not known or normal, brothers and sisters were in many instances feeble-minded and had been pupils at this school in the past.

In addition to their mental defect, many of the children suffer from physical disability as shown :—

Defective speech	...	...	...	...	...	25
Defective vision (including squint)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Infantile paralysis	...	...	...	...	...	1

THE OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

There have been 50 boys and 25 girls in attendance at this school during the year. All of these children have been examined and recommended by Dr. Minkley, the tuberculosis medical officer, and are kept under his supervision during the period of their stay at the school. Charts of temperature and of height and weight are kept for all the children, and breakfasts, dinners, teas and a pint of "Grade A" milk are provided daily for each. Malt and cod liver oil are also given.

After-care. All children leaving the mentally defective department of the special school are reported to the mental welfare committee of the council and are kept under supervision by the officers concerned. On the physically defective side, as a rule, no child is allowed to leave until suitable employment has been obtained and they are afterwards kept under supervision of the teaching staff.

FULL TIME COURSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC STUDENTS.

The Education committee consider such cases before the students attain the age of 16, and in this connection have regard to the aptitude of the pupil and the prospects of employment after the training has been completed. The committee are in constant touch with the Reading

Association for the Welfare of the Blind and the Blind Persons sub-committee of the Corporation and co-operate with these bodies so far as blind persons are concerned.

The local Education Authority have not established any full time courses of higher education in their area.

Of the students who have completed their training in recent years, one is successfully employed locally as a pianoforte tuner, one blind girl who holds the teachers' certificate of the Board of Education has failed to secure employment in the teaching profession but is working at home in connection with the National Institute for the blind and two blind men are employed as blind workers in London.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

There are no nursery schools in Reading but the practice has been continued during the past year of admitting children under five years where it was considered advisable owing to exceptional family conditions. There were 489 under fives on the school registers during the year. These children are medically inspected as entrants and again when they reach the age of five years. A few cases of minor ailments amongst children under five who do not attend school are treated at the minor ailments clinic.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The results of the examinations of the Kendrick girls secondary school and of Reading school are set out in the table on page 100. At the former there are examined all entrants and children aged 12 and 15 years and yearly after 15. Reading school which has both day boys and boarders does not come under the Reading Education committee, but all the boys are inspected—the entrants and those aged 8, 12 and 15 years. Re-inspections are also carried out in both schools. The following-up arrangements are carried out through the medium of the teachers.

Ophthalmic and dental treatment is provided where necessary at the school clinic. In the former case 9 boys and 28 girls received treatment and in the latter 34 boys and 43 girls.

PARENTS' PAYMENTS.

The authority's arrangements for recovering the cost of treatment from the parents of children attending public elementary schools and secondary schools are as follows :—

In the case of dental treatment and minor ailments, a contribution is charged to the parent on the occasion of attendance at the school clinic for treatment, where the income is found to be above the scale fixed by the local authority.

Contributions are recovered from parents towards the cost of spectacles supplied and for operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids by the Education committee's welfare visitors, who investigate the family circumstances, including income, and subsequently collect the payment at the homes of the children after the contribution has been assessed. Collecting boxes are also placed in the school clinics for free-will contributions. The total amount collected for the last financial year was £111 5s. 6d.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

During the year, the Education Authority availed itself of the services of the Dental Board, who sent a lecturer to lecture to the senior children on "Care of the Teeth." These talks are a useful adjunct to those given by teachers and with the aid of models and charts, bring the subject before the children in an interesting and instructive manner.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Employment of Children and Young Persons. In accordance with the bye-laws, 291 boys and one girl engaged in the distribution of milk or newspapers were examined at the clinic and 105 children engaged in other occupations were examined in the schools. Four of the children were found unfit for employment. All employed children are kept under supervision and are weighed periodically in the schools. Thirteen employers and six parents were interviewed with regard to their employing children beyond the legal number of hours. Legal proceedings were instituted against four employers and one parent and fines totalling £6 10s. 0d. were imposed.

Children and Young Persons Act. Thirty-four children and young persons, 31 boys and three girls, were examined and reported on under this Act.

A medical report of each of the "leavers" is recorded on the cards of the juvenile employment bureau.

Sixty-five scholarship candidates were examined.

TABLE I.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,495
Second age group			...	...	...	...	1,340
Third	„	„	...	...	...	...	1,344
							<hr/>
Total						...	4,179

Number of other routine inspections... .. 62

Grand Total 4,241

B. Other Inspections.

Number of special inspections	...	...	...	...	1,696
Number of re-inspections	...	...	...	...	6,812
					<hr/>
Total					8,508
					<hr/>

C. Children found to require treatment.

Number of individual children found at routine medical inspections to require treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases).

Prescribed groups :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	151
Second age group	...	...	...	...	...	191
Third	„	„	...	...	...	139
						<hr/>
Total (prescribed groups)						481

Other routine inspections 6

Grand Total 487

TABLE II.

A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1935.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	(1) Ringworm—Scalp	3	—	17	—
	(2) " Body	—	—	9	—
	(3) Scabies	1	—	29	—
	(4) Impetigo	7	—	130	—
	(5) Other Diseases (Non-tuberculous)	29	13	72	—
	TOTAL (Heads 1 to 5) ...	40	13	257	—
Eye	(6) Blepharitis	10	3	10	—
	(7) Conjunctivitis	1	—	49	1
	(8) Keratitis	—	—	1	—
	(9) Corneal Opacities	—	—	1	—
	(10) Other Conditions (excluding Defective Vision and Squint)	7	2	41	—
	TOTAL (Heads 6 to 10) ...	18	5	102	1
Ear	(11) Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	138	188	24	9
	(12) Squint	41	57	4	—
	(13) Defective Hearing	34	9	5	—
	(14) Otitis Media	12	—	35	—
	(15) Other Ear Diseases	3	—	24	—
Nose and Throat	(16) Chronic Tonsillitis only	8	147	20	4
	(17) Adenoids only	—	1	—	1
	(18) Chronic Tonsillitis and Adenoids	7	5	1	—
	(19) Other Conditions	75	53	58	—
(20) Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-tuberculous)		1	7	4	—
(21) Defective Speech		15	11	5	1
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :				
	(22) Organic	—	17	3	—
	(23) Functional	—	8	1	—
	(24) Anaemia	4	3	2	—

TABLE II.—*continued.*

Defect or Disease.					Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
					No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
					Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Lungs	(25) Bronchitis	...	...	...	9	1	5	—
	(26) Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	5	33	2	—
	Pulmonary :							
	(27) Definite	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(28) Suspected	...	...	...	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary :							
	(29) Glands	...	...	...	4	3	—	—
	(30) Bones and Joints	...	...	...	1	—	2	—
	(31) Skin	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(32) Other Forms	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
TOTAL (Heads 29 to 32)					6	3	2	—
Nervous System	(33) Epilepsy	...	...	...	—	2	2	—
	(34) Chorea	...	...	...	1	—	4	1
	(35) Other Conditions	...	...	...	2	10	—	—
Deformities	(36) Rickets	...	...	...	1	2	—	—
	(37) Spinal Curvature	...	...	...	—	10	—	—
	(38) Other Forms	...	...	...	8	107	1	—
9) Other Defects and Diseases (excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)					82	54	672	13
TOTALS					510	747	1234	30

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

Age-groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	1,495	10	·6	1423	95·1	62	4·1	—	—
Second Age-group ...	1,340	9	·6	1244	92·8	86	6·4	1	·07
Third „ „ ...	1,344	54	4·02	1226	91·2	64	4·7	—	—
Other routine inspections	62	2	3·2	60	96·7	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4,241	75	1·7	3953	93·2	212	4·9	1	·02

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

Blind Children.

At Certified Schools for the Blind.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
2	—	—	—	2

Partially Sighted Children.

At Certified Schools for the Blind.	At Certified Schools for the Partially Sighted.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
6	—	—	—	—	6

Deaf Children.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
9	—	—	—	9

Partially Deaf Children.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Certified Schools for the Partially Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	—	—

**Mentally Defective Children.
Feeble-Minded Children.**

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
85	—	1	3	89

**Epileptic Children.
Children Suffering from Severe Epilepsy.**

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	4	4

Physically Defective Children.

A. Tuberculous Children.

—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total
7	—	2	1	10

—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
14	3	—	—	17

B. Delicate Children.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
54	3	—	1	58

C. Crippled Children.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
45	—	—	2	47

D. Children with Heart Disease.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
8	—	—	2	10

Children Suffering from Multiple Defects.

Combination of Defect.	At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
One boy, Infantile paralysis and Men- tally Defective ...	1	—	—	—	1
One girl, Congenital deformity and Men- tally Defective ...	—	—	1	—	1
	1	—	1	—	2

TABLE IV.
TREATMENT TABLES.
GROUP I.—Minor Ailments

(excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table VI.).

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total. (4)
Skin :—			
Ringworm—Scalp—			
(i) X-Ray treatment.	—	—	—
(ii) Other "	15	5	20
Ringworm—Body	7	2	9
Scabies	29	1	30
Impetigo	128	9	137
Other Skin Disease	66	35	101
Minor Eye Defects :—			
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	95	25	120
Minor Ear Defects	65	48	113
Miscellaneous :—			
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, &c.)	652	72	724
Total ...	1057	197	1254

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint
(excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

	No. of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint). (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report)	832	15	847
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	17	—	17
Total	849	15	864
No. of Children for whom spectacles were	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(a) Prescribed	302	10	312
(b) Obtained	293	2	295

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.									
Received Operative Treatment.									
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital (1)				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)				Total. (3)	
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(ii)	(iii)
—	—	6	—	1	1	55	—	1	61
								Received other forms of Treatment. (4)	Total number treated. (5)
								102	165

(i) Tonsils only. (ii) Adenoids only. (iii) Tonsils and adenoids. (iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

GROUP IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Under the Authority's Scheme. (1)				Otherwise. (2)		
Residential treatment with education. (i)	Residential treatment without education. (ii)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic. (iii)		Residential treatment with education. (i)	Residential treatment without education. (ii)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic. (iii)
14	—	36		—	—	—
Number of children treated ...				Total number treated.		
...				50		

1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist
(a) Routine age-groups.

AGE.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTAL
Number ...	1185	1056	1068	1029	1052	1090	1148	1120	1188	478	10414
(b) Specials											448
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)											10862
) Number found to require treatment											5382
) Number actually treated											3952
) Attendances made by children for treatment											9478
) Half-days devoted to—Inspection											85
Treatment											811
								Total			896
Fillings—Permanent Teeth											4730
Temporary Teeth											123
								Total			4853
Extractions—Permanent Teeth											1264
Temporary Teeth											5358
								Total			6622
Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions											—
Other Operations—Permanent Teeth											718
Temporary Teeth											112
								Total			830

TABLE VI.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	6
Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses							32862
Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean	...	...	...	...	...	1562
Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	...	...	...	74
Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—							
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	5

TABLE VII.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL
INSPECTION IN 1935. SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Number Examined				READING SCHOOL.		KENDRICK GIRLS' SCHOOL.			
				243		217			
				Number referred for		Number referred for			
Defect or Disease.				Treatment.	Observation.	Treatment.	Observation.		
Malnutrition				...	..	...	1
Uncleanliness {				Head...	...	...	...
				Body ..	..	...	...
Skin {				Ringworm {	...	..	..
				Head	...	...	...
				Body	...	...	...
				Scabies	...	...	...
				Impetigo	...	...	...
Other Disease (Non-tub.)				...	...	10	...
Eye {				Blepharitis	...	...	...
				Conjunctivitis	..	...	..
				Keratitis	...	...	...
				Corneal Ulcer	..	...	...
				Corneal Opacities	...	...	...
				Defective Vision	...	14	38	11	35
				Squint	...	1	2
Other Conditions				..	...	...	...
Ear {				Defective Hearing	1	...	
				Otitis Media...
				Other Ear Disease
Nose and Throat {				Enlarged Tonsils	...	2	...	7	
				Adenoids	
				Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	
				Other Conditions	...	1	1	4	...
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuber.)				...	...	...	...
Defective Speech				...	1	..	...
,, Teeth				69	...	29	...		
Heart and Circulation {				Organic	...	..	...
				Functional	...	1	...		
				Anæmia	..	...	...
Lungs {				Bronchitis	...	...	...
				Other non-tuber. disease	...	5	...		
Tuberculosis {				Pulmonary :—Definite	...	..	...
				Suspected...	...	...	...
				Non-Pulmonary :—Glands	...	...	...
				Spine	...	...	...
				Hips...	...	...	..
				Other bones and joints	...	..	...
				Skin	...	...	...
Other forms	...	...	...			
Nervous System {				Epilepsy	...	...	...
				Chorea	...	...	...
				Other Conditions	..	3	...		
Deformities {				Rickets	...	...	...
				Spinal curvature	...	...	...
				Other Forms	..	1	27	2	21
Other Defect or Disease				...	5	...	3		

MENTAL DEFICIENCY (NOTIFICATION OF CHILDREN)
REGULATIONS, 1928.

Statement of the number of children notified during the year ended
31st December, 1935, by the Local Education Authority to the
Local Mental Deficiency Authority.

Total number of children notified ... 6

Analysis of the above Total.

Diagnosis.	Boys.	Girls.
1.—(i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School :—		
(a) Idiots	—	1
(b) Imbeciles	1	1
(c) Others	—	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children :—		
(a) Moral defectives	—	—
(b) Others	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16 :—	1	2
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, <i>i.e.</i> , "special circumstances" cases <i>Note.</i> —No child should be notified under Article 3 until the Board have issued a formal certificate (Form 308 M) to the Authority.	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf <i>Note.</i> —No blind or deaf child should be notified without reference to the Board—see Article 2, proviso (ii)	—	—
Grand total	2	4

