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COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Ewart Clarke McIlroy, J.P.)

Aldermen.

ALICE JENKINS, J.P.

ALBERT JAMES MAKER.

THOMAS MASON.

Councillors.

FRANK ADLAM, J.P.

HAROLD THOMAS INKSON.

ERIC DENIS BERRY.

EDWARD RUSSELL JACKSON, J.P.

ALBERT CHRISTOPHER CANDLER, M.A.

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(Chairman).

ANNIE PHOEBE ELLEN CUSDEN, J.P.

HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON.

CECIL EDWARD HOLDEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

FRANK HUMPHREYS LEWIS.

(Vice-Chairman).

THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART.

HENRY WOOLDRIDGE.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

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(Vice-Chairman)

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK (Chairman).

ALICE JENKINS, J.P.

WILLIAM MATHIAS NEWHAM.

Councillors.

ERIC DENIS BERRY.

HAROLD THOMAS INKSON.

ALBERT CHRISTOPHER CANDLER, M.A.

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CECIL EDWARD HOLDEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT, M.B.E., J.P.

ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.

Non-Members of the Council.

Mrs. E. P. COLLIER.

Miss L. S. FIELD.

Mrs. M. C. MACKINTOSH.

MENTAL WELFARE COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Ewart Clarke McIlroy, J.P.)
(Vice-Chairman)

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.

ALICE JENKINS, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillors.

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EDWARD ERNEST LANGSTON.

CECIL EDWARD HOLDEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.

GORDON ORMSBY LAMBERT, M.D.

ERNEST ALFRED GEORGE SLOPER.

Non-Member of the Council

Mr. B. J. STAMMERS.



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

May, 1939.

**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 1938.

The report is a statutory duty placed upon the Medical Officer of Health and is prepared on lines laid down by the Minister of Health in such manner that it will be comparable with the corresponding reports from other areas.

Vital Statistics.

Population. The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1938 is 100,400. This estimate is believed to be substantially accurate.

Birth Rate. The birth rate for the year was 15·7 per 1,000 of the population, a rate practically identical with that for the previous year.

Illegitimate Births. The number of illegitimate births assigned to the borough was 66, being 4 per cent. of all births registered.

Stillbirths. It is now legally necessary to register stillbirths. The number registered was 79 which is 5 per cent. of live births. This rate compares with the average rate, which varies between four and five per cent.

Death Rate. The crude death rate was 12·5 per 1,000 persons living, which does not differ materially from the rates of recent years. Corrected for the higher average age of the population, the standardized death rate becomes 11·1 per 1,000 of the population.

Infant Mortality Rate. The infant mortality rate of 39·9 per 1,000 live births shows a notable decrease upon the corresponding rate recorded in recent years.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

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

The new health centre on the Whitley estate was opened during the year. It provides suitable premises for ante-natal care and infant welfare as well as for the medical and dental care of school children. The Borough of Reading Medical Society has also been allotted dispensary accommodation for the greater convenience of the residents on the Whitley estate.

The completion of the approved extensions to Battle and Park hospitals has been delayed owing to the necessity to provide for air raid protection in the new buildings.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

The year has been notable for the undue prevalence of epidemic infectious diseases. The gravest as well as the most unusual was an outbreak of anterior poliomyelitis or infantile paralysis. The outbreak comprised a total of 18 cases, of which four were fatal. In some of the remaining cases there was resultant paralysis in one of which, at least, it is of the very gravest character.

The incidence of diphtheria was again much above the average although the type of the disease tended to be less severe and the case fatality rate was below the expected rate.

Scarlet fever continues to maintain its mild type but was still unduly prevalent.

A numerically extensive outbreak of measles, an event which can now be anticipated as a regular biennial occurrence, occurred in the spring. Probably owing to the severe weather conditions obtaining, bronchial complications were unusually prevalent with serious effects amongst the younger children.

It will be readily understood that the exceptional epidemiological conditions indicated above placed a very severe tax on the accommodation and staff of Park hospital.

The mortality from tuberculosis was again much below the average, the death rate from this disease just failing to equal the record low rate of the previous year.

The number of cases of venereal disease treated at the clinic showed some tendency to decline.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The infant mortality rate of 39 per 1,000 live births is the lowest ever recorded in the history of the borough.

The maternal mortality rate of 4.4 per 1,000 births was, however, above that of recent years. Owing to the very small numbers involved it is believed that this high rate is probably accidental. Similar variations have been experienced at intervals in past years.

The number of patients admitted to Dellwood maternity home exceeded that for any year since the home was established. One-fifth of all births in the borough occur at Dellwood. The question of accommodation at Dellwood is at present engaging the attention of the committee.

The operation of the new Midwives Act during the first complete year has been carried out successfully and with fewer administrative difficulties than might have been anticipated.

Your attention is drawn to the greatly increased attendances at the ante-natal and infant welfare clinics. The extension of these services to the Whitley estate has largely increased the numbers attending but the similar centres in other areas continue to increase their effectiveness.

Milk and other foods were distributed free or at part cost to necessitous mothers and children at a total cost of £4,100 during the financial year.

Care of the Blind.

The report of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind sets out in detail the measures taken for the care of blind persons, of whom there are 167 registered in the borough. In addition to financial assistance, professional training and pastime occupation is provided in accordance with the needs of the individual.

Mr. G. T. Willoughby Cashell, F.R.C.S. (Ed.), presents a report on the cases brought to his notice during the year.

Mental Welfare.

The psychiatric clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital continues to perform a useful function in dealing with early cases of mental illness and with patients under observation after discharge from the mental hospital. The number of patients dealt with under the voluntary provisions of the act continues to increase.

There are now 50 patients in the Borocourt institution for mentally defectives—10 males and 40 females. There are 25 males and 5 females in other mental institutions.

The occupation centre at Watlington House has continued to provide occupation and training suitable to the ages and mental condition of 44 patients who are maintained under supervision at home.

Housing.

There were 351 new houses erected in the borough during the year. During the past four years new building has shown a progressive decline. The programme of slum clearance in respect of four clearance areas, comprising 45 houses, was completed and these areas are now evacuated and demolished. Further areas, in the main comprising small separate groups of houses, have been scheduled for demolition.

Overcrowding. Supervision of overcrowding conditions has continued to effect notable improvement in that regard. At the end of the year there were 101 known cases of overcrowding. This represents an improvement to the extent of some 60 to 70 per cent. on the conditions found by the original survey taken only two years ago. The efforts of the Council itself as by far the largest single owner of working-class houses has largely contributed to this result but the fact that it is now an offence of both owner and occupier of private property to create new overcrowding conditions is a potent factor. That problems of this nature cannot be remedied by a stroke of the pen will be clear from the fact that two-thirds

of cases of overcrowding still known to exist, occur on Council estates. As a mitigating circumstance it should also be appreciated that the degree of overcrowding in individual cases is one-half a person in 50 per cent. of cases and does not exceed one person in 75 per cent. of cases. A detailed analysis of the extent and the degree of overcrowding is included in the report.

Supervision of Food Supplies.

The inspectors continue to keep under supervision all premises where food is prepared or offered for sale and report that conditions are generally satisfactory.

Special attention, as before, is given to the milk supply as being by far the most important single article of food. All milk subject to the Milk (Special Designations) Order is examined chemically and bacteriologically at frequent intervals, but it should be remembered that rather more than half of all milk sold in the borough is still sold without guarantee.

The results of inspection of meat, milk and certain other foodstuffs, and action taken, is set out in detail in the report.

General Sanitation.

I am indebted to Mr. Owen Kean, the manager and engineer of the Water department, for the report on the source, methods of purification and distribution of the water supply in the area and to Mr. A. S. Parsons, borough surveyor, for reports on the methods of sewage disposal, and on measures taken for the collection and disposal of house refuse, and for public cleansing in the borough. These reports present a wealth of detail which should be more widely known as indicating the great care and labour which the administration of these services entails.

Air Raid Precautions.

The air raid precautions scheme has placed very considerable added duties and responsibilities on the health department. In circumstances so uncertain in their incidence and effects it is almost impossible to forecast all requirements and to reconcile conflicting views.

In its medical aspect the problem must be regarded from three entirely separate angles.

As part of the national scheme it has been decided that patients in London hospitals shall be transported to hospitals in areas regarded as less vulnerable. In accordance with this scheme Reading must be prepared to receive some 400 patients who will be conveyed from London in ambulance trains and thence by improvised ambulance cars to the Royal Berkshire and Battle hospitals. These latter must be evacuated beforehand by sending patients to their homes or to other institutions in the adjoining county areas. Arrangements towards this end were in fact complete during the recent crisis in September.

Secondly, it is probable that children and other non-combatants will be removed from their homes in London and billeted with private persons in Reading and other so-called receiving areas. The number of such refugees that will be accommodated in Reading is estimated at approximately 25,000 persons. The medical care of such a large increase in the population is in itself a considerable problem while the possible epidemiological effects, that is the increase or alteration in the incidence of infectious disease is of great importance and impossible to forecast. The government by arranging for the re-distribution of medical personnel and the appointment of area officers have taken steps to meet such difficulties as may be expected to arise.

In the third place, arrangements must be made to deal with such casualties as might occur locally as the result of an attack upon Reading. To meet this situation seven fixed first-aid posts will be established locally, and it is anticipated that two mobile units will be available for service in the outlying parts of the borough and the adjoining county areas. The fixed first-aid posts will be situated at Caversham Council school, Tilehurst Park Lane school, Katesgrove Council school, Newtown Council school, Whitley clinic, Battle hospital, and Grovelands Council school. Operating from these first-aid posts will be first-aid parties whose duties will be to convey injured persons either to first-aid posts or hospital in accordance with the nature of the injuries received.

The very responsible duties required to maintain this local casualty service will be undertaken by the St. John's Ambulance brigade who will man the first-aid parties and the British Red Cross Society whose members will staff the fixed first-aid posts.

Members of these two organizations plus auxiliary volunteers in numbers exceeding 600, have been trained or are in course of training to deal with both gas and other casualties. In addition through the agency of the Women's Voluntary Services for civil defence some 120 women, both trained and undergoing training in first-aid have been recruited to undertake the duties of ambulance drivers.

Local emergency committees have been set up for the allocation of the medical and nursing professions in posts which will best utilize their specialist services.

Cremation.

The medical officer of health is the medical referee to the Reading crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. Up to date, 827 cremations have been carried out. It is noteworthy that applications for cremation are still received in the majority of cases from persons resident in other areas. During the past year, of 202 applications received, 155 were from non-residents of the borough.

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

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. MILLIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Summary, 1938.

Area of borough (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	9,106
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	97,153
„ (Estimated mid-year, 1938) (Registrar-General)						100,400
Number of inhabited houses (approximate) 1938	...	...	...	...	...	27,300
Rateable value (October 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	£848,347
Sum represented by a penny rate (October 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	£3,380
Number of births registered	...	...	...	...	...	1,582
Nett birth rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	15.7
Average birth rate, preceding ten years	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
Number of deaths registered	...	...	...	...	...	1,259
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	12.5
Standardized Death Rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
Average crude death rate, preceding ten years	...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Number of persons married	...	...	...	...	...	1,878
Marriage rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	...	18.7
Number of infant deaths (under one year)	...	...	...	...	...	60
Total infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	...	...	39.9
Average infant mortality rate, preceding ten years	...	...	...	...	...	50.1
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	{ All forms					0.64
	{ Pulmonary					0.58
Average tuberculosis death rate (preceding 10 years)	{ All forms					0.88
	{ Pulmonary					0.74
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—						
From sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1
From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	172
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	7

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.

Medical Officers (part time) Maternity and Child Welfare.
SIDNEY GILFORD, M.B., Ch.B.
NORA WILSON WAMSLEY, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
ALFRED HENRY PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

Visiting Medical Officer (part time) Park Hospital.
LIONEL CHARLES WILLIAM CANE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

BATTLE HOSPITAL.
Medical Superintendent.
D. CYRIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Resident Assistant Medical Superintendent.
WILLIAM BRADFORD FOSTER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
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.
T. STANSFIELD, M.B., B.S.

Public Vaccinator, Tilehurst District of Reading.
RUPERT LLEWELLYN LYN-JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Consultant Obstetricians.
C. B. BAXTER, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., Ed. M.C.O.G.
G. O. LAMBERT, M.D., M.R.C.P.

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

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
*† JAMES DODD.

Chief Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
*† W. E. BOND.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.
* P. B. BROCK.
* E. L. W. GEEN.
*† F. A. K. STREETER.
*H. SYRAD.

Chief Clerk and Vaccination Officer.
*Geo. S. HAWTHORNE.

Assistant Clerks.
D. W. L. GOODALL. F. LIPSCOMBE.
C. I. AUST. Miss B. EVEREST.
Miss J. ROBSON SMITH. Miss P. FORD.
Miss N. HULBERT. E. E. J. FEW.

Clerical Staff, Battle Hospital.
T. J. FARMER (Clerk and Steward).
J. P. KINGSLEY.
L. A. G. WICKS.
R. T. NEATE.
J. A. WHEELER.

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 M. K. STEPHENS.
× * † MISS H. A. MORTIMER.
× * † MISS S. A. GILFORD.

Tuberculosis Nurses.
× * MISS M. B. WARD.
× * MISS D. WATSON.

Matron Battle Hospital
× † MISS E. F. FRANKUM

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's estimate of the population of the borough at mid-year 1938 is given as 100,400 persons. All the rates shown in this report have been calculated on this estimate.

Birth Rate. The birth rate for the year of 15.7 per 1,000 of the population compares favourably with that of recent years.

Marriage Rate. There were 1,878 persons married during the year, a marriage rate of 18.7 per 1,000 persons living in the borough. This rate is slightly higher than that for the previous year.

Death Rate. The crude death rate of 12.5 is slightly lower than that for the previous year.

To render the death rate comparable with that for 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 11.1 which rate should be used for comparison with other large centres of population.

Deaths in Public Institutions. A total of 611 persons died in public institutions or private nursing homes during the year. This is equal to nearly one half of all deaths occurring during the same period.

There were 375 deaths in Battle hospital, 40 in Park hospital and 41 in various mental hospitals, or approximately one-third of all deaths in institutions under public control.

Infant Mortality. There were 60 deaths of infants under one year of age. This represents an infant mortality rate of 39.9 per 1,000 live births, the lowest rate ever recorded in the borough.

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.

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
1924-33 do.	15.4	12.2	52.5	0.88
1934	14.2	11.9	41.0	0.65
1935	14.8	12.3	51.5	0.74
1936	14.3	12.8	51.0	0.66
1937	15.8	13.0	49.7	0.54
1938	15.7	12.5	39.9	0.58

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.

Considerably more than half of all deaths occurring are those of persons of 65 years and upwards and nearly one-third were of persons who were over 75 years of age.

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 show no notable increase over the numbers occurring during the past few years.

Modern methods of treatment, operative and otherwise, are readily available in the Reading hospitals.

At different times, lectures and other publicity methods have been employed to educate the public in the signs of cancer and the necessity for early treatment.

Deaths from violence numbered 50, of which 18 were due to suicide. 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.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					All Ages	0-1	1-	2-	5-	15-	25	35-	45-
All causes. Certified					1257	60	11	11	21	27	38	62	94
Uncertified					2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers				1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
2	Measles				12	2	5	3	2	—	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever				1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough				1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria				5	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
6	Influenza				13	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever				1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System				58	—	—	—	—	15	10	8	1
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases				6	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
11	Syphilis				2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane				2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
13	Cancer				172	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1
14	Diabetes				8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage				43	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16	Heart Disease				217	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	1
17	Aneurism				4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases				265	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
19	Bronchitis... ..				49	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms)				60	9	2	4	4	1	1	6	—
21	Other Respiratory Diseases				17	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer				11	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc.				7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis				5	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver				2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	Other Diseases of liver, etc.				6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases				16	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis				31	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis				1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
30	Other Puerperal causes				6	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.				31	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32	Senility				46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	Suicide				18	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
34	Other Violence				32	—	—	—	2	2	4	1	—
35	Other defined diseases				107	3	3	1	6	4	5	10	—
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown				3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals					1259	60	11	11	21	28	38	62	94

* 375 died in Battle hospital, 118 in the Royal Berkshire hospital, 40 in Park hospital, 37 in various private nursing establishments and 41 in various mental and other institutions outside the borough.

Allocated to Municipal Wards.															Deaths in Institutions.	
55-	65-	75 and upwards	Abbey	Battle	Castle	Caversham	Church	East	Katesgrove	Minster	Redlands	Tilehurst	Victoria	West	Residents of Borough	Non-Residents of Borough.
213	333	386	29	128	90	155	174	151	89	39	69	156	78	99	611	212
—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	6	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—
—	4	3	—	3	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
12	1	—	2	7	4	3	13	4	5	—	—	9	3	8	28	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	4	3
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
45	58	44	2	14	15	30	21	22	11	7	10	19	8	13	87	42
3	3	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	5	6
8	9	19	1	5	1	5	2	10	1	—	4	4	3	7	10	5
33	68	86	5	22	15	34	25	23	22	6	16	21	13	15	65	13
1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—
29	73	150	2	29	23	30	32	30	20	6	8	35	26	24	158	14
7	14	20	—	7	5	9	5	7	2	2	4	4	1	3	16	1
11	9	13	2	7	6	4	9	6	7	1	3	8	3	4	30	15
4	5	2	—	2	1	—	2	3	2	—	2	3	1	1	8	1
2	2	—	1	1	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	7	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	7	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	7
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	5	1
6	3	1	3	1	3	—	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	15	18
11	7	4	1	6	—	3	4	3	2	1	—	7	2	2	13	8
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	2
—	—	—	2	3	3	—	10	3	—	—	2	5	—	3	15	12
4	42	—	—	6	1	8	4	6	3	3	5	5	2	3	6	—
7	1	3	1	—	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	4	1	—	3	1
5	5	8	1	3	2	1	10	6	1	3	2	3	—	—	22	20
16	27	26	1	8	5	16	16	16	4	5	6	14	6	10	74	34
—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
3	333	386	29	130	90	155	174	151	89	39	69	156	78	99	*611	†212

† 4 died in Battle hospital, 162 in the Royal Berkshire hospital, and 46 in various institutions in the borough.

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 ...	310	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 ...	39	Various
*Berkshire mental hospital Moulsford	Mental diseases	280	Joint hospital committee
*Borocourt, Peppard, Oxon	Care and training of mental defectives	100	Joint hospital committee
Total accommodation		1,009	

As from the 1st March of the present year, the extensions to Borocourt having been completed, the number of beds now available for Reading patients has been increased from 50 to 100.

* 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.,	Wednesdays and Fridays, at 2.15 p.m.
„	St. Mary Magdalen Hall, Oxford Road	Mondays, at 2 p.m.
„	Elm Park hall, Oxford Road	Tuesdays (mornings at 10 a.m. and afternoons at 2.15 p.m.)

Infant welfare centre	Whitley clinic, North- umberland Avenue	Wednesdays and Fridays, at 2 p.m.
„	West Memorial institute Caversham	Thursdays, at 2.15 p.m.
„	Tyndale Free Church hall, Cressingham Rd.	Thursdays, at 2.15 p.m.
„	Park Institute, Wokingham Road	Fridays, at 2.15 p.m.
„	Village hall, Tilehurst	Mondays, at 2.15 p.m.
Ante-natal clinic	Star Lane, London St., Whitley clinic, North- umberland Avenue	Tuesdays, at 9 a.m. and at 2.30 p.m., and at on alternate Mondays, at 2 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.
Operating clinic for tonsils and adenoids, once monthly at the Royal Berkshire hospital.		

The Education Committee's clinics are :—

- Inspection clinics, Monday and Friday, at 3.45 p.m., at the School clinic,
Queen's Road.
- Minor ailments clinic, 8.30 a.m. every morning, at the School clinic and
also at the Whitley clinic.
- Dental clinic, daily, by appointment, at the School clinic and on Tuesdays
and Thursdays at the Whitley clinic.
- 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.

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 17 nurses. Further details in regard to
the midwifery services of the borough including the agreement entered into
between the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute and the Reading Corporation
are set out in the section of the report dealing with the Midwives Act,
1936, commencing on page 40.

The institute is in part subsidised by the borough council and an agreement exists for the nursing when required of cases of puerperal pyrexia 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.

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, 1938, and give a general indication of the amount and variety of the hospital's activities.

Hospital Section.

Number of beds	...	...	...	...	...	310
Number of admissions for the year	...	...	...	...	...	1777
Discharges	...	...	...	...	...	1407
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	375
Number of operations	...	...	...	...	...	302
X-ray examinations	...	...	...	...	...	285
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	98
Outpatient department—						
patients seen	...	...	...	...	...	2783
domiciliary visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	294
Attendances at Gynaecological clinic	...	...	...	...	...	496
Average duration of stay per patient	...	...	...	...	...	8 weeks.

The public assistance portion of the institution contains 270 beds, making a total of 580 beds. The number of persons admitted to this section in 1938 was 181, making a total of 1,958 admissions.

Mental cases. Of 51 admitted, 22 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 hospital during 1938 was 388.

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. Mr. Baxter performs the gynaecological operations at the hospital.

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 ;
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	100	312	412
For the detection of the diphtheria bacillus, health department and Park hospital	344	1,160	1,504

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 62.

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 66.

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. Since that date, byelaws in regard to houses let in lodgings have been made and came into force in 1935.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The outstanding feature of the epidemiology of the year was an outbreak of anterior poliomyelitis, more popularly known as infantile paralysis.

Anterior Poliomyelitis. This disease is a grave infection of the central nervous system which, in addition to constituting an immediate danger to the life of the patient, frequently leaves sequelae in the form of paralysis, usually of one or more limbs. According to the degree of severity this paralysis may be more or less permanent. In all, 18 cases were notified of which four proved fatal. In three of these cases, death occurred within 24 hours of the onset of the disease.

The first case of which we have knowledge occurred at the beginning of July. The patient was a visitor to the borough. As he had been resident in Reading for some time before the onset of the disease and no cases had been reported from his home district, it is almost certain that the infection occurred in Reading. From the 27th July to the 6th August a group of six cases were reported. From the period elapsing between the occurrence of the original case and the later group and the geographical distribution of the latter, it appears clear that there was no association between them. From the 15th August until early in October further cases occurred at intervals, numbering 15 in all, and including two cases notified as polio-encephalitis and two which were not formally notified at all. One isolated case, very slight in character, was notified late in November.

The geographical distribution of the cases would appear to preclude any direct transmission from one infected person to another. The cases were widely distributed throughout the borough and no association, personal or otherwise, can be traced between them. The probable explanation of this wide distribution of cases is that infection of a sub-clinical character has been widespread throughout the area and only the comparatively exceptional cases of undue susceptibility or non-immune persons succumb to the disease. This view is emphasised by the occurrence of widely separated cases in the adjoining county areas and the discovery in orthopaedic departments at a later date of four cases suffering from varying degrees of paralysis, which had not come under treatment at all in the acute phase of the disease and were not notified. The age distribution of all known cases notified and un-notified was—under five years, 6; five to ten years, 7; ten to fifteen years, 4; fifteen years and upwards, 10. The fatal cases were aged $4\frac{1}{2}$, 12, 15 and 17 years, respectively.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis. Four notifications were received of cerebro-spinal meningitis. Three of these were notified from hospital, of which one proved fatal. A post-mortem examination, however, discovered the cause of death to be tuberculous meningitis. The two other cases made good recovery. The fourth notification was a military case and was dealt with throughout by the Army medical department.

Encephalitis lethargica. One notification of encephalitis lethargica, commonly known as sleepy-sickness, was received. The patient succumbed and after post-mortem was found to be suffering from tuberculous meningitis.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was in each case considerably above the average and placed a severe tax on the hospital accommodation available.

Diphtheria. This disease which had tended to decline from the serious epidemic proportions of the year 1935, again showed a prevalence much above the normal during the past year. The short table subjoined sets out the notifications of diphtheria during each of the past five years, together with the average notifications for the preceding ten years.

Notifications received during

	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	Average 1923-33.
Scarlet Fever	172	176	223	319	213	138
Diphtheria	122	63	109	193	86	64

The total number of notifications received during the year was 122. Unlike the epidemic years the incidence of these cases was neither centred in any one area of the borough, as it had previously been in the Whitley district, nor in any particular period of the year, as it had been in the autumn. Actually, the greater incidence occurred in the last week in November and the first week in December but cases kept occurring practically uniformly throughout the year. Although the number of cases as indicated was considerably above the average, the virulence of the type of the disease continues to decline. Of the total number admitted to hospital, 6 proved fatal, representing a case mortality rate of 4.9 per cent. This represents a considerable reduction in the gravity of the disease as compared with that of recent years.

Facilities for immunisation against diphtheria are provided at the school clinic through the agency of the Education Committee. During the year, 156 children, of whom 40 were under school age, received prophylactic inoculation against diphtheria. In no case since the scheme was inaugurated has any child who had been inoculated subsequently suffered from the disease. Since the commencement of the scheme 852 children have been immunised.

Scarlet Fever. Like diphtheria, scarlet fever cases numbered rather more than the average expectation for this disease. Notifications in recent years and the average of notifications are set out in the table already referred to. Scarlet fever appears to be established in a mild form and rarely constitutes a menace to life. During the year only one case proved fatal. It has not been possible at times to admit all cases of scarlet fever to hospital. If reasonable isolation can be maintained at home, the advantage probably rests with home nursing as the patient is protected against varying types of the disease which are described under the term 'scarlet fever,' and possible complications which may arise.

Measles. The epidemic of measles, which can now be expected with reasonable certainty after every two years or, occasionally, after an interval of three years, occurred during the early months of the year under review. Notifications began to be received early in February and increased rapidly from some 20 cases weekly to approximately 150 cases weekly at the end of March. Thereafter, they rapidly declined until the middle of May and with only a slight recrudescence early in June, the epidemic faded out entirely. The total number of notifications received throughout the period numbered 1,264 and as only first cases in a household are notifiable, the number of cases occurring represents an outbreak of considerable numerical severity. Seasonally, the maximum prevalence was attained at an earlier period than has been experienced in recent epidemics. The tendency has been for epidemics to reach the peak in the late spring or

early summer. The present epidemic reached its maximum in March when weather conditions are not usually favourable. As a result, pulmonary complications which constitute the principal danger of a measles attack were more than usually prevalent and in 12 cases proved fatal. The case mortality rate is considerably above the expected rate. As usual, young infants are the principal sufferers as many as 7 of the total deaths being in children below the age of two years. As practically all children in this country suffer at some time from an attack of measles and the danger threatens only those at the earlier ages the practical policy is to endeavour to protect infants from infection and to postpone the attack until the later years.

Typhoid fever. Intimation was received of two cases of suspected typhoid fever. Serological evidence and the clinical progress of the case caused a revision of the diagnosis in one patient. The second case was a resident outside the borough who was admitted for treatment to the borough.

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

“The number of children successfully vaccinated during the year was 237 or 14 per cent. of the total births registered during the year 1937, a rate which has remained fairly constant for some years.

Details as follows:—

TABLE III.

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	928	149	4	—	35	650	1	16	32	41	4.4
St. Giles'	719	76	—	—	36	520	—	22	13	52	7.2
Caversham	95	12	1	—	1	75	—	2	—	4	4.2
Whole Borough	1742	237	5	—	72	1245	1	40	45	97	5.6

“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, 1938* :—

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.e., 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	4	4	8	—
Reading and Caversham districts (less Tilehurst).	Dr. T Stansfield	109	22	131	9
Tilehurst district of Reading.	Dr. R. Lyn-Jones	21	7	28	1
	Totals	134	33	167	10

PARK HOSPITAL.

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

“ The number of patients admitted to the hospital during the year was considerably in excess of that for the preceding year. The increase is due to the continued prevalence of scarlet fever and more particularly diphtheria and to the greatly increased number of admissions of patients suffering from other diseases especially measles, poliomyelitis and erysipelas. At many times during the year the large number of admissions placed a considerable tax on the hospital accommodation and staff. Beds customarily reserved for tuberculosis had to be used for diphtheria and on occasion it was not possible to admit cases of scarlet fever which had to be dealt with at home.

The following short table shows the number and nature of admissions during the year :—

TABLE IV.

Disease.	Remaining in hospital 1 Jan., 1938.	Since admitted.	Since discharged.	Died in hospital.	Remaining in hospital 31 Dec., 1938.
Scarlet Fever	19	155	159	1	14
Diphtheria	9	122	90	6	35
Tuberculosis	32	105	84	26	27
Other Diseases	—	85	76	7	2
Totals	60	467	409	40	78

TABLE V.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1938. 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	1264	18	330	898	14	3	1	—	14	91	41	97	323	132	89	24	37	258	61	97	—	1
Measles...	122	1	27	77	8	7	2	—	2	4	6	2	62	6	8	19	3	4	5	1	122	6
Diphtheria	27	—	1	2	1	9	11	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	3	6	1	2	10	—
Erysipelas	172	1	35	105	17	14	—	—	—	7	5	10	59	24	9	1	11	31	8	7	155	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	—	3	1	2	3	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	18	—	2	12	2	1	1	—	—	5	2	1	—	—	1	2	3	3	1	1	9	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	91	—	1	4	32	32	20	2	1	8	5	15	18	7	7	3	3	10	4	10	105	26
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	31	—	5	6	6	8	5	1	1	1	1	4	7	5	2	2	—	3	—	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	3	2	—	1	—	3	—	2	—	—
Pneumonia	36	—	4	6	3	4	11	8	2	—	5	1	8	3	3	—	3	8	1	2	17	4
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1803	34	405	1110	91	95	54	14	22	120	69	137	488	185	123	54	66	330	81	128	467	40

† This total includes 36 "other diseases" not specified in the table.

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	542	545	314	2648
Adjoining districts	48	2	28	675
Dellwood maternity home ...	—	4	6	10
Miscellaneous institutions in Reading	—	12	60	263
Total	590	563	408	3596

Details of disinfestation for bed bugs are given on page 70.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The subjoined table shows the number of notifications of tuberculosis and the number of deaths due to that disease annually, since the year 1918 :

TABLE VI.

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
1936	101	17	66	12
1937	82	21	54	19
1938	91	31	58	6

The returns show an increase in the notifications of both forms of the disease. This is probably due to more accurate notification rather than to any increase in the actual number of cases occurring. During the year, 12 cases not previously notified were discovered from the death returns, compared with 21 during the preceding year.

The mortality returns for the pulmonary form of the disease have only once been lower and that in the previous year whilst the number of six deaths from the non-pulmonary forms is lower than any previously recorded.

No action was taken or was necessary under the preventive provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TABLE VII. PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

PART I.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1938, to the 31st December, 1938, 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 ...	—	—	2	—	6	7	9	9	8	4	1	46	53
„ females ...	—	1	—	2	10	9	9	5	5	3	1	45	47
Non-Pulmonary, males ...	—	2	2	2	1	2	—	1	3	1	—	14	16
„ „ females ...	—	3	1	1	1	2	5	2	—	1	1	17	18

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 ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	1	1	10
„ females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	6
Non-Pulmonary, males ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
„ „ females ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns { from local Registrars	...	...
transferable deaths from Registrar General	...	...
Posthumous Notifications	...	...
"Transfers" from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	...	...
	7	5
	—	—
	1	—
	8	—

PART III.

NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining at the 31st December, 1938, on the Register of Notifications kept by the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Cases.
	Males. 227	Females. 205	Total. 432	Males. 48	Females. 55	Total. 103	535
Number of cases <i>removed</i> from the Register (s) during the year by reason <i>inter alia</i> of :—							
1. Withdrawal of notification	1	4	5	—	—	—	5
2. Recovery from the disease	12	15	27	4	1	5	32
3. Death	34	24	58	—	—	—	58
4. Transfers to other areas	14	3	17	—	3	3	20

Report of the Tuberculosis Officer. The following report, compiled by Dr. H. R. Minkley, the tuberculosis officer, shows the nature and extent of the work carried out during the year :—

“ The total number of new cases dealt with at the tuberculosis dispensary showed an increase on the previous year's figures, being 367 : in addition one man and one woman were transferred from other areas, making a total of cases admitted during 1938, 369.

Of these 369 cases :—

Persons suffering definitely from pulmonary tuberculosis numbered—

Adult—males	...	41
„ females	...	37
Children—males	...	2
„ females	...	3
		—
		83
		—

Persons suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (i.e. glands, joints, peritoneum, etc.)

Adult—males	...	6
„ females	...	7
Children—males	...	3
„ females	...	4
		—
		20
		—

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

Adult—males	...	13
„ females	...	21
Children—males	...	26
„ females	...	13
		—
		73
		—

Persons found to be *not* suffering from tuberculosis—

Adult—males	...	56
„ females	...	49
Children—males	...	41
„ females	...	47
		—
		193
		—

The total number of attendances made by patients during the year was 3,061.

Examination of Contacts. The attendance at the dispensary for purposes of examination, and, where necessary, supervision, of those persons who have been in association with known cases of tuberculosis, particularly those in which during life the sputum has been found to contain tubercle bacilli, has continued to be pressed for in all instances, and of the 367 new cases 148 have been such persons who have been especially exposed to risk of infection.

The results of such examination showed that 124 presented no clinical signs of infection, but that 24 presented symptoms and signs of suspicious character for extended observation, and of these, two (one male and one female child) were found to be definitely suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Home Supervision. The tuberculosis officer paid visits to their own homes in the case of 121 persons, and held consultations with the medical attendants of patients in 122 instances, either at patients' homes or at the dispensary.

The two tuberculosis nurses paid 2,302 visits to the homes of patients of which number 127 were to ex-service men, and 216 to notified cases not in attendance at the dispensary.

Shelter Treatment. At the end of 1938 there were 10 shelters belonging to the Corporation in regular use.

Sanatorium Treatment. Ninety-one persons received sanatorium treatment during the year 1938 at the following institutions:—

Grosvenor sanatorium, Ashford, Kent	...	...	...	22
Berks and Bucks joint sanatorium, Peppard, Oxon	...	...	...	17
Papworth Village settlement, Cambridgeshire	...	...	...	1
Preston Hall, Maidstone, Kent	...	...	...	1
Church Army sanatorium for lads, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey	...	...	...	10
Burrow Hill sanatorium colony for youths	...	...	...	9
Wingfield-Morris hospital, Headington, Oxford	...	...	...	12
Children's hospital, Cold Ash, Berks	...	...	...	5
Royal sea-bathing hospital, Margate	...	...	...	6
Royal national hospital for consumption, Ventnor	...	...	...	6
Brompton hospital for consumption	...	...	...	1
Frimley sanatorium, Surrey	...	...	...	1
				—
				91
				—

No special difficulty was experienced in obtaining the requisite number of beds at any period of the year. The very great benefits obtained by the lengthy course of treatment-training for tuberculous youths at Burrow Hill colony, belonging to the National Association for the Preven-

vention of Tuberculosis, are very clearly seen in the much improved condition of those who have followed out the full two years' course, and in addition to being well set up physically these youths have obtained an excellent course of instruction in either horticultural or commercial subjects.

	Remaining in sanatoria, Dec. 1937		Admitted during the year 1938.		Totals.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Adults ...	15	5	15	19	30	24
Children ...	14	7	7	9	21	16
Totals ...	29	12	22	28	51	40

The condition of patients on discharge from sanatoria shows :—

Disease quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	10
Improvement maintained ...	...	...	...	...	24
Disease progressive ...	...	...	...	...
Died in institution ...	...	...	...	...	0

Of observational cases :—

Proved to be tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	1
Non-tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	9
Doubtfully tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	6

Remaining in sanatoria on 31st December, 1938	...	...	35
			—
			91
			—

The Tuberculosis Pavilions, Park hospital, Reading. Acute, semi-acute, and advanced cases have continued to be treated in the pavilions, also a small number of doubtful cases in which careful observation was necessary to establish diagnosis. The total numbers are rather lower than in the previous year as beds have at times been needed to be given up for the treatment of infectious diseases.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Remaining in pavilions, December, 1937	18	14	32
Admitted during year 1938 ...	52	53	105
	—	—	—
	70	67	137
	—	—	—

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

					Males.	Females.	Totals.
Observation cases	doubtfully	tuberculous			0	3	3
"	"	"	non-tuberculous		8	7	15
"	"	"	tuberculous		2	0	2
Disease quiescent	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Improved	...	...	...	...	23	22	45
Not improved	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
Died in institution	...	...	...	...	16	10	26
Remaining in pavilions on 31st Dec., 1938					11	16	27
					70	67	137

Three males and four females proceeded to sanatoria after preliminary hospital treatment. Others proved suitable to do so, but unfortunately refused to follow up with further treatment, in spite of the need for lengthy care being pointed out to them.

X-ray examinations. A larger number of x-ray examinations has been made at Battle hospital by the kind collaboration of Dr. Thomas, *viz* : 69, affording great assistance in clinical investigation of cases and of checking from time to time the condition of patients undergoing artificial pneumothorax treatment. The x-ray department of the Royal Berkshire hospital has furnished valuable information also from time to time, and all patients proceeding to sanatoria are again x-rayed during their stay as frequently as may be found necessary.

Examination of specimens for tubercle bacilli.

				Sputa.	Other specimens.	Positive.	Negative.
Number sent in by doctors	...	144		6		12	138
"	"	from Battle hospital	30	0		6	24
Dispensary cases	...	...	224	8		82	150
			398	14		100	312

Dental treatment. The treatment given by Mr. J. Campbell, school dentist, in those cases where patients needing such care were unable to afford the cost of extractions, fillings, scalings, etc., has been of great value and of very material assistance in a number of cases where improvement in condition was being retarded by the diseased state of teeth. Ten patients made 37 attendances at the clinic.

Special treatment on the same lines as in previous years has been given. Patients receiving artificial pneumothorax treatment during their spell at sanatorium have had continuance by means of the necessary refills. Intramuscular injections of gold salts have been used for appropriate cases both at sanatorium and at Park hospital. Two cases have undergone thoracoplasty with satisfactory results.

Battle Hospital. The following is a summary of those cases of tuberculosis which received treatment at Battle hospital during 1938 :—

	Adults.		Children.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Remaining in institution on 31st Dec., 1937 ...	3	1	0	0	4
Admitted during 1938 ...	3	2	1	2	8
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 12
Discharged during 1938 ...	5	1	0	1	7
Died in institution ...		2	1	0	3
Remaining in institution, 31st December, 1938 ...	1	0	0	1	2
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 12

Tuberculosis Dispensary Care Association. The number of cases dealt with during the year 1938 was 95, and the summary below shows the manner in which assistance was provided.

Persons granted extra nourishment ...	...	...	70
„ supplied with clothing and boots ...	...	...	7
„ sent to country homes or seaside ...	...	...	7
„ assisted to obtain dental treatment ...	...	...	8
„ payment of N.H.I. arrears ...	...	...	1
„ not assisted ...	...	...	2
			<hr/> 95

A wireless receiving set was provided for the men's old pavilion, Park hospital, and a donation of £10 was made towards useful Christmas gifts for patients."

VENEREAL DISEASES.

From the returns furnished by the medical officer in charge of the venereal diseases clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital, the following short table has been prepared to show the number of persons attending during the year 1938 and the conditions from which they suffered.

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Persons
Under treatment January 1st, 1938—	86	42	89	84	301
Treated for the first time during 1938—	47	19	125	97	288
Totals	133	61	214	181	589

In addition to the numbers shown in the table, 75 persons attended the clinic who were found to be suffering from conditions other than venereal disease.

The total number of patients under treatment at the clinic shows an increase over that of the preceding year but the number of new cases coming under treatment is almost identical.

The incidence of these diseases in accordance with the place of residence of the patient is set out in the following further short table :—

	Reading.	Berkshire.	Other areas.	Total.
Syphilis ...	20	29	17	66
Gonorrhoea ...	97	75	45	217

The incidence of both of these diseases in the borough shows some reduction over that of the previous year although in the case of gonorrhoea the prevalence is still somewhat high.

It is not possible from the return to differentiate early and late cases of syphilis in accordance with the area of residence. The majority of patients suffering from this disease show late manifestations or in some cases the congenital form of the disease but recent infections, although not formidable in number throughout the whole area, have shown a tendency to increase during the past two years.

The total number of attendances made by all patients at the clinic totalled 10,624 and 99 patients were retained for a total of 2,203 in-patients days' treatment.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Mortality. There were 60 infant deaths registered during the year, representing an infant mortality rate of 39.9 per 1,000 births during the same period. This is the lowest rate ever recorded in the borough, the nearest approach to the record being in the year 1934 when the rate was 41.0.

The table on page 36 gives an analysis of infant deaths classified in accordance with the causes and the age in weeks and months at which they occurred.

The deaths occurring in the first month of life, known as the neo-natal mortality, again show a satisfactory diminution, an improvement which showed itself for the first time last year. It is not too much to hope that this downward trend will continue and that it may be a permanent reflection of the improved ante-natal care now obtainable. Deaths from respiratory diseases and whooping cough were also fewer in number than those last year.

A further short table shows the death rates in these principle groups over a period of years.

Period.	Neo-natal mortality.	Mortality from bronchitis and pneumonia.	Mortality from gastro-intestinal diseases.	Rates per 1,000 births.
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	
1936	29.2	8.4	5.6	
1937	22.1	11.4	7.0	
1938	19.3	7.9	5.3	

Puerperal Pyrexia. There were 15 notifications of puerperal pyrexia received during the year. Fourteen of these patients were treated in hospital—four at the Royal Berkshire hospital and the remainder at Battle hospital. One of the patients was a non-resident of the borough. One of the cases proved fatal, the result of a pulmonary embolism. The others all made uneventful recoveries.

Maternal Mortality. I regret to have to report a number of maternal deaths greater than in any recent year. In all, seven deaths are reported as due to conditions associated with pregnancy or parturition, representing a maternal mortality rate of 4.4 per 1,000 births. This rate is rather higher than the rate prevailing throughout the country as a whole and is notably higher than the usual low rate experienced in Reading for a considerable period of years. Statistically the small numbers involved lend themselves to accidentally wide variations and it is presumed that the present ex-

TABLE VIII.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1938. (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.	Abbey.	Battle.	Castle.	Caversham.	Church.	East.	Katesgrove.	Minster.	Redlands.	Tilehurst.	Victoria.	West.	Residents of Borough.	Non-Resi- dents of Borough.
	4	5	4	1	24	5	2	-	2	7	3	3	32	16
All causes Certified	23	3	3	1	30	16	10	2	2	60	4	5	4	1	24	5	2	-	2	7	3	3	32	16
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.	22	1	2	1	26	5	1	-	-	32	2	3	3	-	10	3	-	-	2	5	1	3	13	12
Other Causes	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Totals	23	3	3	1	30	16	10	2	2	60	4	5	4	1	24	5	2	-	2	7	3	3	32	16

5 of the deaths were of illegitimate children.

perience is such a variant as was last experienced in 1928 and 1932, when the rates were 6·7 and 4·3 respectively. The average rate for the past five years was 2·5 per 1,000 births.

Two of the deaths were associated with difficult operative procedure, two were assigned to pulmonary embolism, one was the result of severe ante-partum haemorrhage, one to eclampsia and the seventh as the result of severe septicaemia occurring as the result of a miscarriage in the early months of pregnancy.

Three of the deaths occurred in first pregnancies, one in the fourth, one in the seventh and one in the ninth. No information was obtainable in regard to the remaining death as no previous arrangement had been made and the relatives later left the district.

This, in general, reflects the experience that first pregnancies are most dangerous until the eighth, when the risk is again relatively high.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were 14 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year. This number shows an increase over that of the preceding year but relative to the number of births notifications remain fairly constant. Five of the infants received in-patient hospital treatment, three received out-patient treatment at the Royal Berkshire hospital, the remainder being mild cases were treated at home. One child treated in hospital became totally blind, one had a slight scar in one eye, five though showing no evidence of permanent injury to either eye are still under treatment or observation, and the remaining children have completely recovered. The following short table summarises the manner and the result of treatment.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	AtHome.	In Hospital.				
14	9	5	12	1	1	—

INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRES.

The following tables set out the number and situation of the various centres at which consultations are held, the number and age distribution of the children brought for consultation and the average attendance at each of the centres.

TABLE IX.
INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRES.

Centre.	Number of Sessions.	New Attendances		Re- Attendances	Average Attendances
		Under 1 year	1 to 5 yrs.		
Star Lane, London Street—					
Wednesday	50	166	9	4677	97
Friday	51	116	15	4112	83
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road—					
Morning session	51	66	4	3417	68
Afternoon session	51	154	18	5902	119
Park Institute, Wokingham Road	51	161	21	6341	128
West Memorial Institute, Caversham	52	134	30	4663	93
Tilehurst, Village Hall	48	60	13	2516	54
Shinfield, Tyndale Free Church Hall	52	78	12	4073	80
† Whitley Hall, Whitley	17	71	—	1886	115
* Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue—					
Wednesday	33	99	12	2966	93
Friday	35	74	15	2006	60
St. Mary Magdalen Hall, Oxford Rd.	48	98	23	3971	85
Totals ...	539	1277	172	46530	1075

† Closed 27th April, 1938. *New Clinic opened 4th May, 1938.

No. of children on registers at end of year.		Record of attendances.		
Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	Total.
1,061	2629	27,154	20,825	47,979

From the tables it would appear that some 80 per cent. of children born during the year are brought to the centres for medical and nursing supervision.

Approximately half of the children between the ages of one and five years continue in attendance until they reach school age and come under the care of the school medical officers.

A further short table indicates the continuing value of this service which shows a progressive increase in the numbers attending and the average attendance. During the past year both figures show an increase far in advance of any previously recorded.

Year.	New Attendances.	Re- Attendances.	Average Attendance.
1934	1187	29777	608
1935	1157	34783	713
1936	1193	38168	805
1937	1272	43757	884
1938	1449	46530	1075

The policy of holding consultations in the most suitable available buildings in all parts of the town and the opening of the new clinic on the Whitley estate have a proved value, the latter having an average attendance of over 150 weekly.

Health Visiting Summary. Complementary to the consultation centres, the scheme of health visiting has been maintained on the same lines as in previous years. Children are visited in their homes from soon after birth until they attain the age of five. An additional health visitor was appointed in the latter part of the year and the number of visits paid shows a corresponding increase.

A summary of the work is set out in the following table :—

First visits after receipt of notification	...	...	...	1,444
Visits to children aged one to five years	...	...	...	12,596
Re-visits to children under one year	...	...	...	5,204
Special visits	...	...	...	260
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	839
Special visits to cases of measles	...	...	...	1,328
Special visits to cases of ophthalmia	...	...	...	19
Special visits in regard to still-births	...	...	...	63
Special visits in regard to infant deaths	...	...	...	63
Special visits to nursed-out children	...	...	...	323
			Totals	22,139

Notification of Births. The total number of notifications of births received during the year was 1,552, 1,317 by midwives and 235 by parents and doctors. The proportion of registered births notified continues to be satisfactory.

Child Life Protection.

- (a) Number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year ... 59
- (b) Number of children :—
- (i) at the end of the year ... 75
 - (ii) who died during the year ... nil
 - (iii) on whom inquests were held during the year ... nil
- (c) Number of Child Life Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were :—
- * (i) Health Visitors ... 7
 - (ii) Female, other than Health Visitors ... —
 - (iii) Male ... —
- (d) Number of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Visitors under (c) above) or societies authorised to visit under the proviso to Section 209 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936 ... —

(e) Proceedings taken during the year :—

No of cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Act and section under which proceedings were taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(f) Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year :—

(i)	under section 210 of the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii)	„ (b)	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	nil
(iii)	„ (c)	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	nil

(g) Number of orders obtained during the year under section 212 of the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

(i)	from a court of summary jurisdiction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii)	from a single justice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil

*All of the seven health visitors employed by the Corporation act as child life protection visitors. In the case of children transferred to other areas notification is always sent to the local authority concerned. In the same way, notification is received from other areas in regard to children transferred to Reading.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The committee is aware of the steps taken to bring into effect the general provisions of the act concerning the practice of midwifery.

Ten midwives were employed of whom four were engaged directly and six through the agency of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute. The scheme was based on an estimate of approximately 800 domestic midwifery cases per annum to be attended and provided for each midwife attending about 100 cases per annum. The Queen Victoria Nursing Institute suggested a maximum of 90. The 10 midwives engaged, therefore, provided the requisite number with one additional for relief and one for any maternity nursing required.

For the purposes of the scheme, the borough was divided into five areas which might be broadly defined as the Whitley and Shinfield area, Newtown and the east-end, central, Tilehurst and the west-end, and Caversham areas. Each midwife has been allotted a principal area of duty. It was neither possible nor desirable to define too rigidly these areas of duty, having regard to the desire to permit patients to have the midwife of their choice and who may have attended them before.

It was hoped at its inception and has been largely experienced in fact that the work would be carried out on an area basis as indicated.

Experience of the scheme has shown that the work has been carried out substantially in accordance with expectations and with fewer administrative difficulties than might have been anticipated.

The number and area distribution of the cases attended during the first complete calendar year are set out in the following table :—

District.	No. of Midwives.	Cases of		Totals.
		Midwifery.	Maternity.	
Whitley and Shinfield ...	3	255	29	284
Newtown and east-end ...	1	82	12	94
Central ...	3	251	60	311
Tilehurst and west-end ...	2	199	21	220
Caversham ...	1	64	27	91
Totals ...	10	851	149	1000

We have made inquiry into the propriety of requesting the Minister to apply section 6 of the act to this area. This section make it an offence for any person not qualified as required by the act to attend for gain any woman in childbirth or within 10 days thereafter. From reports of doctors and midwives it appears that apart from midwives provided by the corporation there are six women doing domestic maternity nursing, four of whom are certified midwives and two possessing an approved certificate for maternity nursing. The two nursing co-operations in the area inform me that only certified midwives are sent out on maternity cases. We have not been able to discover any uncertified women who now practise maternity nursing in the borough for gain. In view of the fact that the present establishment of midwives leaves no margin for illness or holiday duty, the committee propose to appoint an additional midwife to meet any requirements of the established maternity nursing service.

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

	Domiciliary Midwives.	Midwives in Institutions.	Totals.
Total number of Midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :—			
(a) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority	4	9	13
(b) Employed by other Welfare Councils :—			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936	—	—	—
(ii) others	—	—	—
(c) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936	6	—	6
(ii) others	5	8	13
(d) In private practice	4	6	10
Totals	19	23	42

2. Number of cases in the area of the Local Supervising Authority attended during the year by midwives :—				Domiciliary Cases.	Cases in Institutions.	Totals.
(a) Employed by the Council ...				401	374	775
{ As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				31	—	31
(b) Employed by other Welfare Councils :—						
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936 ...				—	—	—
{ As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				—	—	—
(ii) others ...				—	—	—
{ As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				—	—	—
(c) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—						
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936 ...				450	—	450
{ As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				118	—	118
(ii) others ...				35	—	35
{ As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				37	—	37
(d) In private practice ...				6	51	57
{ As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				5	—	5
Totals { As Midwives As Maternity Nurses				892	425	1317
				191	—	191

Records of sending for medical help. During the year, medical assistance was sought by midwives on 413 occasions, of which 360 were on account of the mother and 53 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 doctors' fees in these cases in accordance with the terms of a prescribed scale. The expenditure under this heading during the financial year ended 31st March, 1939, was £500, of which £85 was recovered from the patients concerned.

Supply of Milk to Expectant and Nursing Mothers and to Children. The scheme to provide milk for mothers and children was continued as in previous years. The average number of persons in receipt of milk was 49 expectant mothers, 92 nursing mothers and 635 children. The nett cost to the Corporation for the supply of fresh milk during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1939, was £3,450. In addition, the sum of £2,700 was expended on dried milk, of which £2,050 was recovered by sales, making a total expenditure of £4,100.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

	Number of Homes.	Number of patients provided for :—		
		Maternity	Others.	Totals.
Homes first registered during the year	13	24	85	109
Homes on the register at the end of the year	14	24	88	112

Action during 1938. Number of applications for registration refused :

(i) under proviso (a) to section 187 (3)	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii) " " (b) " "	...	...	...	...	nil
(iii) " " (c) " "	...	...	...	...	nil
(iv) " " (d) " "	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of registrations cancelled under section 188	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of appeals by aggrieved persons to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, under section 189 (3)	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of cases in which fines were imposed	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	14
Number of registered homes not inspected	...	...	...	...	nil

As will be seen, the total accommodation for patients in these homes is 112 beds. One home with 12 beds is a charitable institution, carried on under voluntary auspices. Of the remainder, two large homes with 33 beds receive mainly surgical cases and one home 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.

One application for the registration of a new home was received during the year, a small home with provision for three beds.

The homes are inspected each year by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the Chief Health Visitor. No case of any unregistered home was brought to the notice of the local authority during the year.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

I am indebted to Dr. Nora Wilson Wamsley for the following record of the work done at the ante-natal clinics during the year :—

" The clinic, as in previous years, has held two sessions weekly at Star Lane, making 100 sessions in all. On June 20th, 1938, an additional clinic was opened on the Whitley estate, one session being held every fortnight.

The following table gives a summary of the work done at the Star Lane clinic since 1930.

	Average Attendances.				
	1930-34	1935	1936	1937	1938
New cases	341	364	352	425	488
Attendances ...	1539	2213	1797	2177	2369

The number of new cases attending again shows an increase with a corresponding rise in the number of attendances made. The average number of new cases per session was four and the average attendance 23. Eleven cases were transferred from the Star Lane clinic to the Whitley clinic in June as they were resident on the Whitley estate.

The number of cases attending the Whitley clinic since June is as follows :—

New cases	72
Total attendances	259
Number of sessions held	13
Average number of new cases per session	5
Average number of attendances	13

At the first attendance, each new case is subjected to a complete medical and obstetric examination. Attention is paid particularly to the previous history of the patient as regards earlier confinements and previous illnesses. A record is made of any defects found at the examination and when necessary, advice is given and if treatment is advised patients are referred either to their own doctors or hospital. Twenty-four cases were referred either to the gynaecological clinic for obstetrical complications or for x-ray examination and two cases were referred for special treatment at the Royal Berkshire hospital. The commonest minor defect found is dental caries. Patients requiring treatment were referred either to their own dentists or to the Education Committee's dental clinic.

A post-natal clinic is held in conjunction with the ante-natal clinics at Star Lane and Whitley, 18 patients making a total of 27 attendances."

Ante-natal clinics are also conducted by the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute which were attended by 217 patients during the year. Patients requiring further examination are referred to the Council clinics.

DELLWOOD MATERNITY HOME.

The total number of patients delivered at Dellwood maternity home during the year was 329, compared with 315 during the previous year.

The infants born at Dellwood last year represent a little over 20 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, 46 were delivered by doctors and the remaining 283 by the nursing staff.

Emergencies in which medical assistance, as required by the rules of the Central Midwives Board, was sought occurred in 66 instances, or 20 per cent. of the total.

No case of puerperal septicaemia or puerperal pyrexia was notified.

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred in the home during the year which made a complete recovery.

Dellwood was designed to accommodate people whose social circumstances or whose housing conditions were such as to render it difficult for them to make the necessary provision in their own homes.

The following facts would indicate that the home does fulfill this dual object. Each patient makes a contribution towards her care and maintenance, in accordance with an income scale. The average income of the husbands of the patients admitted was £2 14s. 5d. per week, exclusive of those who were either unemployed or engaged on part-time work, and the average fee paid £3 5s. 3d. or £1 17s. 6d. per week. It is 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 of charge.

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

Occupied one room	...	...	...	1
„ two rooms	...	...	...	42
„ more than two rooms			...	16
Living with parents	...	...	...	14
Occupying separate houses	...	...	...	256
			Total	329

As would be anticipated from the gradual reduction of the housing shortage, the proportion of patients found to be occupying separate houses has steadily increased during the past few years.

Training of pupil midwives. For many years, an important function of the home has been the training of pupil midwives. The results during this period have been highly satisfactory, a very large proportion of the entrants gaining the certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

During the present year, new rules of training have come into force. Dellwood maternity home, after inspection, has again been approved for the purposes of Part 2 of the curriculum of the Central Midwives Board. The principal function of this period of training is to give pupils wide experience in district midwifery work to enable them to acquire the necessary self-reliance and acceptance of responsibilities which they will meet in practice. Unfortunately, the increase in the period of training and the stringency of the conditions laid down has had the very undesirable effect of reducing the entrants to this branch of the profession throughout the country as a whole. It is probable that a revision of the conditions or an increase in the attractions, either by grant or otherwise, will be necessary to correct a situation which is definitely serious.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

I am indebted to Dr. H. Astley Cooper, the medical superintendent of Berkshire mental hospital, for the following report on the working of the psychiatric clinic during the past year :—

“ During the past year the clinic has increased considerably. Two new patients attended during the first quarter, January-April, but since then 30 new patients have attended, of whom five have been admitted as voluntary patients. Total attendances number over 100 and it has been found advisable to run an evening session for patients who are at work during the afternoon.

The clinic is considerably handicapped by the limitations of the out-patients' department at the Royal Berkshire hospital as the noise of traffic makes work extremely difficult. In fact, satisfactory treatment will only be possible when fresh quarters and a larger staff are available.

During the year the staff of the Royal Berkshire hospital have been very helpful and a useful liaison has been maintained with the psychology department of the Reading University.”

My thanks are also due to Dr. Le Marquand who has continued to assist in the conduct of this clinic with Dr. Astley Cooper since the latter took over the work from the late Dr. Woolfe Read.

Mental Deficiency. *Accommodation.* There are now in Borocourt 50 patients, of whom 10 are males and 40 females, an increase of one during the year. Twenty-five males and five females are in other mental institutions.

Ascertainment. During the year nine new cases were notified. Two were discharged from order, one was transferred to, and one from Rampton State institution, and three died, showing a net increase of four. The following table gives particulars of the cases under care :—

Mental defectives, December 31st, 1938—				Males.	Females.
In certified institutions	...	...	...	36	45
In places of safety or approved homes	...	...	...	1	—
On licence from institutions and guardianship	...	...	...	5	1
Under statutory supervision	...	...	...	87	60
Under guardianship	...	...	...	13	13
Cases under public assistance	...	...	...	3	6
				145	125

New cases notified during the year :—

Idiots	...	...	...	...	—	—
Imbeciles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Feeble-minded	...	...	...	...	6	3
Moral defectives	...	...	...	...	—	—
Died during the year	...	...	...	...	—	3
Removed to other districts	...	...	...	...	—	—

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 :—

“ The centre was attended by 44 defectives, 21 males and 23 females.

The days and times at which the centre was open are as follows :—

Monday, 2-5 p.m.—Senior boys and girls—Shoe-repairing class.

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.—All except senior boys.

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2-4 p.m.—Carpentry for senior boys.

Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.—All except senior boys.

Friday, 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. 1.30-4.30 p.m.—Shoe-repairing class.

Monday mornings are reserved for visiting and home teaching by the supervisor and assistant. One new pupil is receiving home teaching this term.

As before the training consists of domestic work, physical training and handwork, with shoe-repairing and carpentry for boys. The physical training is taken from the Board of Education syllabus for 1933.

More attention has been given to the teaching of eurhythmics and so far this training has proved beneficial in developing muscular control and alertness.

In addition to the usual handwork, needleweaving has been attempted on a large scale. Rugs, seats for chairs and seats for stools have been worked in this method.

Free arm brush drawing has been tried out as an experiment and has proved a satisfying means of self expression to some of the pupils, especially the young ones.

The staff of the centre consists of the supervisor, assistant supervisor and guide (full time), cook, shoe-repairing instructor and carpentry instructor (part-time).”

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

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

“Registration. The number of persons in the borough registered as blind is 167.

Names on register at commencement of year	...	...	...	155
Newly registered cases	...	...	...	18
Re-certified case	...	...	...	1
Removals in	...	...	...	6
				<hr/>
				180
Deaths notified	...	...	...	9
Removals out	...	...	...	4
				<hr/>
				13
				<hr/>
				167
				<hr/>

Home Workers. The number of home workers approved under the Ministry of Health's scheme is now eight. These include basket workers, chair caners, a knitter, a piano tuner and a Braille copyist, working for the National Institute for the Blind. The total earnings of these home workers show an increase of £6 11s. 11½d. on their total earnings for the previous year.

Unemployable Blind. The number of certified unemployable blind in receipt of domiciliary assistance has increased to 104. The association has to report that the provisions of the new act of parliament came into operation as from July 1st last and that they have added greatly to the happiness of the blind in a large number of cases.

A sub-committee gave much time to the consideration and application of the new act.

The association is exceedingly grateful to the borough accountant and to the members of his staff for their invaluable help.

Pensions. The association continues to act as almoner to the Reading pension fund for the blind, the sum of £145 10s. 0d. per annum being paid to 13 pensioners.

Pastime Classes. Pastime classes have been held regularly twice a week for the benefit of 30 blind persons who have derived much pleasure from the social intercourse and from the handicraft work provided. Splendid transport service has been provided by the Reading Round Tablers, Messrs. Smith, Messrs. Vincents and other kind friends, and some of the latter have cheerfully given up afternoons to dispense tea at these classes.

Sweet Pea Day. The annual "Sweet Pea Day" collection was held by the courtesy of the Watch committee on Saturday, July 2nd, and as a result the voluntary funds were augmented by the sum of £149 19s. 9d.

Band Concerts. The association is indebted to the Parks committee for granting permission to hold concerts and to the Reading Temperance Band, the Sonning Silver Prize Band and the Salvation Army Central Corps Band for giving concerts, the proceeds of which amounted to £10 16s. 7d.

Entertainments and Outings. On January 5th, through the generosity of the chairman, a Christmas party was held in the Jacobean restaurant. The Mayor and Mayoress kindly distributed presents, which had been purchased with the money, collected by means of the Mayor's Christmas appeal. Those blind persons, who were too ill or too infirm to attend, received gifts in their own homes.

On January 6th a pastime party was held in Watlington house.

On May 26th, 29 members of the pastime class spent the day at Worthing, being conveyed there and back by coach.

On August 10th, through the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Riddell-Blount, about 80 blind people were entertained to tea at Mapledurham house.

On December 14th, thanks to the kindness of the Berkshire symphony orchestra, some of the blind spent an enjoyable evening in the Town Hall.

Lectures. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc., who so generously gives up his time once a month, except for a short time during the summer, the blind people have had the privilege of enjoying lectures in the art gallery. We extend a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Smallcombe and to his assistants for their kindness to us.

Tramway Passes and Cinema Passes. We must gratefully acknowledge the granting of free passes on the corporation buses and trams to all certified blind persons; the granting of temporary passes during the holidays to the children attending schools for the blind; the granting of a free pass per week to one blind person, accompanied by a guide, to the Central, the Pavilion and the Vaudeville cinemas; two free passes per week to two blind persons, accompanied by guides, to the Odeon cinema, and free passes to any number of blind persons per week, provided that the guides pay for their seats, to the Savoy cinema."

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:—

"During 1938 24 new cases were examined for admission to the blind register, and five cases were re-examined. Out of the total of 29 patients, 20 were found to be blind within the meaning of the act and nine were not blind.

Disease.	Blind.	Not Blind.	Total.
Cataract	5	5	10
Glaucoma	2	2	4
Myopia	2	—	2
Optic Atrophy	4	—	4
Retinal and Choroidal Degen- erations	6	1	7
Infections	1	1	2
Total	20	9	29

Patients suffering from cataract provided the largest group in the analysis of the cases examined. Of those found to be blind two could be operated upon for restoration of vision, the other three had cataracts of a secondary type due to iritis or diabetes and operation was inadvisable. Three of the five cases that were not blind had undergone successful operations and the other two still had useful vision.

There were four cases of glaucoma, two had retained their vision following operation and two had become blind from neglecting to seek proper advice in time.

High myopia accounted for only two of the cases certified as blind.

Four cases were blind from atrophy of the optic nerve and in each case the condition was hereditary. Two of the patients in this group belonged to the same family.

Under the heading of retinal and choroidal degenerations there were two cases of blindness due to retinitis pigmentosa and three due to senile degenerative changes.

There is little that can be done to prevent senile degenerative changes in the eyes, but analysis of the cases examined again emphasizes how much could be done to prevent blindness in congenital and hereditary disease by educating the public. Blindness from glaucoma could be prevented by seeking advice from a doctor or a hospital for any visual defects, at the earliest opportunity instead of obtaining spectacles from an optician as the only method of treatment.

Progressive myopia is now well controlled by the provision of school clinics and special education and blindness from cataract can be cured in practically every uncomplicated case."

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 1516, of which number 142 were during the past year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Rainfall. The details of the monthly rainfall as measured in the Forbury gardens, is set out in the following table :—

January	...	...	2.05 inches.
February	...	...	0.48 "
March	...	...	0.16 "
April	...	...	0.06 "
May	...	...	1.72 "
June	...	...	0.65 "
July	...	...	1.91 "
August	...	...	2.72 "
September	...	...	0.91 "
October	...	...	2.57 "
November	...	...	3.12 "
December	...	...	2.86 "
Total			19.21 "

Compared with the fall for the year 1937, *i.e.*, 29.23 inches, which was, however, considerably above the average particularly during the first five months of the year, the above figures would appear to indicate a return to more settled weather conditions. From information supplied by the water manager and engineer, the rainfall as recorded at Fobney works during 1938 totalled 18.96 inches.

Water Supply. I am indebted to Mr. Owen Kean, manager and engineer of the water department, for the following information regarding the water supply of the borough during the year :—

Water Supply. The average daily consumption of water for the year ended 31st December, 1938, was 4,155,000 gallons. This is equivalent to 39 gallons per head of the population per day for all purposes, trade and domestic.

Sources of Supply. The following short table sets out the various sources of the water supply and the approximate number of gallons obtained daily from each.

Fobney pumping station	2,543,000	From the river Kennet.
Southcote " "	700,000	" " " "
" " "	270,000	From three wells from 60 to 100 feet. deep in chalk.
Pangbourne " "	536,000	Well (125 feet) in chalk
Gipsy Lane, Tilehurst	160,000	Well (350 feet) in chalk.
4,209,000		

Methods of purification. *Fobney.* The water is conducted from the Kennet through gridded intakes on to primary filters containing varying grades of gravel to a filtering depth of 15 feet. It is then conveyed on to and passes through secondary filters consisting of beds of fine sand. The filtered water then passes into an underground reservoir of 75,000 gallons capacity, where it is subjected to a sterilising dose of chlorine gas.

Southcote. The water obtained from the river at this point is passed through primary filters in the same manner as at Fobney, subjected to a sterilising dose of chlorine gas and together with water obtained from chalk bores is then pumped through pressure filters of the Candy type, having a minimum depth of 5 feet of filtering material.

Gipsy Lane and Pangbourne Wells and Boreholes. The water at these stations is obtained from deep wells and boreholes in the chalk and is a naturally filtered water. For many years this water, in view of the very satisfactory bacteriological reports, was subjected to no treatment, but chlorinating apparatus has been installed at each station as a precautionary measure, and the water obtained is now sterilised with chlorine.

Results of treatment. At all stations the water is tested hourly for the presence of free chlorine, the presence of which after a reasonable contact period is a guarantee that pathogenic bacteria have been effectively dealt with. Bacteriological examinations hitherto carried out at monthly intervals are now made twice monthly by an independent firm of analysts. The results indicate an exceedingly high degree of purity, as shewn by the following specimen reports.

Chemical Examination.

(Results in parts per 100,000).

Appearance	...	...	Clear and bright.		
Colour	...	...	Normal.	Odour	... Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	Neutral : 7.5	Free Carbonic Acid	1.0
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.		460			
Total Solids, 180°C.	...	30.5			
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	1.5			
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.22		Nitrites Absent	
				Grains per Gallon	
Hardness : Permanent	...	4.5			3.15
Temporary	...	18.5			12.95
Total	...	23.0			16.10
Metals	...	Iron=0.007			
Free Ammonia	...	0.0000		Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0022		Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.		0.040			

Report. This sample is clear and bright and of normal colour. The water is neutral in reaction, hard in character, though not unduly so, contains no excess of salinity, no metals apart from a negligible trace of iron and is of satisfactory organic quality.

From the standpoint of chemical analysis, therefore, it is pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre				
of water growing upon Agar	at 37° C. in 1 day	...	...	2
ditto	at 37° C. in 2 days	...	...	4
ditto	at 20° C. in 3 days	...	...	8
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in				
Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation				
at 37° C. (Presumptive Baccillus Coli Test)	...	Absent in 100 c.c.		
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli		Absent in 100 c.c.		

Report. This sample is clear and bright and of a high degree of bacterial purity, in which respects it is considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.

Distribution. The water obtained from the works at Fobney and Southcote is pumped first to the reservoir at Bath road and from thence to the high level reservoir at Tilehurst. Water from the Gipsy lane and Pangbourne wells and boreholes is pumped direct to Tilehurst reservoir and from thence all water is distributed throughout the borough with the exception of the higher levels at Tilehurst and Pangbourne, which are supplied from the Tilehurst water tower."

Sewage Disposal. I am indebted to Mr. A. S. Parsons, borough surveyor, for the following information regarding the method of sewage disposal in the borough and the results obtained over the past year :—

" During 1938, the average daily flow of sewage arriving at the sewage works, Manor farm, for treatment was 3,710,000 gallons. The performance of the plant throughout the year has been satisfactory. All the sedimentation tanks are now fitted with a skimming device so that the scum which collects on the top of these tanks in warm weather can be removed daily. This, together with the chlorination of the sewage, should reduce odours from the works to a minimum.

From a further year's operation of the sludge digestion plant, the observations made last year have been confirmed and it is hoped that in the near future the digestion capacity will be increased.

Caversham Sewage Works. Although very much overloaded, these works continue to produce a satisfactory effluent. Plans for the extension of this works are now being prepared."

House Refuse Collection and Disposal, and Public Cleansing.

The borough surveyor, Mr. A. S. Parsons has also supplied the following information with regard to house refuse collection and disposal, and public cleansing within the borough during the year :—

(a) *Collection.* The collection of household and trade refuse in the borough continues to work satisfactorily, and the continued development of the outlying districts of the borough has been satisfactorily dealt with by the existing relay system of collection. Eighteen up-to-date hygienic refuse collection vehicles have been engaged daily on the collection of refuse from 31,389 premises, each property being visited twice each week, *i.e.*, Mondays and Thursdays, Tuesdays and Fridays, or Wednesdays and Saturdays. During the year the work of collection has been carried out by 75 employees.

The refuse continues to change in character and there was a decrease in the tonnage collected of 398 tons compared with the previous year. The decrease in weight is compensated by the increase in bulk due to lighter refuse caused by more paper, cardboard cartons, vegetable matter and tins being amongst the refuse. The aforementioned articles have comprised 52% of the total refuse collected. A perusal of the analysis on page 55, taken in accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements, is very enlightening as to the composition of household refuse.

During the year 65 notices have been served upon occupiers of premises to provide sanitary dustbins of approved regulation type, all of which have been complied with. Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has done much to remind landlords of their legal liability to provide for the satisfactory and sanitary storage of household refuse.

The following table shows the quantity of refuse weighed at the corporation weighbridge together with the total mileage of the vehicles used in its collection :—

Quarter ending 1938.	Weight of refuse. Tons.	Mileage of vehicles. Miles.
March 31st ...	6,221	25,529
June 30th ...	5,324	28,350
September 30th	5,060	23,640
December 31st	6,136	29,483
Total	22,741 tons	107,002 miles

(b) *Disposal.* The disposal of house refuse within the borough is carried out by the system known as "controlled tipping," by which refuse is tipped direct from collection vehicles in layers not exceeding a consolidated thickness of 6' 0" and immediately sealed with soil or other non-combustible material. In the case of Reading, the refuse, after complete consolidation, is covered with 18" of mould and converted into small holdings.

(c) *Salvage.* During the past year the salvage of wastepaper, bottles, rags, non-ferrous metals, etc., has been carried out with a certain amount of relief to the cost of collection and disposal. Wherever possible wastepaper has been removed previous to its collection by the ordinary refuse freighter and by this means the bulk loads in the town shopping areas have been reduced and so enabled vehicles to collect from a greater number of premises than they would otherwise have been able to.

(d) *Street Cleansing.* The "beat" system of street cleansing by street orderlies is used in Reading and all main streets are under continual supervision from 7.30 a.m. till 8.45 p.m. daily, supplemented by early Sunday morning cleansing. Collection of sweepings and litter is carried out by means of street orderly trucks, the system of collection is so arranged that street orderly trucks are emptied at pre-arranged times and points by a street refuse collecting vehicle. Very much unnecessary litter is thrown down by pedestrians and a serious problem is fish and chip wrappings adjacent to premises where such commodities are sold. During the year 2,675 tons of street refuse were collected and 12 litter baskets have been fixed at suitable points to assist in keeping the streets clean.

ANALYSIS OF REFUSE.

	From Working Class houses, Rateable values £11.	From Whitley Housing Estate Rateable values £10 to £15.	From Residential houses (South West) Rateable values £22 to £29.	From Larger houses (East End) Rateable values £28 to £88.	From Caversham Heights Rateable values £30 to £100.
(a) Fine dust (under $\frac{1}{16}$ ths inch)	% by weight. 29.46	% by weight. 26.47	% by weight. 25.61	% by weight. 36.25	% by weight. 30.42
(b) Small cinder content (between $\frac{1}{16}$ ths and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch	17.16	7.42	8.96	11.35	15.70
(c) Large cinder content (over $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch)	4.75	2.38	2.35	2.72	11.80
(d) Vegetable content	17.59	32.43	36.04	24.45	14.01
Bread content	0.95	0.77	0.72	0.55	0.22
(e) Paper content	16.51	9.66	13.67	12.27	15.18
(f) Metal content					
(1) Metal containers	4.09	5.28	3.26	2.58	3.23
(2) Other metals	1.03	3.10	0.98	1.10	0.76
(g) Rag content	1.03	2.52	0.61	1.01	0.98
(h) Glass content					
(1) Bottles and jars	1.91	3.71	3.48	1.77	2.34
(2) Broken glass (cullet)	2.76	2.94	1.86	1.99	2.72
(i) Bone content	1.39	0.56	0.61	1.76	0.72
(j) Wood, straw, leather	1.03	1.26	1.06	1.10	1.20
(k) Bricks and stones	0.34	1.50	0.79	1.10	0.72
Totals	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The following table shows the length in miles of highways swept within the borough during the year :—

Streets cleansed daily	...	...	92.05 miles
"	"	three times weekly	17.38 "
"	"	twice weekly	2.23 "
"	"	once weekly	0.03 "
"	"	less than once weekly	Nil
Total mileage of streets cleansed per week			111.69 miles
Total mileage of streets cleansed per year			36,543 miles
Total number of employees 71.			

(d) *Street Gulley Cleansing.* All street gulleys are emptied and sealed with clean fresh water by mechanically operated motor vehicles at least once in six weeks. All main shopping streets are attended to weekly and other streets less frequently as the necessity arises. Number of gulleys cleansed 6,268. Number of gulley cleansings per year 75,312.

(f) *Cesspool emptying.* All cesspools are emptied upon receipt of instructions by a mechanical cesspool emptying vehicle.

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 X.

Total number of visits paid—Public Health and Housing Acts	...	14014
Number and nature of complaints received :—		
Dirty, damp and dilapidated houses	...	218
Overcrowded dwelling houses (complaints in regard to)	...	7
Applications for council houses	...	19
Dirty tenants	...	25
Defective roofs, gutters and stackpipes	...	19
Defective sanitary fittings	...	71
Defective yards and areas	...	4
Accumulation of refuse	...	21
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	11
Complaints of verminous houses	...	230
Miscellaneous	...	65
Rat-infested premises	...	76
Complaints not justified	...	87
Number of statutory notices served	...	2
Number of prosecutions	...	2
Number of informal notices served :—		
On owners	...	111
On occupiers	...	25
Number of verbal notices	...	127

All notices were complied with excepting four which still remained outstanding at the end of the year.

There were 155 house drains examined during the year.

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

Common Lodging Houses. There are four common lodging houses in the borough which, though leaving something to be desired, are generally well kept. It is noted that of recent years the number of persons frequenting lodging houses has considerably decreased. The provision of the act enabling the local authority to refuse registration will be taken advantage of in the case of all the less suitable houses as the opportunity arises.

The number of visits paid to these lodging houses during the year was 201. No serious breach of the bye-laws was found in any case. Night supervision and the maintenance of order are carried out under the direction of the police.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Factories Act, 1937, came into force on July 1st, 1938. The act supersedes entirely the Factories and Workshops Acts, 1901 and 1907 and some provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. The distinction between "workshops" and "factories" has disappeared and "factory" is the only term now employed. There is a distinction made between factories where mechanical power is employed and factories where mechanical power is not employed.

The new act continues in general outlines, the previous allocation of duties as between the factory inspector and the local authority in the enforcement of the requirements with regard to health and safety in factories where mechanical power is not used.

The local authority still has functions relative to keeping of registers and lists of outworkers.

The new act has extended the duties of the local authority in some important respects as well as on points of detail.

It will be noted that the definition of the term "factory" embraces almost all manufacturing establishments including building operations, washing, cleaning and demolition of articles by way of trade.

In this connection it has been necessary to survey and record all the premises brought within the scope of the Act, and to this end 474 inspections were made and recorded in the register to be kept for this purpose.

The local authority will enforce all the provisions of part 1, i.e., sections 1 to 7.

For the purpose of their duties under the act the local authority and their officers are given the same powers as the factory inspector, but entry and inspection may only be exercised by officers of the council authorised in writing on that behalf.

1. **Inspections** for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by sanitary inspectors).

(a)

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	312	11	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	162	4	—
Total	474	15	—

2. **Defects Found.**

(b)

Particulars. (1)	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness ... (Section 1)	47	47	—	—
Overcrowding ... (Section 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... (Section 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... (Section 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... (Section 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	2	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	8	8	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Totals	57	56	—	—

Homework.

(c)

Nature:—Wearing apparel (Tailoring, Knitting, Hosiery, etc.)						
Lists received twice a year from employers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of outworkers	Contractors	...	...	...	...	23
	Workmen	...	...	...	...	22
Lists received once a year	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of outworkers	Contractors	...	...	...	...	—
	Workmen	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	...	...	—
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in infected premises	...	...	...	...	...	—

Canal Boats. There are eight boats on the register, none of which were seen during the year. Visits of inspection were paid to 27 boats. None of these were used as dwellings. All the boats coming into the area are either propelled or towed by power, and the men on the boats take lodgings if remaining over night.

Caravans. There are 15 caravans in the borough permanently used as dwellings. They are inspected periodically, 160 such visits having been paid during the past year. All have water supply and sanitary accommodation available. In addition, a large number of caravans visit the borough in connection with the various fairs. No case of infectious disease was notified from any van and no nuisance was notified during their stay on the fair ground.

Offensive Trades. The number of offensive or associated trades carried on is six. These include blood drying, fat boiling, bone boiling, tripe dressing, gut cleaning and calves-stomach drying for the manufacture of rennet.

The only complaint received was in respect of the last named. Although the complaint was not of a serious nature, this trade is ceasing to continue in the early part of the current year.

Three-hundred and sixty visits were paid to these premises during the year and generally speaking the conditions found were satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement. It is noteworthy that only one complaint was received in respect of a smoke nuisance from a factory chimney during the year. This nuisance was remedied without recourse to formal action.

A few minor complaints were received and remedied.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ; Destructive Imported Animals Act, 1932, and the Grey Squirrels (Prohibition of Importation and Keeping) Order, 1937. Active measures have been maintained throughout the year in connection with the destruction of rats, grey squirrels and other animal pests.

During the "National Rat Week" held in November, occupiers and owners of all suspected premises were circularised in regard to the obligations imposed by the act and advised as to the best methods of destruction. All these premises were visited by the rat-catcher and assistance given where necessary.

During the year 774 visits were paid to various premises and open spaces in the area and 3,773 dead rats were actually picked up.

The whole-time service of a rat-catcher has been a considerable asset to the borough and the systematic inspection and treatment of open spaces and premises has been carried out during the year, with results shown in the following summary :—

Total number of rats destroyed	3773
Total number of grey squirrels destroyed	110
Total	3883
Total number of visits paid for rats	642
Total number of visits paid for grey squirrels	41
Total number of visits paid for other vermin	91
Total	774

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926. Five-hundred and fifteen visits were paid to shops and stalls to ensure that various orders made under the act were carried out and the various merchandise was correctly marked.

No prosecutions were instituted but several warnings were given to stall-holders and vendors in the open market.

Kitchens and Ice Cream Shops. Continuous supervision is maintained over these premises as well as to other places where food is prepared for consumption or sale. The new legislation which comes into force during 1939, will give the local authority much more control of all premises where food is prepared.

Shops Act, 1934, Section 10 (Heating and sanitary accommodation). During the year, six shops were reported as being without sufficient sanitary accommodation or adequate heating facilities. Three notices with regard to sanitary accommodation were complied with during the year.

One exemption was granted.

Three informal notices requiring heating were served and complied with, as well as 12 that were outstanding at the end of 1937.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of dairies. During the year 163 inspections were made of dairy premises. Certain improvements in regard to the cleanliness and minor repairs were effected by verbal instructions.

Number of dairies registered at the end of 1937.	New applications for registration.	Dairies removed from the register.	Number of dairies on register at end of 1938.
221	12	6	227

Twelve dairy premises were transferred from one owner to another.

Inspection of cowsheds.

Number of cowsheds on the register	14
Number of cows specified on the register	360

Sixty inspections were made. All notices to cleanse and repair were complied with.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Under these regulations the local authority is the licensing authority for the designated producers and dairies in the area.

The inspection of herds, cowsheds and dairies, the checking of registers and veterinary certificates of tuberculin and clinical examinations, supervision of dairies, processing plants and the frequent periodical sampling of the milk produced is now the responsibility of the local authority and a considerable amount of work and time of the department is taken up as a result of these additional duties.

Systematic inspection and sampling is necessary to keep as high a standard of purity as possible.

The following table sets out the number and nature of licenses issued by the local authority.

Producers licenses " Tuberculin Tested "	2
Producers licenses " Accredited "	4
Producers licenses " Pasteurised "	4
Dealers licence " Tuberculin Tested " (Certified)	1
Bottling licenses " Tuberculin Tested "	6
Dealers licenses " Pasteurised "	3
Dealers licenses " Tuberculin Tested "	17
Supplementary licenses " Tuberculin Tested " Dealers	4
Supplementary licenses " Accredited "	2

Two hundred and eighty-seven visits were made to the farms and dairies where the designated milk is produced or treated for the purpose of taking samples, examination of registers, inspection of plant, dairies and cowsheds.

The general standard of cleanliness is well maintained.

Examination of Designated Milk. Analysis of samples taken.

Tuberculin Tested milk.

Number of samples taken.	Methylene Blue Reduction Test.		Coliform Bacillus.	
	Negative.	Positive.	Absent.	Present.
91	89	2	78	13

Accredited Milk.

Number of samples taken.	Methylene Blue Reduction Test.		Coliform Bacillus.	
	Negative.	Positive.	Absent.	Present.
44	40	4	41	3

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).

Number of samples taken.	Phosphatase Test.		Bacterial Plate Count.	
	Negative.	Positive.	Under.	Over.
10	10	—	10	—

Pasteurised Milk.

Number of samples taken.	Phosphatase Test.		Bacterial Plate Count.	
	Negative.	Positive.	Under.	Over.
88	79	9	81	7

Three of the samples failed in the phosphatase test, the cause being traced in each case to a slight defect in the plant which, when discovered, was remedied. The other six were the produce of dealers outside the area and consequently could not be traced by inspection of the plants.

Failures in bacterial plate counts were found in the milk from the same source as above.

Tuberculous Milk.

Number of samples taken.	Tubercle Bacilli present.	Rate per cent. found tuberculous.
36	1	2.7

It is very satisfactory to report that only one case was recorded of a milk being sold in the borough containing the living tubercle bacillus.

This compares very favourably with the average percentage of milk being found positive for the whole of the country.

The usual procedure was adopted in tracing the particular herd of cows from which this milk was produced, but as usual in these cases, some of the cows from the herd had been sold, and it was discovered that one or two had been destroyed for being tubercular.

Daily average consumption of milk in the borough. The following table shows the average daily consumption of milk :—

Grade of milk.	Quantity in gallons.
Tuberculin Tested	640
Pasteurised under licence	3,040
Treated by heat below pasteurised standard	150
Raw ungraded milk	4,127
Total ...	7,957

School Supplies.

Grade of milk.	Quantity in gallons.
Pasteurised	252

Some 3298 gallons are pasteurised in accordance with the legal requirements whilst the remainder, amounting to rather more than half the total, is sold untreated.

Meat. Slaughterhouses. There are eight registered and two licensed slaughterhouses in the borough. Some of these slaughterhouses are old in design and not suitable for this area.

The new legislation which comes into operation this year dealing with slaughterhouses will greatly facilitate the removal of these premises from the register.

The method of disposing of abattoir waste product still causes some concern to the local authority. At the present moment there are no facilities for dealing with the animal waste matter and this has to be conveyed to one of the outlying districts of the London area with the usual inconvenience of cartage, delays, etc. Proposals for dealing with this material will be made when the contemplated new abattoirs are established.

The following is a list of meat and foodstuffs destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption :—

Unsound Food destroyed.	For tuberculosis.	For other causes.
464 carcasses of beef	363	101
47 part carcasses of beef	29	18
70 carcasses of pork	36	34
14 part carcasses of pork	—	14
34 carcasses of mutton	—	34
3 part carcasses of mutton	—	3
7 carcasses of bulls	5	2
4 part carcasses of bulls	3	1
11 carcasses of calves	5	6
14 carcasses of stirks	8	6
1 part carcase of a stirk	—	1
18 carcasses of heifers	15	3
3 part carcasses of heifers	3	—
5 carcasses of steers	5	—
1 part carcase of steer	1	—
1400 heads or internal organs of beasts, sheep or pigs	1174	226
65 lbs. plucks	—	65 lbs.
2865 tins of foodstuffs	—	2865 tins
188 lbs. tenderloin	—	188 lbs.
919 lbs. imported beef	—	919 lbs.
54 rabbits	—	54
87½ lbs. imported ox kidney	—	87½ lbs.
10 stone cod fillets	—	10 stone
180 lbs. tomatoes	—	180 lbs.
56 lbs. chitterlings	—	56 lbs.
35 lbs. beef trimmings	—	35 lbs.
706½ lbs. wet fish	—	706½ lbs.
6 boxes bloaters and kippers	—	6 boxes
24 scollops	—	24
13 chicken	—	13
104 tins imported eggs	—	104 tins
47 lbs. imported bacon	—	47 lbs.
7 cwts. potatoes	—	7 cwts.
14 lbs. beef sausages	—	14 lbs.
4 lbs. beef fat	—	4 lbs.
2 smoked gammons	—	2
50 lbs. pigs livers	—	50 lbs.
2 lbs. pigs kidneys	—	2 lbs.
174 lbs. English beef	—	174 lbs.
107 lbs. English pork	—	107 lbs.
18 lbs. English mutton	—	18 lbs.
20 lbs. fillets of veal	—	20 lbs.
34 lbs. salted meat	—	34 lbs.
50 lbs. pork neck-bone	—	50 lbs.
7 lbs. skirt	—	7 lbs.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

Number killed.	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Private	2,152	—	692	7,230	14,169
Public	1,852	2,546*	21,991	4,975	14,491
Total	4,004	2,546	22,683	12,205	28,660

Number inspected Abattoirs 100 per cent.
 Private slaughterhouses 50 per cent. approx.

Number killed.	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
All diseases except tuberculosis ...	11	101	6	34	34
Carcase of which some part was condemned ...	2	18	—	3	14
Percentage affected all diseases except tuberculosis ...	0.32	4.67	0.02	0.30	0.16
Head and internal organs (all classes) other causes ...	226	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected heads and organs (all classes) other causes	0.39	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis only.

Number killed.	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Whole carcasses ...	33	363	5	—	36
Carcasses of which some part was condemned ...	7	29	—	—	—
Percentage affected with tuber- culosis ...	0.99	15.4	0.02	—	0.12
Heads and internal organs (all classes) excluding sheep ...	1174	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected heads and in- ternal organs (all classes) exclu- ding sheep ...	2.03	—	—	—	—

* Included in the above list are 46 cows killed under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and 8 cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order (Berkshire County Council).

Visits are made at frequent intervals to all private slaughterhouses, meat stalls in the open markets and to all butchers' shops and meat factories in the borough.

The standard of cleanliness exercised at these premises is generally of a high order, and any suggestions made are immediately complied with. Ante-mortem inspections are made of animals slaughtered at the public abattoirs, but it is not possible to carry this out at the private establishments. The class of animals slaughtered at these latter premises is of a very high standard (no cows at all being slaughtered) so that the chances of unsound food from this direction is very small.

The butchers owning the private slaughterhouses are without exception particular about notifying the authority of anything that appears abnormal in the animals when slaughtered.

Carcases of pigs come into the borough from surrounding districts, but there is a standard arrangement with the butchers to notify the time of arrival, when they are subsequently inspected.

Ten licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

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.	Number of samples taken.	Number found to be genuine.	Not up to standard.
New milk ...	262	213	49
Cream ...	3	3	—
Butter ...	7	7	—
Margarine ...	3	3	—
Coffee ...	3	3	—
Sausages ...	7	7	—
Condensed milk	2	2	—
Jam ...	1	1	—
Pasteen ...	1	1	—
Tinned cream	1	1	—
Shredded suet	2	2	—
	292	243	49

A few samples of milk for various reasons failed to reach the prescribed figures set out in the regulations. The most usual error was found to be the case of small shopkeepers who were careless in handling the milk.

The deficiencies were not large and beyond warning the persons concerned, and following up by repeat samples there was no case that warranted police court proceedings.

Artificial Cream Act, 1929. There are only two licenses granted to sell artificial cream. Inspection of premises where this commodity is likely to be sold reveals no sale except for demonstration purposes.

Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927. These regulations are strictly observed by traders. Sampling has revealed no deficiency in the standards set out by these regulations.

Dried Milk Regulations, 1923 and 1927. The regulations with regard to dried milk are complied with. No samples were taken during the year.

Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1925-1927. These regulations are complied with. No cases of insufficient or improper marking were discovered during the year. All food samples submitted to the public analyst are examined for preservatives. No adverse report was received.

Shell-Fish (*Molluscan*). There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

From information given by the local fishmongers, the shell-fish sold in the borough are obtained from the Billingsgate market, London, but they have no knowledge of the beds or localities from which they are taken.

HOUSING.

There are approximately 27,300 inhabited houses in the borough.

During the year, the total number of houses erected in the borough was 351, of which 108 were erected as part of the municipal housing scheme and 243 by private enterprise.

As will be seen from the subjoined table, there has been a steady decline in the number of new houses erected since the peak years of 1934 and 1935. Although the number of families occupying rooms and being in overcrowded conditions has very greatly decreased, there is still a considerable number of applicants for new houses, who are at present living in rooms and who are able and willing to pay the rent of council houses. This matter is at present engaging the attention of the housing committee. There is also a considerable number of empty houses suitable for the working classes but the total is probably insufficient to meet the known deficit as shown by applicants for houses.

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
1936	98	643	741
1937	—	431	431
1938	108	243	351

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) | ... | ... | ... | 1239 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | 5252 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 1174 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | 1174 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of para. 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | 889 |

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 85 from 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	764
*Including 41 outstanding from 1936.							

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	11*
(c) Undertaking not to let until made fit	...	...	...	...	...	—

* Including 1 from 1937.

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 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	5†
†(Including 2 from 1937).						

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

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

Housing Act, 1936, Part 4.—Overcrowding.

There were at the end of the year 101 known cases of overcrowding. To these might be added 9 caravans and 16 additional cases where overcrowding conditions are abated by temporary absence of members of the family or arrangements for certain members of the family to sleep out. In the latter case, a sufficient number of the largest type of house is not yet available for abatement. When it is remembered that a total of 430 cases of overcrowding were brought under review by the various surveys, the present conditions show a very great improvement.

The number of overcrowded houses, the degree of overcrowding and the location of the houses as between council houses and other parts of the town are set out in the following statement.

It will be seen that approximately two-thirds of the overcrowding occurs in council estates and that three-quarters of the cases of overcrowding are cases where there is one person or fewer in excess of the permitted number.

Density of overcrowding on—

(a) Council estates	by $\frac{1}{2}$ a person in 28 families
„ 1 person „	18 „
„ $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons „	9 „
„ 2 „ „	4 „
„ $2\frac{1}{2}$ „ „	1 family
„ 3 „ „	2 families
„ $3\frac{1}{2}$ „ „	2 „
„ 4 „ „	1 family
(b) Other parts of the town	by $\frac{1}{2}$ a person in 17 families
„ 1 person „	11 „
„ $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons „	7 „
„ 6 „ „	1 family

During the year, 50 houses became available for the relief of overcrowding and 56 overcrowded families were provided with suitable accommodation.

In certain cases, a house evacuated by a large family can be used to accommodate a smaller family, also living in overcrowded conditions. The number of persons concerned in these movements was 535. To correct present known conditions of overcrowding, would require houses of the number and type set out.

On council estates.	Other parts of town.	Type of house.
—	2	Non-parlour, 2 bed
2	2	„ „ 3 bed
36	21	„ „ 4 bed
18	8	„ „ 5 bed.
9	2	„ „ 6 bed.
—	1	„ „ 8 bed.

As will be seen above, when the change is actually effected, a somewhat smaller number is found to suffice.

Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920-1933.

During the year one application was received for a certificate under section 12 of the Act of 1933. This certificate was granted and an informal notice requiring repairs to be executed was served upon the owner.

Number of Applications for Certificates received.	Number of Certificates granted.	Number of Notices served.	Number of Notices.	
			Completed.	Outstanding.
1	1	1	*4	1

* This figure relates to the notices that were served at the latter end of 1937.

Housing.

Clearance Areas :—

During the year the procedure in respect of three Clearance Areas and one compulsory purchase order was completed, namely :—

No. 23—Easton Place	...	...	...	...	9 houses
No. 24—Brunswick Street	...	...	...	...	8 houses
No. 25—Coley Place (compulsary purchase order)	...	...	...	...	23 houses
No. 26—Somerstown	...	...	...	...	5 houses

The orders were confirmed during December, 1938, and demolition is in progress.

Individual Demolitions :—

Number of individual demolition orders made	...	...	...	5
Number of individual houses demolished (including 2 from 1937)	...	...	...	7
Number of houses closed	...	...	...	nil
Undertaking not to let—Section 11,				
Sub-Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	nil
Number of Closing Orders (Part of Buildings)				
(Section 12)	...	...	...	1

Houses Let in Lodgings. During the year, 136 forms were sent to occupiers of houses where two or more families in addition to the occupier were lodged. These houses have been registered and inspection is in progress.

In the meantime, it has been found that, simply as a result of the circular and inspection, the number of families, in many cases, has been reduced to conform with the byelaws. The provisions of the overcrowding section of the Housing Act have also had important effect in remedying conditions in these houses.

Verminous Houses. *Eradication of bed bugs.* There has been an increase again this year in the number of complaints received and dealt with during the year. Observation and re-inspections show that the methods employed are successful in most cases.

Number of complaints received.	Number of houses disinfected.	Number of rooms disinfected.	Number of repeat disinfestations.
Council houses 418	187	474	16
Other houses 230	200	551	11
Totals 648	387	1,025	27

Number of inspections including disinfestations	...	...	...	648
Number of "following-up" inspections	...	...	...	222
			Total	870
Percentage of successful disinfestations	...	...	...	93%

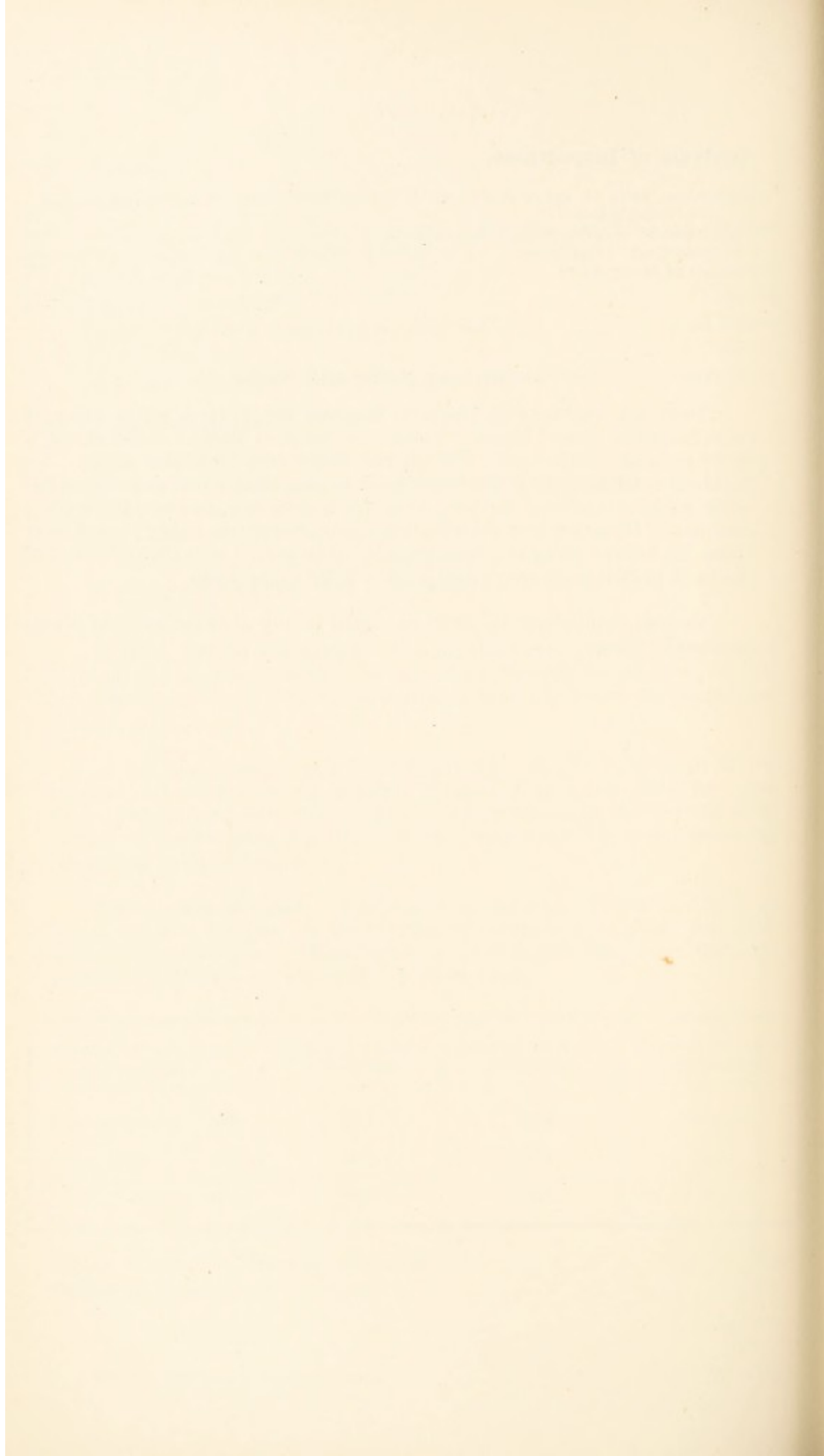
Analysis of Inspections.

Inspections prior to removal to council houses from slum clearance and overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Inspections of vacated council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
"Following-up" inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	222
Number of fumigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	387
5								
							Total	870

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are four bathing places in Reading fed by river water, three of them from the river Thames. There is a constant flow of water through three enclosed baths and no steps are taken to purify the water. No bacterial examinations of the water have been made. The remaining swimming bath, a covered bathing pool for public use, is provided with a continuous filtration and chlorination plant, the water being turned over every $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours during the time the bath is in use. The walls and floors of the bath premises are swept every day to keep them clean.

No complaints were received in regard to any of these bathing places during the year.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Annual Report

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

READING EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Ewart Clarke McIlroy, J.P.)

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.

ALICE JENKINS, J.P.

EDITH MARY SUTTON, J.P. (*Vice-Chairman*).

Councillors.

FRANK ADLAM, J.P.

EDWARD RUSSELL JACKSON, J.P.

ANNIE PHOEBE ELLEN CUSDEN, J.P.

GORDON ORMSBY LAMBERT, M.D.

HENRY FRANK DUNSTER.

HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON.

GEOFFREY SIMPSON FIELD, B.A. (*Chairman*).

FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS.

WALTER GEORGE GALE.

ARTHUR ROWE, J.P.

HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT, M.B.E., J.P.

THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART.

FREDERICK STANLEY HUNKIN.

HENRY WOOLDRIDGE.

Co-opted Members.

Miss L. ASHCROFT.

The Very Rev. Canon F. J. KERNAN, B.A.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL COOKE, M.A.

Miss K. E. MOORE.

Mr. W. C. COSTIN.

Sir FRANKLIN SIBLY, D.Sc., LL.D.

Mr. W. J. SOUCH, B.Sc.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor William Ewart Clarke McIlroy, J.P.)

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.

ALICE JENKINS, J.P.

EDITH MARY SUTTON, J.P.

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THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART.

Co-opted Members.

Miss L. ASHCROFT.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL COOKE, M.A.

Mr. W. J. SOUCH, B.Sc.

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

May, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the work of the school medical service in Reading for 1938.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Board of Education and is set out in form similar to that of previous years. The results of inspection and treatment do not vary materially from those of previous years.

The only change in the arrangements was the commencement at Lower Whitley on May 17th of a dental clinic on two days a week and on November 1st of a daily minor ailments clinic. These two clinics serve the southern part of the borough and effect a great saving of time in the attendance of the children there. The report of the school dentists also shows that there has been a gratifying increase in the number of acceptances of treatment in that area.

An addition to the staff was made by appointment of Miss S. A. Gilford, health visitor, who devotes one third of her time to school medical duties.

The general nutrition of the children as shown in the tables of heights and weights continues to be on the whole satisfactory.

I should like to express my thanks to the committee for their continued interest and support in the work of the school medical service, to the staff both professional and clerical, to the teachers, and to the other officials of the Education committee for their valuable assistance.

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.

NORA W. WAMSLEY, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Dental Surgeons.

MARION SMITH MACKINNON, L.D.S.

JOHN CAMPBELL, L.D.S.

Nursing Staff.

Miss O. EDGAR.

Miss F. L. GATES.

Miss S. A. GILFORD (Part-time).

Miss H. JACKSON.

Miss E. F. ROBINSON.

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	...	10,661
Elementary school children examined	... ..	4,106
Examined at secondary schools	... ..	381
Miscellaneous examinations (employed boys, etc.)	... ..	271
Treated at minor ailments clinic	... ..	1,150
Treated at ringworm clinic	... ..	17
Treated at eye clinic	... ..	789
Treated at ear clinic	... ..	160
Examinations by school dentists	... ..	7,962
Treated by school dentists	... ..	4,276
Treated at speech clinic	... ..	75
Total attendances at various clinics	... ..	34,148
Total examinations by nurses for cleanliness	... ..	32,646
Home visits by nurses	... ..	667
Number of baths given to children	461

Number of meals provided for school children	127,372
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SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT.

STAFF.

The staff is detailed in the beginning of this report. The only change was the appointment of Miss S. A. Gilford, as part-time school nurse.

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, expectant mothers and to tuberculous patients recommended for sanatorium or hospital treatment.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

During the past year the sanitary accommodation at Katesgrove Junior Boys' School was modernized. With the exception of Norcot school, this brings the sanitary accommodation of the whole of the public elementary schools up to date.

Internal redecoration was carried out at E.P. Collier school and St. John's infant school.

In addition, numerous minor improvements to heating, lighting, etc., were effected at various schools.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The number of children on the rolls of the elementary schools is 12,253 with an average attendance of 10,661.6. The former figure shows a decrease of 93 on the number in the preceding year and the average attendance a decrease of 177.

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 38 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.	1931-1935.	1936-1937.	1938.
" Routine "					
examinations	4,517	4,358	4,402	4,401	4,106
" Special "					
examinations	1,721	1,536	1,510	1,969	2,169
Re-examinations	7,153	8,295	6,038	6,940	6,884

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) **Nutrition.** The general state of nutrition of the children continues satisfactory. The average heights and weights of the three routine groups show little change. There was a slight increase in the average weights of the 5 year old boys and girls.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Height in Inches.

1938.			English elementary school children.	Reading children 1936.	Reading children. 1937.
Age.	No. of children.	Av. height of Reading children.			
53/12 (boys)	336	41 $\frac{1}{4}$	41.8	42	41 $\frac{3}{4}$
(girls)	382	42 $\frac{1}{4}$	41.5	41 $\frac{3}{4}$	42
83/12 (boys)	563	49	48.1	49	49
(girls)	587	48 $\frac{3}{4}$	47.8	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
123/12 (boys)	554	56 $\frac{1}{4}$	55.3	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{4}$
(girls)	495	57 $\frac{1}{4}$	55.9	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	57 $\frac{1}{4}$

Weight in Pounds.

1938.			English elementary school children.	Reading children 1936.	Reading children. 1937.
Age.	No. of children.	Av. weight of Reading children.			
53/12 (boys)	344	41	39.3	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{3}{4}$
(girls)	390	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	38.1	40	39 $\frac{3}{4}$
83/12 (boys)	566	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	51.9	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	56
(girls)	600	54	50.2	54	54
123/12 (boys)	581	78 $\frac{3}{4}$	72.8	80	78 $\frac{3}{4}$
(girls)	507	81 $\frac{3}{4}$	75.1	81 $\frac{3}{4}$	82 $\frac{1}{4}$

(b) **Uncleanliness.** The following figures show the prevalence of uncleanliness of head and body at the routine medical inspections since 1921.

Average percentage of uncleanliness :—

			1921-1925.	1926-1930.	1931-1935.	1936-1937.	1938.
Head	...	...	7.1	3.9	1.9	1.0	1.1
Body	...	...	2.4	1.06	.2	.2	.3

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** These complaints comprise impetigo, ringworm and sores.

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

	1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1935	1936-1937	1938
Ringworm—Head ...	93	47	25	21	19
„ Body ...	65	39	18	21	14
Scabies	17	7	17	25	30
Impetigo	412	250	135	113	127

At the routine inspections, 36 cases, or .9 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 460 or 11 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 larger than this. In the previous year the percentage was 9.5.

There were 15 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 95, or 2.4 per cent. compared with 2.1 per cent. in 1937. In the different age groups this year, 20.2 per cent. of the leavers, 13.7 per cent. of the intermediates and 6 per cent. of the entrants had already been operated on.

Cases of enlarged tonsils are kept under observation until it is decided whether an operation is necessary or not. Children with obstructed nasal breathing are encouraged to practise breathing exercises so that the nasal passages may become healthy and the need for an operation obviated.

(f) **Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.** Cases of defective hearing amounted to .6 per cent. and of discharging ears to .6 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 ninety cases were noted at the routine inspections. Most of these were round shoulders and flat foot. In 1937 the number was 201.

(i) **Heart Disease and Rheumatism.** There were 15 cases of organic and 49 of functional heart defects.

(j) **Tuberculosis.** There were two suspected cases of pulmonary disease.

(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 from school during the year :—

					Patients.	Contacts.
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	116	122
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	90	123
Measles	...	...	...	...	555	—

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 667 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 1938, no prosecution was undertaken under Section 87 of the Education Act, 1921. Proceedings under the school attendance bye-laws were taken in the case of four parents in respect of six children, and fines to a total amount of 12s. 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 1,150 is more than that of last year, when 930 children came under treatment. The cases dealt with in addition to skin diseases include the majority of 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 17. This compares with 23 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, 789 children, including 259 new cases attended and the total number of attendances was 1,811. Glasses were prescribed for 345 children and the following are the various errors of refraction from which they suffered :—

Myopia	...	...	...	...	...	108=31 per cent.
Myopic astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	25= 7 „ „
Hypermetropia	...	...	...	...	...	135=40 „ „
Hypermetropic astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	67=20 „ „
Mixed astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	10= 3 „ „

Forty-five children were found not to require glasses.

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.

Sixteen 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 99 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.** With regard to the authority's scheme for the operative treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids at the Royal Berkshire hospital, there has been a change in the amount and method of payment for the operations but otherwise the arrangements are the same. Two hundred and twelve children were operated on. All children are detained in hospital for two nights or longer if required.

Three children received operative treatment apart from the special arrangements made by the committee and 58 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	...	...	...	160
Number of new cases	...	...	...	111
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	692

New cases classified—

Otorrhoea	...	...	...	37
Deafness without discharge	...	...	...	12
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	36
Earache	...	...	...	13
Other defects—Wax in ears, furunculosis, etc.	...	...	...	13

Old cases who attended, classified—

Otorrhoea	...	...	...	21
Deafness without discharge	...	...	...	4
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	22

Result of treatment of new cases—

	Cured.	Improved
Otorrhoea	27	12
Deafness without discharge	1	11
Throat and nose defects	5	31
Earache	10	—
Other defects—Wax in ears, furunculosis, etc.	6	—

7 cases did not require treatment

Referred to own doctor 2 cases

Attending hospital 1 case

3 cases did not return for further treatment.

Result of treatment of old cases—

	Cured.	Improved.
Otorrhoea	8	13
Deafness without discharge	2	2
Throat and nose defects	11	10

Attending own doctor 8 cases

Left school 4 „

Discontinued treatment by own desire 16 cases.

Left district 1 case

Ionisation. Six cases previously ionised returned with a recurrence of symptoms. Of these one case was discharged as cured, one has since left school, three cases have improved with treatment, one case still attending hospital.

Diastolisation. During 1938, 63 cases of nose and throat defects were found suitable for diastolisation.

12 cases completed treatment and were discharged as cured.

34 cases showed improvement and are continuing treatment.

16 cases did not complete the treatment by their own desire.

1 case showed no improvement.

Two cases suffering from repeated attacks of asthma received treatment, both reporting a lessening of the number of attacks whilst undergoing treatment.

DENTAL REPORT.

During the year, 17 schools were inspected, leaving nine not inspected. Children at the Nursery School were also inspected.

The Whitley Clinic was opened in May and work was commenced there on May 17th.

Two days a week are given to this area and the numbers attending the clinic for treatment up to the end of the year were 1,219 children and 30 mothers.

The percentage of children accepting treatment in the schools in this area has risen from 48·7 per cent. to 57·6 per cent. as compared with 1937.

The four schools which the Clinic serves are George Palmer, Whitley Park, Shinfield Road and Whitley Special, the number on the rolls being about 2,692.

The average number of children inspected per session was 127·3 and the average number of patients treated per session was 12·6.

In addition to elementary school children, expectant and nursing mothers, welfare and pre-school children, Kendrick school girls and Reading school boys to the number of 356 made 778 attendances.

We acknowledge with thanks the co-operation and help which the school teachers have invariably given.

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, 23 children received treatment at other institutions, 12 at Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic hospital, Headington, 5 at Cold Ash, and 6 at Royal sea-bathing hospital, Margate. In four instances, monetary assistance was given towards the supply of surgical appliances for physically defective 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	2
Infantile paralysis	4	2
Spastic diplegia	1	1
Tuberculosis (osseous)	5	3
Talipes	3	3
Congenital deformities	3	—
Injury, etc.	6	2
	—	—
	23	14
	—	—

In addition to the above, 17 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 20 boys and 25 girls. Seven 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.

The number of new cases who attended since last report was 14, of whom 11 were boys and three were girls. Most of the cases were referred by their parents, generally through the advice of the teachers. The reasons for reference were, stealing, and general misbehaviour, truancy, enuresis, habit spasms and insomnia. The attendance was more regular than in previous years and in most cases an improvement was noted.

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 :—

“ This year the speech clinic has had its full number of pupils, and it has been interesting to note the diminishing number of stammerers, and the increase in speech defects, noticeably in lisping, lalling and generally retarded speech.

There are at present 21 children attending, three of whom only attend to report on progress once every three or four weeks.

I find that children with speech defects derive much benefit from rhythmic movement, hand exercises and handwork, the former allied if possible with music and I am hoping to develop this further with some more equipment next term. The new verse books and little exercise mirrors this term are very popular, the former combining speech with movement. The feeling for rhythm, the sense of pattern, accuracy, colour, harmony and the co-ordination of movement, all tend to give significance, precision, force and smoothness in speech for pupils of all

ages—while verse patterns, dramatic poetry and creative gesture, all tend to develop the imagination and give direct intention, courage and beauty to speech movements.

Successful treatment in all cases depends largely on the pertinacity and interest of the pupil, as well as the therapist, and the greater the knowledge, variety and affection he or she can bring to the work the greater will be the results and satisfaction obtained thereby. Eleven cases have left the clinic, cured or greatly improved.

At the special school where I now have three hours weekly, I have thirty-five cases."

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 207 Reading children to have two weeks holiday at the seaside during August, 1938. Of the children so provided with a holiday, approximately 25 per cent 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.

School Baths. The senior boys' department of Katesgrove school and Caversham council senior school have now been equipped with shower baths.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

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

" Physical education in the primary and post primary schools of the borough still remains in a satisfactory condition, maintaining as it does, a high place in the interest of the teaching staff and scholars.

Generally speaking, lessons are well planned, and, although in some cases hampered by insufficient accommodation and various other circumstances, the work on the whole reaches a fairly high standard.

Gymnastic Apparatus.—Two additional balance benches have been placed in each of the central and senior schools, bring the total in each case up to six.

Several of the benches have been in continual daily use since 1931, and in consequence are showing signs of wear.

Gymnastic Clothing. Two schools are now fully equipped with gymnastic clothing and it is hoped that all central and senior schools will be fitted out during 1939.

Changing into suitable clothing has undoubtedly improved the general tone of the work. In the schools where the boys work in shorts and shoes only, postural defects, hitherto unnoticed, have been discovered, and attempts are being made to eradicate them.

Storage of Gymnastic Clothing.—Cupboards for the storage of gymnastic clothing have already been supplied to some schools, and the year 1939 will see all central and senior schools provided for in this way. Each cupboard is divided into 45 sections, each section consisting of a 'bakelite' container, sufficiently large to store the gymnastic kit of one scholar. By this arrangement the garments of one scholar do not touch those of another. The cupboards have perforated zinc sides and the 'bakelite' container is so constructed that through ventilation is ensured and thus the storage is apparently hygienically sound.

Efforts are now being made to persuade the scholars who bring their own rubber shoes to keep them at school in the cupboards provided. In the majority of schools practically the whole of the children attend provided with rubber shoes for physical training lessons.

Changing Accommodation.—Changing accommodation is presenting a difficulty in some schools. Where alterations have been made to school buildings the difficulty has been overcome to some extent.

Shower Baths.—The use of 'showers' in the two schools where they have been provided has shown a marked improvement in the personal cleanliness of the scholars. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when 'showers' will be provided for all central and senior schools.

Organised Games—Net Ball (Girls).—Three additional pitches in Prospect Park have been placed at the disposal of the Education Committee. These are situated in a convenient position for the schools using them, thereby saving time in starting play.

Cricket (Boys).—There is still a contrast between the cricket of the spacious and well-equipped cricket grounds and that provided for boys of the central and senior schools. Conditions for the game in the public parks in the 1938 season left much to be desired, and consequently little, if any, progress was made with the technique of the game.

The dawn of the 1939 season, however, appears to hold brighter prospects, for, by arrangement between the Education and Parks Committees, the Sol Joel Playing Field will be available for cricket on four afternoons in each week. This should solve the very difficult problem of the eastern portion of the town.

Swimming Instruction.—The manner in which the instructors continue their efforts in spite of weather and other difficulties deserves the highest praise.

During the season 213 girls and 359 boys learned to swim at the instructional classes.

The scheme falls short of the completest possible measure of success, in that some schools are not sending the full complement of learners. Certain of the central and senior schools apparently have a difficulty in getting their quota of learners to attend the classes and particularly so in the early part of the season.

It ought to be generally known that the instructors, when it is too cold for water practice, occupy the time in getting through the necessary preliminaries and with 'land drill.'

Special efforts are to be made, prior to the commencement of the next season, with a view to obtaining the full number of learners from each school.

Voluntary Associations.—We again take the opportunity of recording the value of the assistance given to physical education in general by the Schools' Football, Swimming and Athletic Associations.

In conclusion we again express our thanks to the Education Committee for its practical assistance, to the Chief Education Officer for his valuable guidance and to the Head Teachers and Teaching Staff for their 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, Whitley Park school,
and Caversham council school.

The number of individual children provided with meals was 839, and the total number of meals supplied was 127,372.

Under the scheme for supplying milk to schools through the Milk Marketing Board, a comprehensive plan has been evolved affecting all the schools. In this way during the year an average daily number of 5,708·5 scholars received one third of a pint of milk at the mid-morning break. One hundred and forty-nine children who had been examined by the school medical officers and recommended to have milk during the year were added to the free list 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. 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 81·8 and 55 per cent. respectively.

Thirty-two parents objected to the medical inspection of their children representing ·8 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 continued to be given willingly during 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. The officer of the local branch (Inspector Grocott) has continued to render most helpful assistance during the year, working in close co-operation with the health visitors in dealing with difficult cases to whom, and to the department as a whole, he is always willing to render every possible assistance.

I am much indebted to him for his kind and efficient co-operation.

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 appliances 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 these 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.
Dull and backward	...	...	...	4	2
Feeble-minded	...	...	...	10	4
Imbecile	...	...	...	5	1
Phthisis and suspected phthisis or delicate children	...	...	...	8	8
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	4	—
Cardiac defect	...	...	...	1	1
Physical defect	...	...	...	—	7
Epilepsy	...	...	...	3	—
Blind and partially blind	...	...	...	1	1
Deaf and dumb	...	...	...	1	1
No apparent defect	...	...	...	3	1
				—	—
				40	26
				—	—

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. One "myope" attends the physically defective department at Whitley special school. 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. Five 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, where one child is at present being maintained.

WHITLEY 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.

Swimming. Ten certificates were gained. Three elementary, four intermediate and three for distance. One boy was successful in gaining all three in the season.

Speech Training. Miss M. Pechey now gives three hours weekly to this work. She has 35 pupils under her care.

Physical Training. Since suitable clothing has been provided there has been a marked increase in keenness and efficiency by both boys and girls. The senior M.D. boys gave a very creditable display to the gathering at the Christmas party.

Boot Repairing. This continues to be a valuable craft both for vocational training and for social service. The senior boys, under the guidance of the instructor, mend the boots and shoes of many necessitous children at the bare cost of material.

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

	Mentally. defective school.		Physically. defective school.		Open-air school.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
On roll January, 1938 ...	36	36	33	10	30	14
Admitted during the year ...	10	5	5	5	8	8
Left during the year ...	7	6	4	3	7	3
On roll December, 1938 ...	39	35	34	12	31	19

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE SCHOOL.

Fifty-three children, 38 boys and 15 girls have attended during the year. Five boys and five girls were admitted and four boys and three girls left.

Disabilities.

Cardiac ...	...	...	...	7
Paralysis—(birth) ...	...	...	...	4
(infantile) ...	...	...	...	5
(meningitic) ...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (osseous) ...	...	...	...	10
Deformities (congenital talipes, etc.) ...	...	...	...	5
Epilepsy (major) ...	...	...	...	1
(minor) ...	...	...	...	3
Pseudo-hypertrophic paralysis ...	...	...	...	2
Rickets ...	...	...	...	1
Fragilitis (ossium) ...	...	...	...	1
Osteomyelitis ...	...	...	...	2
Other defects ...	...	...	...	11

All the cases of paralysis and deformity have been under treatment at the Royal Berkshire or London hospitals. Eighteen children attend the Royal Berkshire hospital, five the tuberculosis dispensary, one is being treated at Wingfield and one at the Royal Sea Bathing hospital, Margate.

Craftwork. Much interest was shown by the elder scholars in growing and making up bouquets and baskets of everlasting flowers. Surprising instances of latent ingenuity and artistic ability were found.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE SCHOOL.

Eighty-seven children, 46 boys and 41 girls attended the school during the year. Ten boys and five girls were admitted. Seven boys and six girls left. Four boys and one girl were placed under statutory supervision.

THE OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

Sixty children, 38 boys and 22 girls, have attended during the year. Eight boys and eight girls were admitted. Seven boys and three girls left. All 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 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, but are maintaining three boys and one girl in residential schools where they are receiving vocational training.

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 men are employed as blind workers in London.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

There is one voluntary nursery school on the Whitley housing estate, Reading, which was opened for the admission of children on 10th January, 1938. The practice has been continued during the past year of admitting to the infants' departments children under five years where it was considered advisable owing to exceptional family conditions. There were 508 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.

The local education authority has agreed to aid the work of the voluntary nursery school by fortnightly visits by one of their school nurses and by the provision of dental inspection and treatment.

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 105. At the former there are examined all entrants and girls 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 22 boys and 31 girls received treatment and in the latter 31 boys and 50 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 tonsil and adenoids (when parents are not members of the Hospital Contributory Scheme) 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, including dental and other contributions, collected for the last financial year was £79 2s. 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Employment of Children and Young Persons. In accordance with the bye-laws, 251 boys and four girls engaged in the distribution of milk or newspapers were examined at the clinic and 90 children engaged in other occupations were examined in the schools. Two 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 one parent were interviewed with regard to their employing children beyond the legal number of hours. Legal proceedings were instituted against three employers and fines totalling £8 10s. 0d. were imposed.

Children and Young Persons Act. Forty-five children and young persons, 41 boys and four girls were examined and reported on under this Act. Sixteen of the boys came from other districts outside Reading.

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

This year there came into operation the new scheme whereby particulars of the medical history of leavers, who have subsequently come under National Health Insurance, is sent to the medical practitioners on request. During the year particulars of 301 children were supplied.

Eighty-one scholarship candidates were examined.

TABLE I.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	1,418
Second age group			...	...	...	1,386
Third	„	„	...	...	...	1,231
Total						4,035

Number of other routine inspections... 71

Grand Total ... 4,106

B. Other Inspections.

Number of special inspections	...	...	...	2,169
Number of re-inspections	...	...	...	6,884
Total				9,053

C. Children found to require treatment.

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

GROUPS.	For Defective Vision (excluding squint).	For all other conditions recorded in Table 2 (a).	Total.
Entrants	1	125	126
Second age group	61	95	156
Third „ „	48	68	116
Total (prescribed groups) ...	110	288	398
Other routine inspections ...	3	5	8
Grand Total	113	293	406

TABLE II.

A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended
31st December, 1938.

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)
Skin	(1) Ringworm—Scalp ...	1	—	18	—
	(2) „ Body ...	—	—	14	—
	(3) Scabies ...	2	—	28	—
	(4) Impetigo ...	5	—	122	—
	(5) Other Diseases (Non-tuberculous) ...	28	8	91	—
	TOTAL (Heads 1 to 5) ...	36	8	273	—
Eye	(6) Blepharitis ...	14	6	16	1
	(7) Conjunctivitis ...	—	1	28	—
	(8) Keratitis ...	1	—	1	—
	(9) Corneal Opacities ...	—	2	1	—
	(10) Other Conditions (excluding Defective Vision and Squint) ...	6	10	35	2
	TOTAL (Heads 6 to 10) ...	21	19	81	3
Ear	(11) Defective Vision (excluding Squint) ...	113	240	60	11
	(12) Squint ...	24	83	13	2
	(13) Defective Hearing ...	23	16	17	—
	(14) Otitis Media ...	24	9	65	—
Nose and Throat	(15) Other Ear Diseases ...	3	2	38	—
	(16) Chronic Tonsillitis only ...	1	93	138	2
	(17) Adenoids only ...	—	—	1	—
	(18) Chronic Tonsillitis and Adenoids ...	—	1	2	—
(20) Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-tuberculous)	(19) Other Conditions ...	48	56	115	2
	... ..	2	11	5	—
	(21) Defective Speech ...	7	14	21	5
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :				
	(22) Organic ...	—	15	—	—
	(23) Functional ...	1	49	—	—
	(24) Anaemia ...	18	—	1	—

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	...	...	...	3	1	3	—
	(26) Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	35	33	8	—
	Pulmonary :							
Tuberculosis	(27) Definite	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(28) Suspected	...	...	...	1	1	1	—
	Non-Pulmonary :							
	(29) Glands	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(30) Bones and Joints	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
	(31) Skin	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(32) Other Forms	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (Heads 29 to 32)					—	—	1	—
Nervous System	(33) Epilepsy	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
	(34) Chorea	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
	(35) Other Conditions	...	...	...	—	14	2	—
Deformities	(36) Rickets	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(37) Spinal Curvature	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	(38) Other Forms	...	...	...	8	182	7	—
(39) Other Defects and Diseases (excluding defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)					69	79	840	20
Total number of defects					439	926	1692	45

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 ...	1,418	207	14.6	1122	79.1	89	6.3	—	—
Second Age-group ...	1,386	153	11.0	1117	80.6	116	8.4	—	—
Third " " ...	1,231	245	19.8	918	74.6	67	5.4	1	.08
Other routine inspections	71	25	35.2	45	63.4	1	1.4	—	—
Total ...	4,106	630	15.3	3202	78.0	273	6.6	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.
5	—	—	—	5

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.
5	—	—	—	—	5

Deaf Children.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
7	—	—	—	7

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.
—	—	—	1	—	1

**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.
74	—	—	2	76

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

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
2	—	—	3	5

Physically Defective Children.

A. Tuberculous Children.

I.—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total
6	—	1	—	7

II.—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
10	—	2	6	18

B. Delicate Children.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
50	—	—	—	50

C. Crippled Children.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
42	—	—	4	46

D. Children with Heart Disease.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
7	—	—	3	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.
Feeble-minded and crippled defective	1	—	—	—	1

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 "	17	2	19
Ringworm—Body	14	—	14
Scabies	28	2	30
Impetigo	120	7	127
Other Skin Disease	67	52	119
Minor Eye Defects :— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	77	25	102
Minor Ear Defects	106	64	170
Miscellaneous :— (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, &c.)	721	156	877
Total ...	1150	308	1458

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)	773	15	788
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	16	1	17
Total	789	16	805
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	345	15	360
(b) Obtained	332	15	347

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)	(i)	(ii)
1	5	206	—	—	1	2	—	1	6
								208	—
								58	273

(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)			Total number treated.
	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)	
Number of children treated ...	4	—	37	—	—	—	41

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Number of children inspected by the Dentist

(a) Routine age-groups.

AGE.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTAL
Number ...	974	875	897	776	844	755	694	743	760	322	7640
(b) Specials ...											322
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)											7962
(2) Number found to require treatment											5586
(3) Number actually treated											4276
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment											10563
(5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection											60
Treatment											797
Total											857
(6) Fillings—Permanent Teeth											3850
Temporary Teeth											58
Total											3908
(7) Extractions—Permanent Teeth											1273
Temporary Teeth											6366
Total											7639
(8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions											5
(9) Other Operations—Permanent Teeth											1440
Temporary Teeth											460
Total											1900

TABLE VI.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses								32646
iii.) Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean								1239
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority								112
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—								
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...							—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws								4

TABLE VII.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL
INSPECTION IN 1938 SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Number Examined ...				READING SCHOOL.		KENDRICK GIRLS' SCHOOL.	
				177		204	
				Number referred for		Number referred for	
Defect or Disease.				Treatment.	Observation.	Treatment.	Observation.
Under weight	...	...	...	...	..	...	9
Uncleanliness	{ Head...	..	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Body ..	...	..	..	...	...	...
Skin	{ Ringworm	{ Head	...	...	...	..	..
		{ Body	...	..	...	...	...
	{ Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Impetigo	..	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Other Skin (non-tub.)	...	...	...	...	4	5
Eye	{ Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	..	...
	{ Keratitis	...	...	...	...	...	..
	{ Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Defective Vision	...	...	1	33	8	44
	{ Squint	...	...	..	5	...	1
	{ Other Conditions	..	...	...	...	...	...
Ear	{ Defective Hearing	...	...	1	...	...	...
	{ Otitis Media...	...	...	1	...	...	..
	{ Other Ear Disease	...	...	..	...	1	...
Nose and Throat	{ Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	...	...	...	1
	{ Adenoids	...	...	...	...	..	..
	{ Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Other Conditions	...	...	...	4	...	4
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuber.)				...	...	...	...
Defective Speech				...	1	..	...
,, Teeth				30	...	27	...
Heart and Circulation	{ Organic	...	..	...	..	...	1
	{ Functional	...	...	...	...	...	4
	{ Anæmia	..	...	...	...	...	..
Lungs	{ Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Other non-tuber. disease	...	...	...	2	...	1
Tuberculosis	{ Pulmonary :—Definite	...	...	...	..	...	...
		Suspected...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Non-Pulmonary :—Glands	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Spine	...	...	...	...	...
		Hips...	...	...	...	...	..
	{ Other bones and joints	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Skin	...	...	..	...	...	...
	{ Other forms	...	...	..	...	...	..
Nervous System	{ Epilepsy	..	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	..
	{ Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deformities	{ Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Spinal curvature
	{ Other Forms	18	...	20
Other Defect or Disease				...	3	...	9

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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TO: DR. J. K. STILLE
FROM: DR. J. K. STILLE
SUBJECT: REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF 10/10/95
DATE: 10/10/95

Dear Dr. Stille:

I have received your letter of 10/10/95 regarding the
use of the University of Chicago facilities for your
research. I am sorry that I cannot provide you with
the information you need at this time. I will be
in contact with you again in the near future.

Sincerely,
Dr. J. K. Stille