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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

1941

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

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ROCHDALE

E. WRIGLEY & SONS LTD., PRINTERS, ACKER STREET



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For the Year ended 31st December, 1941

**JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.**  
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**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of  
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Tenth Annual Report on the Health Conditions of the Borough and the Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year ending the 31st December, 1941.

In accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health, this Report has been much curtailed. Arrangements have, however, been made for the preservation of the usual statistics, other than in the Report, so that the annual records may be available after the war in a continuous and complete form.

The first portion of the report is statistical in character. The birth-rate again shows an increase as compared with the previous year and is, in addition, above the average for the last ten years. The death-rate shows a definite decrease as compared with last year, but is above the average for the last ten years. The main difference as compared with the previous year was in the reduction of deaths due to Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases.

The infantile mortality rate which had shown a very marked increase in 1940 was reduced considerably, the main reduction being in deaths due to Premature Birth, Diarrhoea and Enteritis. This decrease was partially offset by an increase in the deaths due to Pneumonia.

The year under review recorded a regrettable increase in maternal mortality where seven deaths were registered as compared with two the previous year and one in 1939.

There was some decrease in the general incidence of infectious diseases. Measles continued to be epidemic until the middle of the year, Whooping-Cough increased particularly in the early months of the year, while Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria remained at a steady low level.

Normal working of the Department's Hospital and Clinic Services was maintained throughout the year, the only marked change being the effect of the National Milk and Vitamins Scheme on this section of Child Welfare work.

Certain minor improvements were effected in the equipment of the General Hospital and an Artificial Sunlight Clinic was added to the facilities available to the Child Welfare Services through the good offices of the Rochdale Crippled Children's Union.



The Health Department continued to bear certain routine responsibilities for the Casualty Service in the Air-Raid Precautions Scheme and to these was added the Blood Donors Scheme for this region, which began with a special campaign in July.

Included in the general subjects which occupied the time of the Department were the discussions on War-time Nurseries, Regionalisation of Hospitals and alterations in the Ambulance Service upon which it is hoped to comment further in the next report.

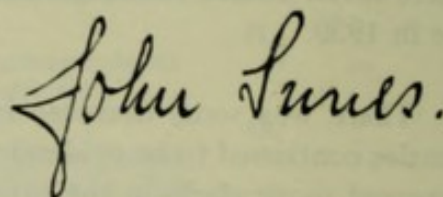
By the end of the year the normal staff of the Office had been seriously depleted by the demands of the Armed Forces and a large number of temporary clerical staff were employed. Under these circumstances I have particular pleasure in acknowledging the loyal support which I have received from the staffs of all Departments and the helpful attitude of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I would also take this opportunity of mentioning the fact that Mr. Schofield, Lay Administrative Officer, during the year completed 40 years service with this Department and Mr. Duncan, Chief Sanitary Inspector, completed 50 years municipal service, 38 of which have been with this Department. I have on many previous occasions acknowledged the valuable help given by these two Officers in the routine work of the Department and the preparation of Annual Reports.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Lums". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,  
14th July, 1942.

# STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1941.

Area (in acres) ... ..	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Civilian Population, mid-year 1941	85,780 X
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931) ... ..	25,487 X
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£2,143
Rateable Value, ... ..	£565,128

	Total	M.	F.
<b>Live Births.</b> —Legitimate	1,061 ...	546 ...	515
Illegitimate	75 ...	38 ...	37
	<u>1,136</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>552</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 13.2

**Still-births 40**—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 35

	Total	M.	F.
<b>Deaths</b> ... ..	1,371 ...	699 ...	672

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 16.0

## Deaths from Maternal Causes 7.

Puerperal Sepsis	2	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	5.92
Other Maternal Causes	5		

## Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	67
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	65
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	93

	No. of Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population	
	1940	1941	1940	1941
Measles .. ..	3	—	0.03	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	6	0.01	0.07
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. ..	18	1	0.21	0.01
Cancer .. ..	192	190	2.20	2.21



**Poor Law Relief.**

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief at the end of December 31st, 1941, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1940, has been kindly supplied by the Director of Social Welfare :—

	1941 Week ending 27-12-41	1940 Week ending 28-12-40
No. of Persons in receipt of Institutional Relief (excluding cases in Mental Hospitals) ... ..	347	361
No. of Persons relieved (excluding non-resident persons and vagrants) ...	784	869
Amount of Out-Relief granted ...	£496 6s. 0d.	£496 15s. 0d.

**National Health Insurance.**

The Clerk to the Insurance Committee has kindly supplied the following information as to the number of insured persons in the Borough and the cost of medicines supplied to the insured population :—

	Year ended Dec. 31st,	
	1941	1940
(1) Total number of Insured Persons in the borough on October 1st ... ..	49,346	51,345
(2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population ... ..	208,850	244,292
(3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population ...	£9,730	£10,324

**Unemployment.**

Figures relating to unemployment in Rochdale are unfortunately not available for publication during the war period.

**VITAL STATISTICS.****Area.**

The area of the Borough is 9,553 acres.

**Population.**

The Census Returns of April, 1931, gave the population as 90,278, and in June, 1938, the Registrar General's estimate was 91,290.

The reduced figure of 85,780 is given by the Registrar General as an estimate of the civilian population to be used for statistical purposes for the year 1941. This is the third special war time estimate of the civilian population, that for 1940 being 86,670. X

**Live Births.**

1,136 live births (males 584, females 552) were registered as compared with 1,072 in the year 1940, and an average of 1,095 for the ten years 1931-1940.

Illegitimate births numbered 75, as against 54 the previous year.

**Still Births.**

40 registered as compared with 52 in 1940, and 50 in the year 1939.

The Live Birth-rate was equal to 13.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 12.4 per 1,000 the previous year, and 11.0 per 1,000 in 1939 which was the lowest birth-rate on record for this Borough. The average birth-rate for the ten years 1931-40 was 12.0 per 1,000.

**Deaths.**

The deaths registered show a decrease with 1,371 (males 699, females 672) as against 1,575 in the year 1940.

The death-rate from all causes was 16.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 18.2 the previous year, and an average of 15.1 during the ten years 1931-40.

The marked increase in deaths during 1940 was due to Bronchitis and other respiratory affections. The toll of these diseases, and of Influenza, was decreased in 1941. In particular there was an absence of the January to March peak so noticeable in 1940.

The chief causes of death are given below in comparison with the previous year.

	Year 1941	Year 1940
Influenza	13	52
Tuberculosis	64	63
Cancer	190	192
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	138	180
Heart Disease	250	276
Other Circulatory Diseases	107	118
Bronchitis	162	219
Pneumonia (all forms)	53	51
Nephritis	44	43
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc.	40	62
TOTAL	<u>1,061</u>	<u>1,256</u>
Percentage of total deaths registered during the year	80.0	77.3

Table II., Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1941, while Table I. gives comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years.



### Infant Mortality.

The year 1939, with 55 infant deaths, had the lowest number on record. The following year showed an increase to 96 deaths, which is the highest figure of infant deaths registered since the year 1929, with 100. This year's figure of 76 deaths, gives a mortality rate of 67 per 1,000 births registered, compared with 89 per 1,000 last year, and an average of 72 during the ten years 1931-40.

As compared with last year there is an increase in deaths due to Pneumonia but a very definite diminution in those due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis and to Premature Birth. Table III, p.p. 32.

### Comparative Mortality and Birth-rates.

	Death-rate All Causes per 1,000 of population	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
ROCHDALE ... ..	16.0	13.2	67
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	14.9	14.7	71
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000) ... ..	13.0	16.4	56
ENGLAND AND WALES	12.9	14.2	59

These provisional figures are corrected only for transfers and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

### Zymotic Diseases.

The principal zymotic diseases (excluding influenza) caused 15 deaths as compared with 30 deaths the previous year, as shown below:—

	Year 1941	Year 1940
Diphtheria ... ..	4	5
Measles ... ..	—	3
Whooping Cough ... ..	6	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	1	18
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	4	3
TOTAL ... ..	15	30

### Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases showed a decrease from 284 to 230, chiefly due to fewer deaths from Bronchitis.

Pneumonia caused 53 deaths, Bronchitis 162 and other respiratory affections 15.

### Cancer.

The arrangement with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of cancer has been continued during the year.

Deaths classified to this cause and shown in age groups below numbered 190 (males 85, females 105) as against 192 the previous year :—

	Total Deaths	under 15 yrs.	15-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
Year 1941	190	-	13	72	105
„ 1940	192	1	10	76	105

The death-rate was 2.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 2.2 in 1940 and 2.1 in 1939.

No special investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease.

## General Provision of Health Services

### Nursing in the Home.

The arrangement with the District Nursing Association for the home nursing of selected cases of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, measles and ophthalmia has been continued and during the year much valuable public health work has been done by the staff of that Association.

255 cases were visited at regular intervals and in the aggregate 4,112 visits were paid to the homes of patients suffering from diseases or conditions coming under one or other of the Local Authority's Schemes. Negotiations were on foot at the end of the year whereby the Health Committee will in future undertake a greater financial responsibility for this section of the District Nursing Association's work.

### Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

There has been no alteration in the scheme for dealing with medical out-relief during the year, but changes will take place at the beginning of 1942.

### Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.

These cases are accommodated at the Birch Hill Institution where 206 beds are provided for this type of case.

### Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service in respect of removals to the Corporation Hospitals is now controlled by the Health Committee.



### Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Arrangements as in 1940.

There are five Centres in connection with maternity and child welfare maintained by the Local Authority, with fourteen sessions each week ; also one centre each in connection with (a) Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis, and (b) School Medical Inspection.

The work in connection with the Corporation clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections of this report.

### Laboratory Facilities.

#### (a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

There has been no alteration in these arrangements. At the Broadfield Laboratory 3,260 examinations were carried out on behalf of this Authority as compared with 4,100 the previous year and 4,268 in the year 1939.

Chemical analysis of water and the examination of milk for tuberculosis and bacterial count, etc., were also carried out at this Laboratory.

Milk—for tuberculosis	...	...	...	105
for bacterial count, B. Coli, and meth. blue reduction test	...	...	...	34
Water	...	...	...	10

#### (b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Specimens from persons suspected to be suffering from venereal diseases examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, numbered 564, as against 594 the previous year. In addition, 320 specimens were examined by the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre.

#### (c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst has examined 126 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts, as against 93 in 1940.

### Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are two dwelling-houses registered as Maternity Homes and two as Nursing Homes for medical and surgical cases :—

59, Boundary Street—one patient }  
62, King Street East—one patient } Maternity.

183, Drake Street—Eight patients—Medical and Surgical.

The Law Nursing Home, Manchester Road—34 patients—Medical.

No adverse reports have been received regarding the conduct of these Nursing Homes.

In a compact area such as Rochdale, there is no possibility of an un-registered Nursing Home being in existence without the knowledge of the Public Health Department.

## Hospitals.

The public and voluntary hospitals services in the district provide 1,052 beds for sick, as shown below :—

### PUBLIC HOSPITALS—

Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical ...	417 beds
do. Maternity ... ..	58 „
Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc.	206 „
Marland Hospital—Infectious Diseases... ..	120 „
Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (females) ... ..	36 „
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (males) ... ..	55 „

### VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS—

Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical) ...	110 „
The Memorial Home—Orthopaedic ... ..	50 „

In addition to this number arrangements have been continued during the year to send selected cases of tuberculosis to various sanatoria, i.e., Stannington, near Morpeth ; Crossley Sanatorium, Delamere ; and the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Three beds are also retained at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital for cases of smallpox which may occur within the Borough.

## The General Hospital, Birch Hill.

This hospital has accommodation for 475 patients, including 417 beds for general medical and surgical and 58 for maternity cases, and serves the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining County districts with a total estimated population of over 123,000.

The year 1941 registers 3,793 patients admitted (excluding infants born in hospital), only 36 less than the previous year's total which was the highest figure recorded for any year since the hospital was taken over by the Corporation in April, 1930. The admissions for the first complete year of 1931, following transfer from the Poor Law Guardians were 2,287.

This hospital is included in the Government's Emergency Hospital Scheme and is available as and when required for accommodating casualties arising during the present war, and patients transferred from other hospitals under this scheme.

The following statistical summary provides an indication of the ever-increasing volume of work done at Birch Hill Hospital.



This increase is most marked in the Maternity section, where 823 women were confined as compared with 590 in 1931, and in the greater number of the patients who are acute rather than chronic patients, i.e., with a duration of stay of four weeks or less. In 1931 this number was 2,063, this year it is 3,381.

	Year 1941	Year 1940
Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital) ... ..	4584	4558
Number of women confined in hospital .....	823	760
Number of live births ... ..	791	729
Number of still-births ... ..	41	49
Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e., under 4 weeks of age) ... ..	26	43
Total number of deaths amongst children under one year	61	85
Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital ... ..	5	4
Total number of deaths ... ..	566	673
Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital) ... ..	3979	3799
Duration of stay of patients—		
(a) Four weeks or less ... ..	3381	3351
(b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks	863	845
(c) Exceeding thirteen weeks ... ..	301	276
Number of beds occupied, average during the year 1941 (highest 433 on 25/2/41, lowest 302 on 16/8/41)	362	364
Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations) ... ..	954	930
Number of abdominal sections ... ..	418	438
Number of pathological and microscopical examinations	1460	2377

There have been no important developments at the Hospital. Difficulties are being met in maintaining an adequate Staff in all sections.

### Dental Work.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Senior Ashworth, Dental Surgeon, at the General Hospital, for the following statement of dental work carried out at the Hospital, Cottage Homes and the adjoining Public Assistance Institution during the year:—

Visits to Birch Hill Hospital...	79
Inspections at Cottage Homes	1
Extractions ... ..	376
Fillings ... ..	41
Scalings and Gum Treatment	23
Crown ... ..	1

“ I attended the Cottage Homes for an Inspection and gave the necessary “ treatment to the children’s teeth, until the children were removed.



" The inmates of the Male and Female Mental Wards have been inspected and received the required dental treatment.

" The treatment given in the Wards and Maternity Block, also the pre-operative dental treatment, has been maintained. I have inspected the children in the Nursery and Pavilion and given the necessary treatment. Several evacuees have received dental treatment as required.

" Orthodontic Appliances and one Crown have been supplied and dentures repaired for certain patients.

" Twenty General Anaesthetics, other than Nitrous Oxide, have been administered by the medical officers for multiple extractions, alveolectomy and cysts."

### **Blood Transfusion Service.**

A special recruiting campaign for donors was held in this district during July, 1941 as a result of which the donor panel was increased to 1,937. This panel is available both for immediate donors at the hospitals and for Blood Bank purposes. The list is now kept at the Public Health Office where arrangements are made for donor Sessions and for fresh donors to be supplied each month to the Rochdale Infirmary and Birch Hill Hospital.

### **Joint Consultative Committee.**

The Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Health Committee and of the Rochdale Infirmary, appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating the hospital services, have continued their regular meetings, and many matters of mutual interest affecting general hospital administration have been discussed.

### **Hospital Recommends.**

The Corporation are able to supply a limited number of " Recommends " for admission to the following institutions :—

- Manchester Royal Eye Hospital ;
- Manchester Royal Infirmary ;
- Rochdale Infirmary ;
- Royal Manchester Children's Hospital ;
- St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester ;
- Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton.

Applications for these " Recommends " should be made to the Public Health Offices and should be accompanied by a medical certificate or written request from the hospital concerned.

### **Marland Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium.**

The work at these institutions is referred to in a later part of this report.



## Maternity and Child Welfare

### Notification of Births Acts, 1907.

There were 1,182 births notified as belonging to Rochdale—1,171 by midwives and 11 by doctors and parents. These figures include 665 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

### Health Visitors.

The six Health Visitors have made 13,415 visits to homes where there are infants and young children, and 288 visits to expectant mothers.

Each Health Visitor is also in regular attendance at the infant welfare centres, and nursery schools.

### Infant Welfare Centres.

The five centres in different parts of the town have continued with their nine weekly sessions.

The total attendances of children of all ages at all Clinics were 25,069 as compared with 25,404 in 1940. This further decrease in attendances is accounted for mainly by the under one year olds, and there, by difficulties in bringing children frequently to the Clinics where so many mothers are working full-time. On the other hand the number who attended for the first time, namely 1,107, was an increase of 120 as compared with last year, the increase being mainly in the under one year old children.

Centre	New Cases admitted during, 1941	Total Attendances of Children			Average Attendance per Clinic Session	No. of Medical examinations by M.O.
		under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs		
(a) Baillie Street * (Wardleworth)	186	2,322	589	696	73 (49)	1,103
(b)*St. Luke's ...	255	3,237	1,019	1,183	111 (47)	1,826
(c)*St. Clement's ...	198	2,687	1,562	1,406	106 (53)	1,641
(d) Baillie Street * (Castleton) ...	259	2,894	860	931	93 (50)	1,408
(e) Castleton ...	129	2,047	1,284	834	86 (48)	879
(f) Norden ...	80	690	360	468	31 (48)	485
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>5,674</b>	<b>5,518</b>	—	<b>7,342</b>
<b>Corresponding Figures 1940 ...</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>14,178</b>	<b>5,563</b>	<b>5,663</b>	—	<b>7,794</b>

\* Two Clinic Sessions per week.



The number of children who attended for the first time and who at the date of their first visit were under one year of age was 882 or 74 per cent. of the notified live births, as against 74 per cent. in 1940.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the School Medical Services Clinic.

The members of the Ladies' Executive Committee and co-opted voluntary helpers have continued to give their time and assistance at the various clinics and in other ways, for which service the Health Committee have recorded their appreciation and thanks.

#### **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.**

We are indebted to the local branch of this society and to their Inspector for their ready and willing co-operation with this department in dealing with cases of neglect, uncleanliness and similar conditions coming within the purview of the Medical Officer and Health Visitors throughout the year.

#### **Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.**

The scheme for the distribution of milk and food preparations free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers, and to children under five years of age was very materially altered by the National Milk Scheme which came into operation in July, 1940. This scheme was later extended to include the distribution of dried milk and of vitamin preparations. The closest contact is maintained between the Maternity and Child Welfare Department and the Milk Office to avoid overlapping and to assist parents and children in every way. The Local Authority's Scheme is now largely confined to special cases. These special cases involved the expenditure of £98 on 64 necessitous families who shared without payment in 5½ cwts. of Dried Milk Food and 620 packets of other preparations such as Virol.

#### **Mid-day Meals.**

No applications were received for the supply of mid-day meals free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers. 188 meals were served during 1940.

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

A great deal of attention has been paid to this scheme during the year and much propaganda has been carried out mainly of an individual character. In particular a special clinic has been established with one Saturday morning session to which parents have been invited to bring or send their children of all ages. The facilities, here and at the other clinics, as well as through the family doctor have been advertised publicly and circulated by means of a personal



letter to the parents of each child on its first birthday. This has resulted in improvement in the immunisation carried out although the position is still far from satisfactory. In 1939, 38 children under five years of age were immunised, in 1940, 261 and this year the number has risen to 864. In addition 585 children over 5 but under 15 years have been immunised under the scheme.

Further mention is made of the scheme in the section dealing with School Medical Services.

#### Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

There are now six clinic sessions each week—four ante-natal clinics at Baillie Street Council School and one at Birch Hill Maternity Home, while one post-natal clinic is held at Baillie Street School.

The number of women attending these clinics is set out in the following summary.

	Rochdale County Borough		County Districts		Total	
	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941
<b>(1) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :</b>						
(Birch Hill and Baillie Street)						
(a) No. of Expectant Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	736	792	183	152	919	944
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	3,628	3,929	809	772	4,437	4,701
(c) Average attendances per clinic session ...	17.5	16.4	3.9	3.2	21.4	19.6
<b>(2) POST-NATAL CLINIC :</b>						
(Baillie Street) :						
(a) No. of Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	175	167	42	49	217	216
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	248	397	56	61	304	458
(c) Average attendance per clinic session ...	5.2	8.6	1.2	1.3	6.3	9.9

The 792 patients who attended for the first time at the Ante-natal Clinics during the year represent 67 per cent. of the total notified live-births and still-births in this Borough as compared with 66 per cent. in the previous year. In following up these patients the Health Visitors paid over 288 home visits.

**X-Ray Facilities.**

The X-Ray facilities at Birch Hill Hospital are available when the Medical Officer desires further information as regards any patient attending the Ante-natal Clinic.

**Consultant Services.**

Dr. K. A. Evans was appointed as Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the maternity services under this Authority as a Part-time Officer, in November, 1940.

**Emergency Maternity Unit.**

This Unit is available at short notice night and day for service within the Borough or adjoining County Districts (Tel. No. 8294, Birch Hill Hospital). This service has not been called on during the year.

**Orthopædic Clinic.**

Children attending the Child Welfare Clinic and requiring expert opinion or treatment are referred to the Smith Street Clinic carried on by the Crippled Children's Union. Dr. Bateman's services in this connection are gratefully acknowledged.

**Maternity Outfits.**

One Outfit was loaned for confinement at home during the year. Sterilised accouchement outfits may be obtained at the Child Welfare Centres at cost price or free in necessitous cases.

**Dental Services.**

The joint arrangement with the School Dental Services has been continued. Dental treatment in the nature of extractions and small fillings necessary for clearing septic conditions was given to 49 mothers and 42 children. In addition 3 necessitous and expectant mothers were supplied with part or full dentures through a dentist of their own choice.

**Medical Assistance.**

Midwives practising on the District requested the services of a medical practitioner in 172 maternity cases and in 33 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 161 and 30 respectively.

In 53 cases the medical fee was paid in whole or part by the Local Authority, amounting in the aggregate to £98 as against £98 the previous year.

**Midwifery Fees.**

The Local Authority pay the midwifery fee in cases where the family circumstances are poor and where there is no maternity benefit available. During the year the fee was paid or allowed in whole or part in 26 cases.



### Maternity Home.

There were 926 maternity cases admitted to Birch Hill Maternity Home, 715 from Rochdale and 211 from surrounding districts, as against 879 in 1940 and 825 in 1939. The actual number of women confined was 823, of which 631 were Rochdale, 173 Lancashire County Area, and 19 from other districts.

### Midwives.

13 midwives gave notice of intention to practice in this Borough; 8 of these are engaged as Municipal Midwives, while the remaining 5 are engaged in private practice. Comparative figures of the year's district midwifery work by Municipal Midwives are given below :—

	Year 1941	Year 1940
Cases attended—as Midwife ... ..	384	360
as Maternity Nurse ... ..	44	39
Visits during lying-in period—as Midwife ...	6,183	5,400
as Maternity Nurse	403	744
Ante-Natal (Home Visits)— ... ..	2,113	2,044
do.                           No. of patients		
concerned ... ..	1,295	1,083
Miscellaneous Visits—Ante-Natal, etc. ... ..	505	499

The 5 midwives in private practice attended 55 cases of midwifery during the past year.

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were reported, all of which were removed to Marland Hospital for treatment. During the previous year seven cases were reported.

### Maternal Mortality.

Seven deaths were registered and classified by the Registrar General as due to puerperal causes, as compared with two the previous year and one in the year 1939. Calculated per 1,000 total births (live and still-births) the mortality rate was 5.92 as against 1.78 per 1,000 in 1940.

The usual reports on these Maternal Deaths continue to be sent to the Ministry of Health after full investigation. One death was that of a woman unfitted for pregnancy, three of women who failed to take advantage of facilities offered, and one was due to self induced abortion. In one case the attendant failed to appreciate the seriousness of the case until much valuable time had been lost, and in the last full use of all facilities failed to avert a fatal termination.

The following figures show the maternal mortality in other towns as compared with Rochdale.

AREA	MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Live and Still Births		
	1941	1940	Average 5 years 1935-39
ROCHDALE ... ..	5.92	1.78	3.15
Average 12 neighbouring manufacturing towns ...	3.26	4.27	4.40
Administrative County of Lancaster ... ..	3.27	3.40	4.41
England and Wales ...	2.23	2.16	3.29

#### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Thirteen cases reported as against seven cases the previous year and four cases in 1939. All the cases in 1941 made a good recovery with vision unimpaired.

#### **Child Life Protections.**

On the 31st December, 1941, there were 20 persons registered as receiving children for reward. The number of children concerned was 21.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area**

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

#### **Water Supply.**

There have been no new sources of public water supply or any important extensions of mains, nor has it been found necessary to take action in respect of any special form of contamination. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of samples of water taken from each of the reservoirs and from consumers' taps supplied from these reservoirs are made at least at quarterly intervals and have been found consistently satisfactory. The water is also chlorinated as a wartime measure.

#### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

An extension scheme at the Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works is in course of construction. Structural work for the Activated Sludge Plant is nearing completion; other units incorporated in the scheme are already working. When the scheme is finished, the works will be completely modernised with Detritus Chambers, Screen, Sedimentation Tanks, etc. Most of the machinery required has been purchased and much of it already delivered.



### Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are primarily responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in this area and any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor are reported to the Board for attention. The Trade Waste from Messrs. Highams Ltd., Sudden Mills, Rochdale, commenced to be discharged into the Corporation Sewers under agreement in July, 1941.

### Public Cleansing.

Innovations during the year were the separate collection of Kitchen Waste from more than 1,200 communal bins in the borough, the reception of similar material from the borough of Middleton, and the urban districts of Littleborough, Ramsbottom, Royton and Whitworth, and its conversion to food for pigs and poultry in the organic by-products plant already existing.

Otherwise the arrangements for public cleansing remained substantially as before.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

680 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 37 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and for the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below.

The statement also includes works carried out at factories and food storage premises etc. following the service of preliminary notices but excludes work carried out under the Housing Acts.

NATURE OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH	Nos.
<b>HOUSES—</b>	
Verminous dwellings disinfested ... ..	46
Dirty Houses limewashed or cleansed ... ..	25
Repairs to roofs, floors, walls, eavestroughing, rainwater pipes, chimneys, and general repairs to brickwork or stonework (including dampness) and repair or renewal of house fittings...	689
<b>YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—</b>	
Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc. ... ..	31
Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed ... ..	31
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES—</b>	
Water-closet buildings repaired ... ..	22
Pail closets and water-closets cleansed ... ..	2
Water Closet fittings repaired ... ..	98
<b>DRAINS—</b>	
Main or branch drains repaired or cleared ... ..	82
<b>GENERAL—</b>	
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied ... ..	6

## DEFECTS AT PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OR STORAGE OF FOOD.

	Nos.
The use of dirty utensils, receptacles or fittings ... ..	1
Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises ... ..	112

## DEFECTS AT FACTORIES OR WORKPLACES.

	Nos.
Absence of, or unsatisfactory condition of sanitary accommodation ...	22

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

During the year 357 visits were made to premises regarding which complaints had been received under the above Act. One part-time rat-catcher is employed by the Department and the number of rats caught was approximately 415. The premises dealt with include slaughter-houses, dwelling-houses, shops and warehouses on which 1,990 rat-baits, 31 tins of rat-lime, and 53 tubes of poison were used.

**Shops Acts, 1912 and 1934.**

No notices under these Acts were issued during 1941.

**Offensive Trades.**

The number of premises at which these trades are carried on in the Borough is as follows :—

Tripe boiling ... ..	1
Gut scraping ... ..	1
Fellmongering ... ..	1
Knackers yard (bone boiling) ... ..	1
Rag and Bone Dealers ... ..	8

These premises have been visited regularly during the year.

**Closet Accommodation.**

The approximate accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1941, was as follows :—

Fresh-water carriage system ... ..	25,799
Pail Closets ... ..	1,599
Waste-water Closets ... ..	1,673
Privy Middens ... ..	40

The following shows the progress of the work of conversion of pail to water closets and also details of pail closet accommodation in December, 1941 :—



**TABLE I.**  
PROGRESS OF CONVERSION WORK FROM COMMENCEMENT.

Period	Conversions	Additional Closets Installed	Total
1911—1920 ... ..	2713	209	2922
1921—1930 ... ..	7925	1360	9285
1931—1940 ... ..	1490	393	1883
1941 ... ..	14	4	18
Totals ...	12142	1966	14108

One pail closet which was not needed was abolished during 1941.

**TABLE II.**  
PAIL CLOSET ACCOMMODATION REMAINING DECEMBER 31st, 1941.

Class	Total	No sewer avail- able	Sewer unsuit- able	Scheduled in "Five Year Plan"	Remaining to be dealt with
Dwellings—Joint ...	627	148	22	435	22
Separate...	476	175	95	143	63
Churches, etc. ...	69	57	2	—	10
Factories, Shops, etc.	307	122	117	—	68
Clubs ... ..	59	53	—	—	6
Licensed Premises ...	5	5	—	—	—
Farms ... ..	56	54	—	2	—
TOTALS ... ..	1599	614	236	580	169

No. of premises concerned :—

Farms ... ..	56	Schools and Churches ...	17
Licensed premises ...	2	Clubs ... ..	22
Workshops ... ..	81		

Four new pail closets were installed during 1941 at premises where no sewer is available.

**TABLE III.**  
PROGRESS OF WASTE WATER CLOSET CONVERSION.

Period	Converted	Additional	Total
To end of 1940 ... ..	541	8	549
1941 ... ..	52	—	52
TOTAL ... ..	593	8	601

One W.W.C. was abolished in 1938 and one in 1939.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.****Retail Bakehouses.**

The number of bakehouses now on the Register is 179. These have been regularly inspected, and cleansing and limewashing have been carried out after intimation by the Inspectors in 88 cases.

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained and it has not been found necessary to issue any notices in this respect.

**Workshops.**

598 inspections of workshops have been carried out during the year.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

In accordance with the instructions of the Government the work of smoke abatement was discontinued in April, 1940.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

There are 10 of these premises registered comprising 62 rooms and providing accommodation for 644 male persons.

Regular visits of inspection are paid to these premises and it has been found that with few exceptions they are conducted in a satisfactory manner—only one informal notice being served during the year. Some of the premises are considered not to be in all respects in accordance with modern standards.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There were 103 farms on the register at the end of 1941. These were visited regularly by the Dairies Inspector.

**Milkshops.**

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 223 while the number retailing unbottled milk is 4. With the exception of two, these are registered dairies. All the premises have been inspected regularly during the year.

**Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation of and Sale of Foodstuffs.**

During the year 1,915 visits have been made to this type of premises.

**Rochdale Corporation Act, 1937.**

This Act deals with the registration of premises for the preparation and sale of various foodstuffs. No premises were registered under the provisions of the Act during the year.



**Meat and Food Supply.**

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for sale, and over 34 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human food.

**MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1915.****MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.****Tuberculous Milk.**

During the year 102 samples of milk have been taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. These samples represented the milk of about 1,600 cows and were taken in batches monthly. Of the samples 63 were from Rochdale Borough farmers and 39 from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be tubercular was :—

From Rochdale Farmers	...	...	...	...	—	Nil
From County Farmers	...	...	...	...	1	(2.6%)

In connection with the positive sample the necessary steps in respect of the infected animal were taken by the Ministry of Agriculture under the revised arrangement which came into force on April 1st, 1938.

**PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The chief infectious diseases showed a reduction in incidence as compared with 1940. The total was still above the average for the preceding five years. The Measles epidemic continued during the first six months of the year. There was an increased incidence of Whooping Cough and Measles in the first three months of the year. In the case of both Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever there was no tendency to epidemic proportions during the year, a more or less steady level being maintained.

The notification of the various diseases totalled 1,921 as against 1,943 the previous year and an average of 859 during the five years 1935-1939. Comparative figures are given in the following summary :—

	1941	1940	1935-39
Scarlet Fever	142	218	155
Diphtheria	87	83	100
Tuberculosis	131	114	108
Pneumonia	43	26	48
Whooping Cough	416	166	56
Chicken-pox	88	229	112
Measles	941	1047	232
Other Diseases	45	48	46
C.S.Meningitis	28	12	2
	1921	1943	859

### Marland Hospital.

There were 507 cases admitted to this Hospital which together with 39 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1940, make 546 cases treated during the year, as compared with 548 the previous year. The case mortality was 4.2 per cent. of the cases treated as against 2.6 per cent. the previous year. The increase in case mortality was due to deaths from Diphtheria and a definite increase in those from Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

A summary of the cases admitted to Hospital is given below :—

DISEASE	In Hospital on 31st December 1940	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of Year 1941	Ages of Patients Admitted		
						Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever ... ..	23	210	214	...	19	42	143	25
Diphtheria ... ..	14	141	125	10	20	30	81	30
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	4	4	...	...	...	3	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ... ..	2	52	42	8	4	12	13	27
Measles ... ..	...	3	3	...	...	1	1	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	...	22	13	3	6	...	...	22
Erysipelas ... ..	...	9	8	...	1	...	...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	9	8	1	...	...	...	9
Other Diseases ... ..	...	12	9	1	2	6	1	5
Chicken Pox ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Scabies ... ..	...	44	44	...	...	7	27	10
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>139</b>

### Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarlatina, Meningococcal and Erysipelas Sera are distributed on behalf of the Department, from the Broadfield Pathological Laboratory to medical practitioners for use within the Borough. Outside Laboratory hours, supplies are available at Marland Hospital.

### (B) TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 127 cases of tuberculosis notified as against 114 the previous year and 103 in the year 1939, and an average of 107 during the five years, 1934-38.

In addition 13 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary cases came to the knowledge of the department for the first time other than by notification. Of these 4 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary cases were reported after death and 9 pulmonary cases were transferred from other areas.



Comparative figures are given below :—

Average 5 year periods	NOTIFICATIONS		
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Total
1913—17	184	108	292
1923—27	85	40	125
1933—37	81	26	107
1938	89	27	116
1939	81	22	103
1940	82	32	114
1941	101	26	127

The 127 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease, are arranged in the summary below :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 years	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
5—15 "	10	6	4	6	...	...	4	1
15—25 "	10	14	...	4	} 16	12	1	2
25—35 "	9	9	3	...				
35—45 "	12	3	1	1	} 13	6	1	1
45—55 "	9	3	2	1				
55—65 "	8	3	...	2				
65 years and over	2	1	...	...	5	1	...	...
TOTAL	62	39	11	15	34	19	7	4
1940	45	37	15	17	27	24	10	2

#### Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three clinic sessions have been held weekly and the number of new cases examined as suspected tuberculosis was 416 as against 346 the previous year.

The result of the examinations showed 91, or 21.9 per cent., were suffering from some form of tuberculosis, chiefly tuberculosis of the respiratory system, as against 119, or 34.4 per cent., in 1940.

In addition 247 men were examined by the Medical Officer chiefly under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Silicosis Scheme.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in the summary below.

	1941	1940
Number of New Cases examined ... ..	416	346
Total Number of Attendances of Patients ... ..	2,373	2,405
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1941—Highest 35 Lowest 4) ... ..	16	16
Number of Contacts examined ... ..	113	113
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year ...	230	600
Personal and other Consultations by Tuberculosis Officer ... ..	1,124	748
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses ... ..	2,440	2,204
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary ... ..	5	2
Year 1941—(Negative 3) ... ..		
X-Ray Examinations ... ..	294	195

### Financial and Other Assistance.

Necessitous cases of tuberculosis were assisted in various ways during the year :—

	1941	1940
(a) Clothing and footgear provided ... ..	7	18
(b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc. ...	21	30
(c) House rent paid from a special Fund during residence of patient in Sanatorium ... ..	6	11
(d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing—Loans ... ..	4	2
(e) Sets of Dentures provided ... ..	3	3

On the general question of house accommodation for families where a member is suffering from tuberculosis, a Joint Committee of the Health and Housing Committee has decided to give preference where possible to the tenancy of a Corporation dwelling-house.



### Residential Treatment.

There were 52 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1940, and during the year 102 other patients (55 males, 47 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

Institutions	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1940	Admissions			Discharged during 1941	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1941
		Total	Males	Females			
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital .....	14	34	34	...	22	14	12
Springfield Sanatorium	17	19	...	19	18	6	12
Stannington Sanatorium	7	9	7	2	12	...	4
Memorial Home, Norden	7	12	7	5	12	...	7
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	7	17	5	12	20	2	2
Other Sanatoria .....	...	11	2	9	2	2	7
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>52</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>

### Springfield Sanatorium.

This institution, situated adjoining Springfield Park, provides accommodation for 36 female patients, one half of which is reserved for women patients residing in the area of the Lancashire County Council. In addition to 19 Rochdale patients admitted there were 22 patients admitted from the County and other Areas, making 41 in total, as against 60 the previous year.

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

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk or dairy trade who are suffering from tuberculosis, while the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No occasion has arisen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

### (C) VENEREAL DISEASES.

No change has taken place in the clinic arrangements for dealing with this disease. There were 469 cases (278 males and 191 females) dealt with during the year, as against 493 in 1940. The number of new cases was 204 which is much below the average for previous years.

The following summary gives the number of cases dealt with during the past three years :—

	Year	1941	1940	1939
1. No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year ... ..		255	255	287
2. No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection ... ..		4	4	—
3. No. of cases who have had previous treatment...		6	8	7
4. No. of new cases ... ..		204	226	306
Total cases dealt with ... ..		469	493	600
5. Total attendances—For attention of Medical Officer		5,843	5,976	7,525
For irrigation, dressing, etc.		5,764	5,330	5,979
6. No. who ceased to attend—				
(a) Before completion of treatment ...		40	38	71
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure ... ..		34	14	36
7. No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal ... ..		187	177	214

### Pathological Exams.

The arrangements with the Broadfield Laboratory and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens examined at the Laboratories number 374 as compared with 442 the previous year.



TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1941,  
and previous years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	LIVE BIRTHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett		Under 1 year of age		At All Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population
1931	91,160	1151	12.6	76	66	1369	15.0
1932	90,550	1135	12.5	82	72	1273	14.1
1933	91,340	1044	11.4	93	89	1371	15.0
1934	94,450	1170	12.4	91	78	1376	14.6
1935	94,100	1094	11.6	93	85	1311	13.9
1936	93,250	1096	11.8	76	69	1408	15.1
1937	91,940	1093	11.9	58	53	1415	15.4
1938	91,290	1096	12.0	69	63	1271	13.9
1939	*90,300	997	11.0	55	55	1322	14.7
1940	†86,670	1072	12.4	96	89	1575	18.2
Average for years 1931-1940	91,505	1095	12.0	79	72	1369	15.1
1941	†85,780	1136	13.2	76	67	1371	16.0

\* Estimated Population for Birth-rate. The corresponding figure for Death-rate is 89,830.

† .. Civilian Population

TABLE II.  
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.  
Year 1941.

	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
<b>ALL CAUSES</b> ... Males ...	699	40	15	11	85	206	342
... Females	672	36	5	9	72	168	382
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	...	...	1	1	1	1
3—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Whooping Cough	6	3	3	...	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria	4	...	1	3	...	...	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	53	...	...	...	28	19	6
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	11	...	1	5	3	2	...
8—Syphilitic Disease	13	2	...	...	2	6	3
9—Influenza	13	...	...	...	4	4	5
10—Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12—Acute Infectious Encephalitis	5	...	...	...	3	1	1
13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	7	...	...	...	...	1	6
Cancer of Uterus	14	...	...	...	...	10	4
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	42	...	...	...	2	11	29
15—Cancer of Breast	27	...	...	...	1	16	10
16—Cancer of all other sites	100	...	...	...	10	34	56
17—Diabetes	10	...	...	...	2	3	5
18—Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	138	...	...	...	2	36	100
19—Heart Disease	250	...	...	...	11	72	167
20—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	107	...	...	...	2	10	95
21—Bronchitis	162	4	1	...	9	41	107
22—Pneumonia	53	20	6	1	2	10	14
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	15	...	...	...	3	9	3
24—Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	13	...	...	...	5	5	3
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
26—Appendicitis	6	...	1	...	3	...	2
27—Other Digestive Diseases	44	4	...	...	5	18	17
28—Nephritis	44	...	...	...	7	23	14
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes	5	...	...	...	5	...	...
31—Premature Birth	24	24	...	...	...	...	...
32—Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	16	15	1	...	...	...	...
33—Suicide	12	...	...	...	5	4	3
34—Road Traffic Accidents	24	...	...	5	9	9	1
35—Other Violent Causes	39	2	4	2	10	9	12
36—All Other Causes	107	1	2	3	21	20	60



TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under one year of age—Year 1941.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH					Total Deaths under 1 year	
	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1941	1940
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	2	1	...	...	3	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	2	2	...	4	2
Pneumonia ... ..	1	8	7	4	...	20	9
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	1	16
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	...	1	3	...	...	4	3
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc. ... ..	11	4	...	...	...	15	19
Premature Birth ... ..	19	5	...	...	...	24	41
Violence ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	2	2
Other Causes ... ..	1	...	2	...	...	3	3
ALL CAUSES ... ..	32	22	16	6	...	76	96

Nett Live Births in the year :—Legitimate 1,061 ; Illegitimate 75.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 69 ; Illegitimate infants 7.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHESTER

# REPORT

ON THE

## MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.



## COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

**To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1941 being the Thirty-fourth Report on the work of the School Medical Service. In accordance with the particular request of the Board of Education it is very much curtailed.

### Staff.

The medical and nursing staffs remain unchanged, but one of the School Dental Officers has been called up for service with H.M. Forces.

### School Premises

Milkstone Infant School was closed during 1941, otherwise all school buildings are in use.

### ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

During 1941, 21 Elementary Schools, the Girls' Central School and both the Boys' and Girls' High Schools have been inspected. The Open Air School has, as usual, been visited once weekly during term time.

**Total Inspections** during the year by the Medical Officer.

	1941	1940
Routine Inspections		
at Elementary Schools ... ..	2,524	2,488
at Secondary Schools ... ..	358	172
Special Inspections ... ..	322	66
Re-inspections ... ..	304	331
Inspections at Open Air School ... ..	2,590	2,457
Special Inspections at Clinic ... ..	1,987	1,992
Re-inspections ... ..	3,365	4,311
	11,450	11,817
Cases seen by Ophthalmologist ... ..	560	501



The practice of examining every child in school was abandoned after each school had been once so inspected, as each inspection took up so much more time, that it was impossible to visit the schools as frequently as was felt to be desirable.

Uncleanliness and scabies have increased during the year as was expected. Only the worst cases of scabies with secondary infection can be accommodated in the Municipal Hospital. A few whole families were treated at the Isolation Hospital during that part of the year when the incidence of other infectious disease was at its lowest. Since the home treatment of scabies is extremely unsatisfactory and protracted, arrangements are being made to use part of the gas decontamination premises as Cleansing Centres, and this work is to be done by the permanent staff of Centres under the supervision of the Public Health Staff. There is close co-operation between the Education Office Staff, and the various branches of the Public Health department on all matters of uncleanliness and lack of hygiene, especially verminous infestation.

It cannot be said that there is any increase in definite malnutrition among school children, but many cases have been seen during the winter 1941-42 which could be described as in the first stages of malnutrition, or as a pre-scurvy state. The skins of such children do not seem to offer the resistance to germ infection that they formerly did, and the number of indefinite rashes with low-grade chronic infection, is increasing. A frequent complaint from the parents of these children is that "they are missing their fruit" and further enquiry shows that in spite of all the excellent propaganda of the Ministry of Food, large numbers of the less intelligent parents have made no attempt whatever to use such readily available fresh foods as cress, raw grated vegetables, etc., to take the place of fruit. Much of the Medical Officer's time at interviews with parents is spent in advising a modified "Oslo" meal once a day. Unfortunately, we do not seem able as yet to supply this kind of meal through the School Meals Service (except to the relatively small number of children attending the Open Air School) because of the time required for the preparation of such meals. Lack of fresh air, partly due to the poor ventilation of many homes during the black-out, probably also plays its part in this condition of avitaminosis.

With the increasing absorption of married women into industry, the care of the sick child is a constant problem. It is a frequent occurrence for an ill child to be sent to the Clinic from school, the condition having been ignored or un-noticed by the mother before she left for work. When the parents cannot be located, and no friendly neighbour or relative is at hand, the child has to be retained in school though unfit, when the alternative is solitude in a fireless home. The obvious "hospital case" is simple to deal with. The problem is at its worst during those frequent febrile attacks of childhood where it is impossible to say whether the child will be perfectly well, or gravely ill, by the next morning.



### **Uncleanliness.**

The nurses made 12,965 cleanliness inspections during 1941, and found 85% clean and 15% unclean. (The figures for 1940 were 88.9 and 11.1). The reasons given for this deterioration are as stated in the 1940 report. Towards the end of the year it was decided to take legal action against such parents as did not cleanse their children's heads after full instructions had been given and ample time allowed, including a week-end so that the cleansing can be done in daylight. Eight such parents were prosecuted under the Attendance Bye-laws and a conviction and a fine resulted in each case. It is the Committee's policy at present to continue prosecutions in such cases.

### **Minor Ailment Clinic.**

There was a total of 11,603 attendances during 1941, an increase of 1,878 on the previous year, and including 4,115 individual cases. This clinic is very crowded. 127 of the cases were of external eye disease and 534 were impetigo.

### **Defective vision.**

The Ophthalmologist held 39 clinics and 560 refractions were done, 23 being for pre-school children.

## **DENTAL REPORT.**

The following Annual Dental Report is submitted by Mr. A. C. Walker, L.D.S., Dental Officer.

During the year 49 school departments have been visited once, and 17 of these have been visited twice for routine dental inspection, the total number inspected being 9,480. Of these, 4,620 were referred for treatment, the number actually treated being 2,988 including "Specials." Fillings numbered 2,891 and extractions 4,168.

In August of this year the School Dental Service was partially curtailed by Mr. H. P. Gledsdale being called to the Service of H. M. Army Dental Corps.

In the hope that his services might be replaced by the appointment of a temporary dental officer, no re-organisation of the existing service was made, except that for the time being "Specials" from all schools were referred to the Central Clinic at Baillie Street for treatment.

The temporary cessation of routine inspection and treatment caused by the above circumstances has affected chiefly the outlying schools, which were controlled by Mr. Gledsdale. His absence from the service during the past five months has brought about a corresponding decrease in the number of children treated.

I have, this year, endeavoured to make observations for signs of nutritional deficiency on the state of the teeth, due to war conditions. Without clinical investigation of standards of nutrition, it is impossible to come to absolute conclusions. There does not, however, appear to be any correlation of the incidence of caries and children's war-time nutrition. For example, one might expect an increase in cases of gingivitis due to the possible deficiency of Vitamin C. in our present diet, but I have met no evidence of this in children, whilst it does not seem that carious teeth, in themselves, should be regarded as evidence of faulty nutrition.

Children attending those schools, where routine dental inspection and treatment is given at frequent and regular intervals, have maintained a high level of attendances at the Clinic, and to this extent a healthy dental condition has been maintained.

#### Work of the School Nurses.

	1941	1940
Dressings, etc., at morning clinics ... ..	6,461	9,725
Cleanliness inspections ... ..	12,965	12,432
Inspections with medical officer—		
at schools ... ..	2,664	3,057
at clinic ... ..	6,037	2,118
Cases at Refraction Clinic ... ..	560	554
Open Air School Inspections ... ..	2,590	2,435
Home Visits ... ..	405	457
	31,682	30,778
	31,682	30,778

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases have been notified among school children :—

	1941	1940
Scarlet Fever ... ..	84	152
Diphtheria ... ..	42	35
Measles ... ..	885	581
German Measles ... ..	8	—
Whooping-cough ... ..	335	55
Chicken-pox ... ..	78	226
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	6	2
	1,438	1,051
	1,438	1,051



### Diphtheria Immunisation.

In May a regular immunisation clinic was started on Saturday mornings at the School Clinic. This clinic was advertised in the press and publicised at the schools. The response was most satisfactory and 775 children received a complete immunisation during the remaining months of the year, (two injections of A.P.T. .3 and .5 cc. respectively).

### The Day Open-Air School.

The school has been full all the year (120 on the register) and the children have as usual progressed very satisfactorily. Those with severe asthma and bronchitis, the most pathetic of all our cases, have frequently to be regarded as "visitors" only during the severest months when fog and snow make their regular attendance impossible.

87 children were discharged during 1941, 24 of whom were full time. The cases discharged had been admitted for the following defects:—

	Boys.	Girls.
	—	—
Rheumatism ... ..	2	2
Bronchiectasis ... ..	—	1
Psoriasis ... ..	—	1
Recurrent Ischio Rect. abscess ... ..	1	—
Malnutrition ... ..	4	4
Pre- and Post-Tuberculosis ... ..	10	10
Heart Disease ... ..	1	1
Nervous Conditions ... ..	7	10
Non-Tubercular Affections of the Chest ... ..	7	2
Orthopædic Defects ... ..	—	2
Anaemia and Debility ... ..	13	7
Observation ..... ..	1	1
	—	—
	46	41
	—	—

## NURSERY SCHOOLS.

REPORT BY DR. G. MONTGOMERY.

The four Nursery Schools have been in full operation throughout the year.

The attendances were adversely affected during the months of January to March owing to the general prevalence in the town of German Measles, Mumps and Whooping-cough.

Towards the end of the year the Nursery Schools began accepting 100 on the register with the idea of maintaining the numbers approximately at 80, the previous full complement at each school.



The practice of having the mothers in attendance at the Medical examinations has continued at three Nursery Schools, thus necessitating much longer time over each Medical Inspection.

This year the chief problem on which we made a concerted attack was that of Vermin infestation. Each Health Visitor now makes three periodical inspections of all heads during the year. At the Medical examinations when the mother is present the importance of clean heads is stressed, and advice given if nits are present. The Health Visitors carry out three annual inspections of all children, and a weekly inspection of new children, paying particular attention to the heads.

The first time a tactful verbal message is given to the parents of the presence of nits, and general advice is offered. If no notice is taken a card signed by the Medical Officer is sent. Should the child continue to appear with nits a blue form with a peremptory statement is issued.

The Head-Mistress inspects all the children with dirty heads every morning. This too, has a beneficial effect for the children inform their parents of the procedure, and so they become aware of the increased vigilance. For the most part the mothers are sensitive about dirty heads, and once the condition is pointed out to them they do strive to combat it.

Special consideration has been given to the needs of these growing children, and they have been allowed quite adequate supplies of the body building foods. They have been given well-balanced meals necessary for securing their growth, and maintaining their health.

The protective foods have been somewhat of a problem, but in place of fruit it has become the practice in all the Nursery Schools to give carrots, celery, lettuce, cabbage, swedes, etc., instead of the erstwhile orange and apple. The greens are chopped up finely or minced, and either mixed or sprinkled on the dinner meal. All the children, even the two year old age group, soon get accustomed to the new diet. After a meal, carrot, turnip or celery are given in season, and so the protective foods are ensured. Dried fruits have been obtainable at intervals, particularly dried apple rings and also tinned oranges, and uncooked raisins. Marmite is incorporated in the diet at all schools.

One school, very proud of the achievement, has even succeeded in growing a few vegetables in its own garden, thus adding to the children's interest in the diet, and ensuring vegetables with no loss of Vitamin due to storage and cartage.

Each Health Visitor has attended her Nursery School weekly, and has been available for advice at all times.

The Medical Officer has carried out Medical inspections each month in term time. In an emergency the Head-Mistress has communicated direct with the Medical Officer, and has at times sent the child down to the Minor Ailments Clinic for doubtful skin conditions and minor injuries.



The various specialist services have continued to be available. Dr. Bateman expressed his desire to see even the minor orthopaedic defects so that the condition may be watched, and remedial treatment instituted where necessary.

Two children, because of general unsatisfactory health, were granted leave to remain at school beyond the 5 year period.

This year in the Autumn, there was an unusual incidence of Urticaria which was persistent and troublesome.

The value of the Nursery Schools as foci of Health Propaganda is occasionally brought to the notice of the Head Mistresses. Children "acquire" the habit of the mid-day rest and ask for it when at home on holiday or in convalescence. Similarly with the habits of hygiene—cleaning of teeth, washing of hands before meals etc. These habits are continued as a matter of course in the home.

The Mothers' Clubs have had a successful year, and much good work has been done. Informal and formal talks have been given, notably the one by Miss Bavin of the Child Guidance Clinic to a combined group of Mothers on the psychological approach to the child.

The Domestic Science teachers have kindly given of their time by arranging in the evening a few Cookery Demonstrations. An Open Day was inaugurated at one school to permit of the Mothers seeing the school in full operation.

Some of the fathers have been taking a keen interest in the affairs of the Nursery Schools, and have been helpful in making and mending toys.

### Speech Clinic.

Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1940 ... ..	60
Number of cases referred during 1941 ... ..	92
	<hr/>
	152
Discharged during the year, after treatment ... ..	31
Not requiring treatment ... ..	13
Refused treatment ... ..	2
	<hr/>
	46
Remaining on register at 31st December, 1941 ... ..	106
	<hr/>

Of these 106 cases :—57 are receiving treatment ;  
 28 have been seen and are awaiting treatment ;  
 21 have not yet been seen.

### Speech Training Class.

After two and a quarter years of highly successful work, our Speech Therapist left us in December 1941 for another appointment, leaving about 100 children still in need of treatment. Steps are to be taken to appoint a successor to Miss Pollitt whose work is recorded in the above figures.

### Periodical Weighing of Children.

At three of our largest schools, the children have been weighed at six monthly intervals by the school nurses, and the results were as follows :—

Children weighed	...	...	...	...	...	3312
No. who had gained weight	...	...	...	...	...	95.5%
No. who had lost weight	...	...	...	...	...	4.5%

In all cases where there was a loss, enquiry was made into the reason, and action taken if necessary. Most had had a recent illness, and in no single case was shortage of food considered to be the reason for the loss.

### The Child Guidance Clinic.

In September 1941 a Child Guidance Clinic was set up in Rochdale at the expense (for its first six months) of the Central Association for Mental Welfare. By the end of the year suitable premises had not been secured, but work had been started in temporary premises at the Tuberculosis Clinic. The Clinic staff consists of a Psychiatrist, a Psychologist, and a visitor, and by the end of December reports had been received on six cases from the waiting list.

### The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Altogether 164 children received operative and one received another form of treatment at Dr. Cammock's Clinic during the year, as compared with 186 in 1940, and 265 in 1939. A total of 397 children were referred to this clinic during the year.

### The Orthopædic Clinic.

During 1941, 149 new cases were referred to this Clinic. They included :—

Torticollis	...	...	...	2
Verruca...	...	...	...	28
Ganglion	...	...	...	5
Kyphosis	...	...	...	17
Little's Disease	...	...	...	1
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	1
Hemiplegia	...	...	...	2
Osteomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Talipes	...	...	...	1
Foot Deformities	...	...	...	57
Postural Defects other than above	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	28



### In-Patient Treatment of Debility.

Apart from the orthopaedic cases during the year, Dr. Bateman has examined and admitted to the Memorial Home for treatment, 21 children suffering from severe debility. All were greatly improved in health.

### Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

The Department is again grateful to the N.S.P.C.C., the St. Anne's Convalescent Home and the Moorland Home, who have been of great assistance.

### Clog Fund.

The Head Teachers' Clog Fund has provided 119 new pairs of clogs for poor children during 1941.

### Employment of Children and Young Persons.

A large number of children are doing part-time work and 159 were medically examined during 1941 prior to taking up such employment.

## PROVISION OF MEALS.

During 1941, 99,279 free dinners have been supplied to a daily average of 390 children.

### Cost of Medical Inspection.

The costs of this department from April 1st, 1940 to March 31st, 1941, were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries ... ..	2889	2	4
Printing, Stationery and Postage ... ..	68	2	5
Drugs, Materials, Apparatus, Spectacles ... ..	499	3	11
Hospitals, Nursing Associations, etc. ... ..	866	14	1
Travelling ... ..	23	17	7
Rent ... ..	350	0	10
Upkeep of Premises ... ..	120	17	2
Fuel, Light and Cleaning ... ..	60	7	4
Conveyance of Children ... ..	97	10	2
	<hr/>		
	4975	15	10
Recovered from Parents ... ..	207	17	2

I have to acknowledge the good work performed throughout the year by the Medical and Nursing Staff and in particular the assistance of Dr. Mills in the preparation of this report.

This department is indebted to the Schools Medical Services Sectional Committee and to the Director of Education for much help and encouragement.

*John Jones*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,  
ROCHDALE.  
20/7/42.

Medical Officer of Health and  
School Medical Officer.

TABLE II  
Classification of the treatment of children reported during the year  
in the various age-groups - 1941-42

Age Group	Number of children		Number of children		Total
	Reported	Treated	Reported	Treated	
0-4	10	10	10	10	20
5-9	20	20	20	20	40
10-14	30	30	30	30	60
15-19	40	40	40	40	80
20-24	50	50	50	50	100
25-29	60	60	60	60	120
30-34	70	70	70	70	140
35-39	80	80	80	80	160
40-44	90	90	90	90	180
45-49	100	100	100	100	200
50-54	110	110	110	110	220
55-59	120	120	120	120	240
60-64	130	130	130	130	260
65-69	140	140	140	140	280
70-74	150	150	150	150	300
75-79	160	160	160	160	320
80-84	170	170	170	170	340
85-89	180	180	180	180	360
90-94	190	190	190	190	380
95-99	200	200	200	200	400
Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000



TABLE I.

**Medical Inspection and Treatment Returns**

**Year ended 31st December, 1941.**

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—										
Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,424
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,240
<hr/>										
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,664
Number of other Routine Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
<hr/>										
										2,684

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,041
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

TABLE II.

**Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year  
in the routine age-groups**

Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2684	222	14	2335	82.9	126	4.7	1	.07

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under  
the Authority's Scheme : 4,115.

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

Defect or Disease  (1)	Number of Defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Errors of Refractions including Squint ... ..	560	—	560
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ... ..	—	—	—
Total ... ..	560	—	560

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed:—

Under the Authority's Scheme ... .. 484

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles:—

Under the Authority's Scheme ... .. 463

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

Number of Defects receiving Operative Treatment:—

Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital ... .. 150

Total Number Treated ... .. 150

**TABLE IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.**

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist—

(a) Routine Age Groups	5.....	752
	6.....	811
	7.....	860
	8.....	927
	9.....	1000
	10.....	977
	11.....	1001
	12.....	880
	13.....	1154
	14.....	259

Grand Total ..... 8621

(b) Specials ... .. 853

(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials) ... .. 9474



(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...	4620
(3) Number actually treated...	...	...	...	...	...	2988
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment...	...	...	...	...	...	3685
(5) Half-days devoted to—						
Inspection	...	89				
Treatment	...	590	Total	...	...	679
(6) Fillings—						
Permanent teeth	...	2798				
Temporary teeth	...	93	Total	...	...	2891
(7) Extractions—						
Permanent teeth	...	539				
Temporary teeth	...	3629	Total	...	...	4168
(8) Administrations of General anaesthetics for extractions	...	...	...	...	...	—
(9) Other operations	...					
Permanent teeth	...	565				
Temporary teeth	...	214	Total	...	...	779

**TABLE V.—Verminous Conditions.**

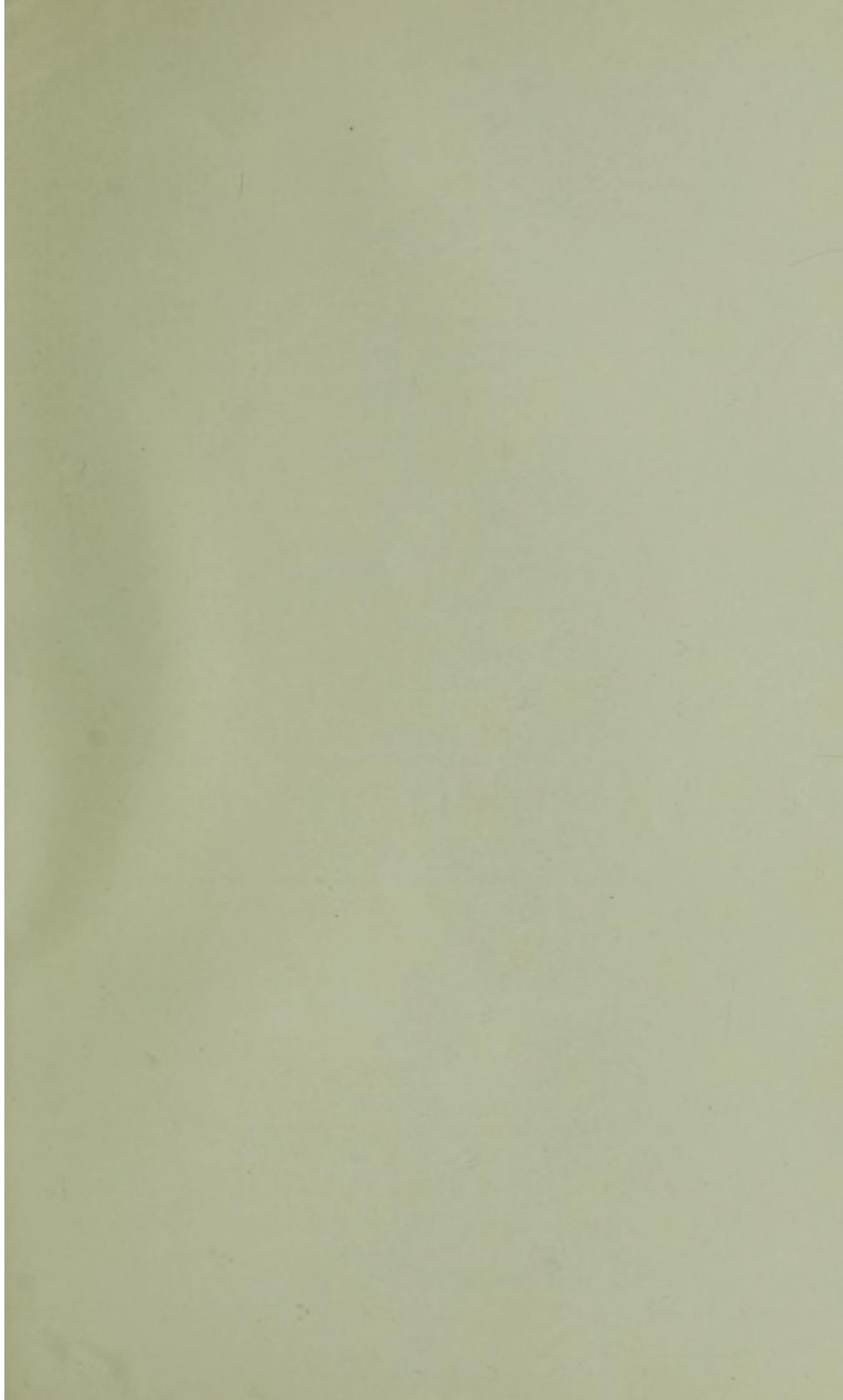
(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12965
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	...	...	...	...	1983
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under Sec. 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—							
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

**TABLE VI.—Blind and Deaf Children.**

	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution
Blind Children...	—	—	—
Deaf Children ...	1	—	—

**Mentally Defective Children.**

Total Number of Children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 ... 1.





(12) Number actually treated			420
(13) Admissions made by children at treatment			450
(14) Military-related admissions	81		
Permanent	20	Total	670
(15) Military-related admissions	270		
Permanent	20	Total	290
(16) Military-related admissions	30		
Permanent	200	Total	140
(17) Admissions of Central Institute for the Deaf			
(18) Other operations	203		
Permanent	214	Total	77
Temporary			

TABLE V.—Miscellaneous Conditions.

- (1) Average number of visits per school year during the year by the School Nurses
- (2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools for School Nurses
- (3) Number of individual children found deaf
- (4) Number of children covered under Sec. 27 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1927
- (5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken
  - (a) Under the Education Act, 1927
  - (b) Under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913

TABLE VI.—Blind and Deaf Children.

	All Public Elementary Schools	All Independent or Non-Public Schools	All Schools or Institutions
Blind Children			
Deaf Children			

Legally Deafened Children.

Total Number of Children Legally Deafened during the year ending 31st December, 1927, by the Local Education Authorities in the Local Schools and by the Local Education Authorities and the Mental Deficiency Commissioners of Children, September, 1927.





