

[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer of Health, Rochdale County Borough.

Contributors

Rochdale (Lancashire, England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1943

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jpxdp9ye>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

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



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

LIBRARY

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ending 31st December, 1943

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

ROCHDALE :
E. WRIGLEY & SONS LTD., PRINTERS, ROCHDALE.

CONTENTS.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT:

	PAGE
A.	
Ante-Natal Clinic	17
Anti-Toxin and Sera	29
B.	
Bacteriological Examinations	10
Birch Hill Hospital	12, 13
Blood Transfusion Service	14
C.	
Cancer	9
Closet Accommodation	24
Clinics	10
Consultant Services	18
Common Lodging Houses	24, 25
D.	
Dispensary, Tuberculosis	30, 31
Drainage and Sewerage	22
Diphtheria Immunisation	16, 28, 29
Dental Service	14, 18
E.	
Emergency Maternity Unit	18
F.	
Food Supply, General	25
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	26
Factories Act, 1937	24
H.	
Hospital Accommodation	12
Hospital Recommends	14
I.	
Infectious Diseases	27
Infant Welfare Centres	15
M.	
Maternal Mortality and Morbidity	19, 20
Maternity Home, Birch Hill	19
Marland Hospital	27, 28
Midwifery Service	19
Milk and Food Assistance Scheme	16
Maintenance Allowances	31, 32
N.	
Nursing Homes... ..	11
Nuisances, Removal of	23
National Health Insurance	6
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	16
O.	
Offensive Trades	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	20
Orthopædic Clinic	18
P.	
Poor Law Relief	6, 10
Post Natal Clinic	17
Public Cleansing	22
Pathological Laboratory	10, 11
R.	
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919... ..	23
Rivers and Streams	22
S.	
Sanitary Inspection	22, 23
Shops Acts, 1912 & 1934	24
Smoke Abatement	24
Statistical Summary	5
Springfield Sanatorium	33
Scabies Order, 1941	26, 27
Sanatorium Treatment	32

	PAGE
T.	
Tuberculosis—Morbidity, Mortality, etc.	29-30
Tuberculous Milk	25, 26
Tuberculosis Dispensary	30, 31
U.	
Unemployment	6
V.	
Venereal Diseases	33, 34
Vital Statistics	6—9
W.	
Water Supply	22
War-Time Nursery	20, 21
X.	
X-Ray Examinations	17
APPENDIX, Tables I.—III.	
... ..	35—37

II.—SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT:

C.	
Clog Fund	48
Cost of Medical Inspection	49
Child Guidance Clinic	42, 43
D.	
Dental Clinic	41
Diphtheria Immunisation	44
E.	
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	47
Employment of Young Children	48
I.	
Infectious Diseases	44
M.	
Meals—Necessitous Children	48
Medical Inspection—Cost	49
Minor Ailments Clinic	41
Memorial Home	47
N.	
Nursery Schools	45—47
Nutrition	41, 48
O.	
Open Air School	39, 44, 45
Orthopædic Clinic	47
S.	
Scabies	40
School Nurses—Work of	44
School Premises	39
Speech Clinic	47
Staff	39
U.	
Uncleanliness	40
V.	
Vision	41
Voluntary Associations—Co-operation with... ..	48
W.	
War-Time Nursery Class	10, 11
APPENDIX, Tables I.—VII.	
... ..	50—52

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the instructions received from the Ministry of Health this Report has again been much curtailed. The Ministry have, however, requested that brief additional information should be recorded in respect of Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Diphtheria Immunisation and methods to improve the general standard of cleanliness. The usual arrangements have been continued to ensure that full statistics will be available after the war.

The first portion of the Report is statistical in character. The birthrate is substantially the same as last year, remaining considerable above the average for the previous ten years. The deathrate also is similar to that of last year and slightly above the average for the previous ten years. The infantile mortality rate shows very considerable reduction as compared with last year. We have now had four very good years since 1939, but unfortunately the intervening year of 1940 recorded the highest figure since 1929. The Maternal deaths, which numbered seven in 1941 and five in 1942, have returned this year again to seven. The mortality rate, however, remains below that of the bad years, since the birthrate has now considerably increased.

The general incidence of infectious disease showed an increase as compared with 1942, but no serious epidemic was experienced throughout the year except to a minor degree in respect of chicken-pox and whooping-cough, mainly in April and May.

Normal working of the Department's Health Services was maintained, although in some cases in the face of increased difficulties. In spite of these difficulties certain very definite advances were recorded during the year in various aspects of the Health Committee's work.

A new Municipal Pathological Laboratory was opened in premises at Birch Hill Hospital, this replacing gradually the arrangement previously in operation with a private laboratory.

In June the Standard Maintenance Allowance Scheme for persons incapacitated by Pulmonary Tuberculosis, came into operation.

By Spring of the year the War-time Nursery at Castleton had settled down to regular working and full operation.

The work of the Maternity Home at Birch Hill reached a high record and steps had to be considered at the end of the year to prevent admissions becoming unmanageable.

The arrangement for the use of Civil Defence premises and personnel for the treatment of verminous persons was continued throughout the year with great success. At the end of the year arrangements were made for some of the same personnel to take part in the drive for the destruction of rats and mice under the Infestation Order, 1943.

The three main reports of the Rushcliffe Committee were received and adopted, bringing increased salaries and improved conditions to nursing staffs in hospitals, to municipal midwives and to health visiting staffs. At the end of the year the Department was concerned in the preparation of reports and plans for the post-war development of the Health Department.

There were considerable changes in the staffing of the Department. In June Mr. A. E. Duncan retired from the position of Chief Sanitary Inspector which he had held since 1921, having been in municipal employment for 41 years. The Department thus lost an Officer who had given many years of valuable service to improving the conditions of hygiene and sanitation in Rochdale.

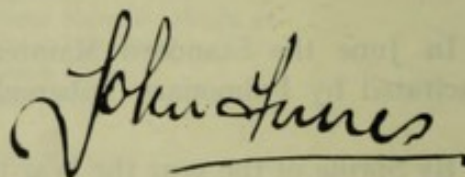
At the end of the year arrangements were made for the replacement of three senior members of the nursing staff at Birch Hill Hospital, namely, Matron—Miss Copeland, Assistant Matron—Miss Ashworth and Midwifery Superintendent—Miss Grayson. These three ladies had also given long years of valuable service to the public of Rochdale and district and many tributes were paid to them on the occasion of their leaving the hospital.

I have to record my thanks to the staffs of this Office and other sections of this Department for the manner in which they have carried out their duties throughout the year. I have also pleasure in recording the support which the Department has received throughout the year from the Chairman and all the Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
23rd June, 1944.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1943.

Area (in acres)	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Civilian Population, mid-year 1943	81,550
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	25,487
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,231
Rateable Value,	£569,910

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births. —Legitimate	1,188	599	589
Illegitimate	80	41	39
	1,268	640	628
	1,268	640	628

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 15.5

Still-births 45—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 34

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	1,324	635	689

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 16.2

Deaths from Maternal Causes 7.

Puerperal Sepsis	3	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			
Other Maternal Causes	4				
				5.33	

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	37

	No. of Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population	
	1942	1943	1942	1943
Measles	1	1	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	1	2	0.01	0.02
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	12	7	0.14	0.08
Cancer	183	186	2.20	2.30

Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief at the end of December, 1943, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1942, has been kindly supplied by the Director of Social Welfare :—

	1943 Week ending 25-12-43	1942 Week ending 26-12-42
No. of persons in receipt of Institutional Relief (excluding cases in Mental Hospitals)	353	361
No. of Persons relieved (excluding non-resident persons and vagrants) ...	723	773
Amount of Out-Relief granted	£507 4s. 0d.	£504 18s. 3d.

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,	
	1942	1943
(1) Total number of Insured Persons in the borough on October 1st	48,926	48,281
(2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population	222,932	254,091
(3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population ...	£10,974	£13,072

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 Return 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 81,550 is given by the Registrar General as his estimate of the civilian population to be used for statistical purposes for the year 1943. This is the fifth special war-time estimate, that for 1942 being 83,150.

Live Births.

1,268 live births (males 640, females 628) were registered, as compared with 1,276 in 1942 and an average of 1,107 for the ten years 1933-1942.

Illegitimate births number 80, as against 93 in 1942, and an average of 63 in the previous five years.

Still Births.

45 were registered as compared with 41 in 1942, and an average of 41 in the previous five years.

The Live Birth-rate was equal to 15.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 15.3 per 1,000 the previous year, and 13.2 in 1941. The year 1939 had the lowest rate ever registered for the Borough, namely 11.0 per 1,000. The average birth-rate for the ten years 1933-1942 was 12.3 per 1,000.

Deaths.

The deaths registered show an increase with 1324 (males 635, females 689) as against 1,282 in the year 1942.

The death-rate from all causes was 16.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 15.4 in 1942, and an average of 15.2 during the ten years 1933-1942.

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

	Year 1943	Year 1942
Influenza	42	6
Tuberculosis	46	49
Cancer... ..	186	183
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc....	114	142
Heart Disease	352	297
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	50	51
Bronchitis	142	139
Pneumonia (all forms)	58	39
Nephritis	33	38
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc.	33	50
TOTAL	<u>1056</u>	<u>994</u>
Percentage of total deaths registered during the year	79.7	77.6

Table II., Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1943, while Table I., gives comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years.

Infant Mortality.

There were 58 deaths registered under one year of age, equal to a rate of 46 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with 90 deaths and a rate of 71 last year. The decrease was particularly evident in deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis and those from Premature Birth.

The average for the ten years 1933–1942 was 72 per 1,000 live births.

The rate for 1943 is the lowest on record, the previous low figures being 1937 with 53 and 1939 with 55. Since the Infantile Mortality Rate is one of the chief indices of the well-being of a community it is always a matter of satisfaction to record a low rate. More particularly is this so in the fourth complete war year. It speaks highly of the provision made by Central and Local Government for the care and nourishment of the expectant mother and of the infant. Not less does it pay compliment to the mothers upon whose time and energies war time conditions make so many demands.

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	16.2	15.5	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	14.2	18.6	58
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000)	12.7	19.4	46
ENGLAND AND WALES	12.1	16.5	49

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 21 deaths, the same number as last year. It is worthy of note that no deaths from Diphtheria or Measles occurred under five years of age.

	Year 1943	Year 1942
Diphtheria	6	2
Measles	1	1
Whooping Cough	2	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	7	12
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	5
TOTAL	21	21

Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases showed an increase from 197 to 218 as compared with 1942. Pneumonia caused 58 deaths (39), Bronchitis 142 deaths (139) and other respiratory affections 18 deaths (19).

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 186 (males 79, females 107), as against 183 the previous year :—

	Total Deaths	under 15 yrs.	15-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
Year 1943 ...	186	—	13	87	86
Year 1942 ...	183	—	16	74	93

The death-rate was 2.3 per 1,000 as against 2.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population for the previous two years.

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.

Arrangements continued throughout the year with the District Nursing Association, as described in the last two reports.

The Association staff paid 4,306 visits to 296 cases during the year ; the cases being mainly children under five years of age, patients suffering from Pneumonia, from Tuberculosis and from conditions arising out of Pregnancy and Child Birth. This work made a valuable and much appreciated contribution to the operation of the Public Health Sections concerned.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

As outlined last year the town is now served by the Domiciliary Medical Services Scheme on the Panel system, except for the Wardleworth and Wuerdle Wards, where a permanent District Medical Officer still holds office. The number covered by the Panel Scheme on the 25th December, 1943, was 716.

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 Health Committee operates the whole of the Ambulance Service which deals with removals to Corporation Hospitals and other Hospitals from the County Borough and certain outside districts by agreement.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Arrangements remain as in 1942.

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.

Early in the year the alterations at and equipping and staffing of the new Municipal Laboratory were well advanced in adapted premises in the grounds at Birch Hill Hospital. The first work undertaken was clinical pathology from that hospital. As arrangements were completed and staff trained, other sections of the work were undertaken. At the end of the year the staff consisted of Dr. Adderley as Pathologist, with one trained male Technician, two junior female Technicians, untrained, and a caretaker and animal attendant.

The following table shows the work done for the Department by both Laboratories since, for the reasons given above, most of the work was still being sent to Broadfield Laboratory until the second half of the year. The unit value shown in respect of our own Laboratory is primarily designed for costing purposes, but is included here to give some idea of the relative amount of time and material spent in the different classes of specimens :—

	Municipal Laboratory		Broadfield
	Specimens	Unit Value	Specimens
Public Health Office, including			
Private Practitioners	108	547	602
Maternity and Child Welfare	88	101	27
Tuberculosis Dispensary	48	105	39
School Medical Service	—	—	170
Marland Hospital	242	530	1567
Springfield Sanatorium	104	212	167
Birch Hill Hospital	2580	11164	1158
Private	13	46	—
Others	22	61	—
TOTAL	3205	12766	3730

The bacteriological examination of water and of milk is included in the work of the above laboratories while chemical analysis of water is carried out by the Public Analyst ;

Milk—for Tubercle Bacilli	37 samples.
for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and	
Reductase Test	65 ..
for Reductase Test only	25 ..
Water—for Bacterial Count	4 ..

(b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In addition to the examinations included in the work of the above Laboratories 828 specimens from persons suspected of suffering from venereal diseases were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and 643 specimens were examined by the Medical Officers of the treatment Centre.

(c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst has examined 74 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts, as against 125 last year.

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

During the year 4,317 patients were admitted to the hospital, excluding the 973 infants born in the hospital, in comparison with 3,852 admissions and 908 live births in 1942. This represents almost double the figure of 2,287 admissions in 1931 when the Health Committee took over the hospital.

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.

The increase in the work is again most marked in the Maternity Section, where 1002 women were confined, as compared with 926 in 1942 and 823 in 1941. This number of admissions so seriously taxed the accommodation and staff in the Maternity Home that steps are to be taken to limit admissions. Such limitation will be, from the hospitals point of view, to within the safety margin, and, from the patients point of view, to those most urgently requiring Maternity Home treatment. One effect of this will be to increase the work of the Domiciliary Midwives. Unfortunately, hardship will be caused in these days when domestic help is such a problem, but the risk of over-crowding is not one which can be taken for long by a Maternity Hospital.

	Year 1943	Year 1942
Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital)	5290	4760
Number of women confined in hospital	1002	926
Number of live births	973	908
Number of still-births	48	38
Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e., under 4 weeks of age)	22	32
Total number of deaths amongst children under one year	58	70
Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital	6	7
Total number of deaths	588	520
Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital)	4713	4233
Duration of stay of patients—		
(a) Four weeks or less	3799	3452
(b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks	1005	903
(c) Exceeding thirteen weeks	497	398
Number of beds occupied, average during the year (highest 415 on 21/2/43, lowest 317 on 2/8/43)	369	350
Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations)	1395	1111
Number of abdominal sections	516	490
Number of pathological and microscopical examinations	3732	2222

There have been no important developments at the hospital apart from the closer linking with the Pathological Services mentioned earlier. The usual war-time difficulties in staffing continue.

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 and the adjoining Public Assistance Institution during the year :—

Visits to Birch Hill Hospital	...	...	...	...	54
Extractions	...	...	...	...	229
Fillings	...	...	...	...	3
Repairs	...	...	...	...	1

“ Several patients have been examined but have refused treatment advised.

“ Five General Anaesthetics, other than Nitrous Oxide, have been administered by the Medical Officers for the extraction of teeth.”

Blood Transfusion Service.

No public campaign for donors has been held since July, 1941, and the drain from the pool continues. Various attempts were made through existing organisations to improve the position but with little success. Increasing difficulty was experienced in obtaining sufficient donors to attend sessions for the Regional Blood Bank and latterly even the needs of the local hospitals were hard to meet. Arrangements are in hand to better the position next year.

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 ;
- 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—Public Health Act, 1936.

There were 1,298 births notified as belonging to Rochdale—1,251 by midwives and 5 by doctors. These figures include 806 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

Health Visitors.

The staff of Health Visitors was reduced from a normal six to five for the whole of the year. These five Health Visitors have made a total of 10,472 visits mainly to children under five, 9,737 visits, and to expectant mothers 216 visits. The Health Visitors are also in regular attendance at the welfare Centres, Nursery Schools and the War-time Nursery.

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 30,241 as compared with 28,552 in 1942. This substantial increase over both 1941 and 1942 is very gratifying since it indicates a determination on the part of the mothers to overcome war-time difficulties. The close association between this department and the National Milk and Vitamins Schemes is a not unimportant factor in maintaining the desired attendances. On the other hand the number who attended for the first time, namely 1,029, was a decrease of 1 as compared with last year.

Centre	New Cases admitted during 1943	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)	204	2,985	888	944	† 49 (44)	1,226
(b)*St. Luke's ...	248	4,119	1,363	1,195	69 (72)	1,859
(c)*St. Clement's ...	151	3,444	1,736	1,923	71 (66)	1,534
(d) Baillie Street * (Castleton) ...	215	2,878	889	892	47 (42)	1,279
(e)*Castleton ...	121	2,729	1,222	1,346	55 (53)	791
(f) Norden ...	70	884	360	444	35 (29)	469
Totals ...	1009	17,039	6,458	6,744	—	7,158
Corresponding Figures 1942 ...	1,030	16,318	6,715	5,519	—	7,272

* Two Clinic Sessions per week. † Figures in brackets are for 1942.

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 932 or 72 per cent of the notified live births, as against the same figure in 1942.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the Schools 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 £3 on five necessitous families.

Mid-Day Meals.

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

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. The special clinic, established in 1941, with one Saturday morning session to which parents are invited to bring or send their children of all ages has been continued throughout the year. 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 capable of improvement. In 1940, 1941 and 1942, the number of children under five years of age who were immunised was 261, 864 and 873 respectively. This year 881 such children have been immunised.

Further mention is made of the scheme in the sections dealing with Infectious Diseases and 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 Borough		County Districts		Total	
		1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
(1) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS							
(a) No. of Expectant Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	871	850	125	109	996	959
	Birch Hill	—	—	94	83	94	83
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	4,447	4,637	530	586	4,977	5,223
	Birch Hill	—	—	483	465	483	465
(c) Average attendances per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	21.7	23.0	2.5	2.9	24.2	26
	Birch Hill	—	—	9.4	9.0	9.4	9
(2) POST-NATAL CLINIC							
(a) No. of Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	228	243	68	70	296	313
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	349	398	103	80	452	478
(c) Average attendance per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	7.3	8.3	2.1	1.6	9.4	10

The 850 Rochdale patients who attended for the first time at the Ante-natal Clinics during the year represent 65 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 216 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.

Orthopaedic 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.

Two outfits were 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 17 mothers and 8 children. In addition 6 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 217 maternity cases and in 37 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 220 and 25 respectively.

In 73 cases the medical fee was paid in whole or part by the Local Authority amounting in the aggregate to £115 as against £133 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 20 cases.

Maternity Home.

There were 1,118 maternity cases admitted to Birch Hill Maternity Home, 886 from Rochdale and 232 from surrounding districts, as against 1,055 in 1942 and 926 in 1941. The actual number of women confined was 1,002, of which 792 were Rochdale, 201 Lancashire County Area and 9 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 1943	Year 1942
Cases attended—as Midwife	365	413
as Maternity Nurse	26	47
Visits during lying-in period—as Midwife	5,662	6,804
as Maternity Nurse	348	494
Ante-Natal (Home Visits)—	2,071	2,315
Miscellaneous Visits—Ante-Natal Clinic, etc.	580	542

The 5 midwives in private practice attended 45 cases as midwives during the past year and 23 cases as Maternity Nurses.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

8 cases of puerperal pyrexia were reported, 7 of which were removed to Marland Hospital for treatment. During the previous year two cases were reported.

Maternal Mortality.

The maternal deaths recorded during the year numbered seven with a maternal mortality rate of 5.33 per 1,000 total births (live and still-births). The actual deaths were from various causes and in various age groups. Although certain details might have been improved in the treatment of certain of these cases no major principles were involved, either in treatment of the individual or in the administration of the scheme as a whole.

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

AREA	MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Live and Still Births		
	1943	1942	Average 5 years 1937-41
ROCHDALE	5.33	3.79	3.64
Average 12 neighbouring manufacturing towns ...	* 2.22	3.16	3.83
Administrative County of Lancaster	2.64	2.64	3.81
England and Wales ...	2.29	2.01	2.66

* Average 11 manufacturing towns.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases reported as against 8 cases in 1942 and 13 in 1941. One case cleared up without impairment of vision and the other left the district, but is known to have recovered.

Child Life Protection.

On the 31st December, 1943, there were 23 persons registered as receiving children for reward. The number of children concerned was 23.

WAR-TIME NURSERY, CASTLETON.

War-time Nursery, Castleton.

The official opening of the War-time Nursery took place on the 2nd November, 1942, and for the first few months the number of children in attendance grew only very slowly. In the early days some doubt was expressed as to the economy of having a fully staffed Nursery with a very small number of children. As time went on, however, this policy proved to be a correct one since the staff had time to settle down and find all the necessary adjustments for satisfactory co-operation before they were faced with large numbers of children. From the children's point of view, the slow growth also allowed each new child to be quickly and effectively assimilated into the Nursery routine. By the end of six months the numbers had risen to 25 children over two years and 15 under two years and by the end of twelve months the register of 40 places was completely filled and there was a waiting list both of under two's and over two's. Even

this waiting list, usually in the region of 14 children, does not show the complete picture, since mothers are quick to hear that the Nursery is full and thus do not make application. At the end of the year discussions were on foot between the Local Authority and the Ministry of Health, as to the advisability and possibility of extending this War-time Nursery.

The average monthly attendance at the Nursery towards the end of the year was fairly regular, approximating 21 over two years of age and 11 under two years of age. Particularly in respect of younger children the attendance is subject to various disturbances not only in respect of the health of the individual child, but also with regard to the health of the older children and their school holidays and the working conditions of the mother. If, for any reason the mother has time off from work she tends to keep the youngest child away from the Nursery.

The pressure of the waiting list renders it necessary to fill the place of any child who is away from the Nursery for more than two or three weeks without an adequate reason.

The Health Visitor of the district in which this Nursery is situated has visited each week and also attends with the Medical Officer. In this way the link is maintained between the Nursery staff and the home. The Medical Officer inspects the school every week, seeing new children and any special cases and, in addition, a routine medical examination of all children is carried out quarterly. The children have all improved in health at the Nursery and the average gain in weight of children over two years for the last six months of the year was $2\frac{3}{4}$ -lbs., and for those under two years 4-lbs.

Provision is made for the children to attend the Ultra-Violet Ray Clinic as well as the Dental and Eye Clinics maintained by the Education Committee. The W.V.S., have been helpful in conveying the children to these Clinics.

Infectious diseases did not cause any serious problem throughout the year, although there was one mild epidemic of Diarrhoea and vomiting. There has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the children. In the early days several were received in a dirty and verminous condition, but now such conditions are seldom met with. Treatment for this condition is provided, either at home by advice to the mother, or at the Nursery where home conditions are unsuitable, mainly because of mothers long working hours. Lethane Hair Oil has been used with success.

Forty three parcels and packets of sweets were received from the American Junior Red Cross and were distributed to the children at Xmas time together with toys made by the staff and interested friends.

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 supply nor have any important extensions of mains taken place during 1943. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are taken every three months and show that the water supplied has been satisfactory in every respect.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Practically the whole of the Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works Extensions Scheme is completed and the plant will be in operation early in 1944.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are 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 this Board for their attention.

Public Cleansing.

There were no important changes in the refuse collection, disposal or street cleansing services during the year. Salvage activities were continued with vigour despite an increasing shortage of suitable labour. A special drive for books for the Forces, for re-stocking war-damaged libraries, for children's homes and hospitals, and for salvage yielded 153,000 books. The conversion of kitchen waste to feeding stuffs for pigs and poultry, an important war-time effort, was continued with success, the throughput exceeding that of the previous year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

787 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 18 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.
HOUSES—	
Verminous dwellings disinfested	49
Dirty Houses limewashed or cleansed	36
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...	938
Overcrowding	3
YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—	
Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc.	19
Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed	24
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—	
Water-closet buildings repaired	31
Pail closets and water-closets cleansed	8
Water-closet fittings repaired	60
DRAINS—	
Main or branch drains repaired or cleared	115
GENERAL—	
Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises used for the preparation or storage of food	42
Absence of, or unsatisfactory condition of, sanitary accommodation at factories or workplaces	9
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied	21

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year 647 visits were made to premises alleged to be rat infested, and the number of rats caught was approximately 660 ; in this work 2,460 baits were laid and 43 tins of rat lime were used.

In June, 1943, the Ministry of Food issued the Infestation Order, 1943, and thereafter directed the Council to deal with rat infestation in the manner prescribed by a Departmental circular.

In this circular the Ministry of Food accepts responsibility for any additional expenditure incurred by adopting the new methods and by extending the scope of operations against rats and mice. It must be emphasised, however, that legally the responsibility for destroying rats and mice remains on the occupier of the land or buildings, and the cost of operations by the staff of this Department is recoverable from occupiers.

At the moment this work is being done by six members of the full-time Civil Defence staff (three men and three women) ; these had all completed their training at the end of November but it is still too early to give a full account of their work or to make any assessment of its value.

Shops Acts, 1912 and 1934.

No notices under these Acts were issued during 1943.

Offensive Trades.

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

Tripe boiling	...	...	...	...	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, 1943, was as follows :—

Fresh-water carriage system	...	...	...	...	26,030
Pail Closets...	...	...	...	...	1,571
Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	...	1,637
Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	43

The tables showing the progress of conversion of pail closets have been omitted.

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

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 178. These have been regularly inspected, and cleansing and limewashing have been carried out after intimation by the Inspectors in 42 cases.

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

Workshops.

192 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, no notices being served during the year. Some of the premises are considered not to be in all respects in accordance with modern standards, but during the year one of the Common Lodging Houses has installed an "ablution room". This is fitted with a bath, a shower bath, two foot baths, sufficient wash hand basins for the occupants, porcelain tubs for washing clothes, and a drying cupboard. The room is tiled and well lighted and forms an extremely valuable addition to the amenities of this establishment.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There were 103 farms on the register at the end of 1943. These were visited regularly by the Dairies Inspector.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 201, 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 Food-stuffs.

During the year 2,340 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 49 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 121 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 2,277 cows and were taken in batches monthly. Of the samples, 67 were from Rochdale Borough farmers and 54 from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be tubercular was :—

From Rochdale farmers	...	...	2
From County farmers	...	...	2

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

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

74 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis as compared with 125 during the previous year.

Borough Analyst's Annual Report.

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst for the following extract from his Annual Report :—

“ During the year 1943, I have analysed 74 samples of food, etc., consisting of 72 milks, and one each of Powdered Gelatine and Aspirin Tablets. One of the former was found to be adulterated with extraneous water to the extent of 7.8 per cent, whilst another sample was naturally deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 2.9 per cent, thus failing to conform with the requirements set out in the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939. Preservatives and colouring matter were absent throughout. The sample of Gelatine was of edible quality and free from other than permissible traces of lead, zinc, etc., and the Aspirin Tablets were of the required strength.”

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

Arrangements were made during 1942 for the opening of Cleansing Stations at each of the three First Aid Posts set up in the district. This was carried out by agreement with the Emergency Committee and the cleansing has been carried out by the First Aid Post staff under the supervision of trained nursing personnel of the Public Health Department. The general working is under the supervision of a District Sanitary Inspector.

To suit all persons concerned, sessions have been arranged in the morning and in the afternoon of each day throughout the week. Evening sessions are available as required for those engaged in industry.

The following table shows the number of persons cleansed at these Stations :—

	1943	1942
Scabies	1695	1414
Verminous Conditions	48	55
Total	1743	1469

At the same time arrangements have been made whereby all reports of verminous conditions, including Scabies, are collected in one register in the Public Health Department. These reports may come from the Education Department, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, owners or occupiers of premises and other persons or organisations. All premises reported in this category are visited by the Sanitary Inspector and advice given according to the degree of infestation and the general conditions of the premises. Steps are taken to ensure that all persons infected with Scabies in the family attend at the Cleansing Centre.

It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings under the Order.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The chief infectious diseases showed an increase as compared with 1942 and with the average for the preceding five years. The increase was mainly evident in respect of Scarlet Fever, which remained mild in type, Whooping Cough and Chicken-pox ; while Measles showed a definite decrease. April and May were the months of greatest prevalence of infectious diseases as a whole.

The notification of the various diseases totalled 1,438 as against 1,262, the previous year and an average of 1,269 during the five years 1937-1941. Comparative figures are given in the following summary :—

	1943	...	1942	...	Average 5 yrs. 1937-41
Scarlet Fever	250	...	133	...	148
Diphtheria	97	...	80	...	106
Tuberculosis	98	...	105	...	114
Pneumonia	34	...	47	...	40
Whooping Cough	268	...	33	...	141
Chicken-pox	199	...	87	...	121
Measles	462	...	736	...	546
C.S. Meningitis	7	...	14	...	9
Other Diseases	23	...	27	...	44
	<u>1438</u>	...	<u>1262</u>	...	<u>1269</u>

Marland Hospital.

There were 852 cases admitted to this Hospital from the Rochdale County Borough and the neighbouring County districts, which together with 80 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1942, makes 932 cases treated during the year, as compared with 521 the previous year. Excluding the cases of Tuberculosis the case mortality was 2.1 per cent as compared with 3.7 per cent the previous year. A considerable improvement was recorded in respect of the Diphtheria case mortality last year and has continued ; this year's figure being 3.3 per cent.

Of the 97 cases of diphtheria occurring in Rochdale and admitted to Marland Hospital, 18 were of a very severe type which is usually rapidly fatal and 5 of these cases died ; 10 cases were of a severe type but were admitted early in the disease and there were no deaths ; 30 cases were of the type of moderate severity and 39 cases were of comparatively mild severity with no deaths in this group.

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

DISEASE	In Hospital on 31st December 1942	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remain- ing in Hospital at end of Year 1943	Ages of Patients Admitted		
						Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever	39	532	522	1	48	123	371	38
Diphtheria	40	265	284	10	11	42	132	91
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	25	18	8	...	5	7	13
Measles ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	...	3	1	2	...	...	1	2
Erysipelas ... ..	...	5	4	1	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	11	9	...	2	...	...	11
Chicken Pox ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Scabies ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases ... ..	...	9	9	...	...	3	2	4
Total	80	852	849	22	61	173	513	166

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

The campaign of general propaganda referred to in last year's report was continued throughout the year in support of the national campaign.

Special visitations by Health Visitors during the Winter 1942/3 was referred to in the last year's report. On the basis of these visitations propaganda locally was intensified through personal contacts in the schools, clinics and homes.

The parents or guardians of each child are sent a card explaining the dangers of Diphtheria and the facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation on the child attaining the age of one, and the Health Visitors are provided with special cards which they again leave at the homes in the course of follow-up visits.

Immunisation continues to be available to the same extent as reported last year. These efforts throughout the year were effective in achieving immunisation in respect of 881 under five and 644 between the ages of 5 and 15. These figures compare with 873 under five and 640 between the age of 5 and 15 in 1942.

The year 1941 showed a very considerable advance over the previous three years, but in 1942 and 1943 the advance has been very slow and gradual. The

records begun in 1942, to show the immunisation position in each group under 15, were continued throughout the year and the results are given below as at the end of December, 1943, compared with 1942.

Age	Dec., 1942		Dec., 1943		Age	Dec., 1942		Dec., 1943	
	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%
1	415	38	527	44	8	444	40	402	40
2	574	57	555	52	9	484	51	510	49
3	415	46	696	71	10	647	61	567	59
4	353	35	507	54	11	414	39	713	69
5	287	28	430	42	12	449	40	466	43
6	301	30	382	37	13	432	36	486	42
7	333	33	389	38	14			443	39

Throughout the year A.P.T. was used in two doses of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with at least four weeks between doses.

During 1943, 11 children under the age of 15, stated by their parents to have been immunised, were admitted from Rochdale to the Isolation Hospital suffering from clinical diphtheria. In 7 of these cases our records showed that a full course of immunisation had been given at periods varying from one year to eight years prior to admission. Of these seven, four were severe or moderately severe cases and three were mild cases. There were no deaths in the immunised group.

Altogether 66 children under 15 were admitted suffering from clinical diphtheria and there were four deaths in the non-immunised group.

Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarlatina, Meningococcal and Erysipelas Sera were 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 98 new cases of tuberculosis notified as against 105 the previous year and 127 in the year 1941, and an average of 112 during the five years 1936-1940.

In addition 16 cases, 10 Pulmonary and 6 Non-pulmonary, came to the knowledge of the Department for the first time other than by notification. Of these 3 Pulmonary and 3 Non-pulmonary were reported after death and 7 Pulmonary and 3 Non-pulmonary 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
1942	68	37	105
1943	73	25	98

The 98 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	...
1—5 years	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
5—15 „	2	...	3	4	...	...	1	1
15—25 „	7	5	3	4	} 11	9	2	3
25—35 „	7	7	1	1				
35—45 „	10	5	2	2	} 7	4	...	1
45—55 „	14	...	...	...	
55—65 „	9	1	1	1				
65 years and over	3	2	1	...	4	1	...	...
TOTAL	53	20	11	14	22	14	5	5
1942	46	22	27	10	25	19	1	4

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three clinic sessions have been held weekly and the number of new cases examined as suspected tuberculosis was 340 as against 311 the previous year.

In addition 100 persons were examined as Contacts as against 115 the previous year.

The result of the examinations showed that 92, or 27 per cent, of the new cases were suffering from some form of tuberculosis, chiefly tuberculosis of the

respiratory system, as against 80 or 26 per cent in 1942. Three of the 100 Contacts were found to be definitely tuberculous as compared with five out of 115 the previous year.

In addition 140 men were examined by the Medical Officer chiefly under the Local Government Superannuation and Silicosis Schemes and Civilian Medical Boards.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in the summary below :—

	1943	1942
Number of New Cases examined (excl. Contacts)	340	311
Total Number of Attendances of Patients	2,660	2,302
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1943—		
Highest 33—Lowest 3)	18	16
Number of Contacts examined	100	115
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year	222	220
Personal and other Consultations by Tuberculosis		
Officer	1,155	1,162
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses	2,339	2,339
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary	10	5
(Year 1943—Negative 7)		
X-Ray Examinations	333	291

Standard Maintenance Allowances.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Memorandum 266/T., the Standard Maintenance Allowance Scheme for Pulmonary Tuberculosis was introduced on the 7th June, together with those portions of the Scheme which provide for Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments.

Between that date and the end of the year Standard Allowances had been made to 40 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis coming within the definitions laid down by the Ministry.

There can be no doubt that this Scheme is a highly acceptable one and that it filled a very definite deficiency in the Local Authority's Tuberculosis Schemes. Very soon after the Scheme was inaugurated voluntary expressions were received from dependent relatives of patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, indicating the deep satisfaction which they felt in being able to deal with one Local Authority Department only, in connection with monetary assistance as well as medical treatment.

From the Tuberculosis Officer's point of view, the Scheme was also welcome, first because it removed many difficulties in the way of persuading wage earners to accept sanatorium treatment early and to remain in sanatorium for a sufficient length of time. In addition, the threat of the removal of allowances can be used to dissuade the occasionally difficult patient who insists on returning home to unsuitable conditions, often to the detriment of the other occupants of that home.

It may be that the Scheme tends to deal with patients in somewhat watertight compartments into which compartments, unfortunately, they do not always fall. The degree of discretion allowed to Local Authorities has been used to overcome most of these difficulties and in course of time modification of the Scheme will undoubtedly be forthcoming.

Other Financial Assistance.

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

	1943	1942
(a) Clothing and footgear provided	1 ...	10
(b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc.	37 ...	29
(c) House rent paid from a special Fund during residence of patient in Sanatorium	4 ...	6
(d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing—Loans... ..	2 ...	2
(e) Sets of Dentures provided	3 ...	2

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 38 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1942 and during the year 97 other patients (59 males, 38 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

Institutions	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1942	Admissions			Discharged during 1943	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1943
		Total	Males	Females			
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital	13	38	38	—	24	9	18
Springfield Sanatorium	9	26	—	26	17	5	13
Stannington Sanatorium	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Memorial Home, Norden	7	7	6	1	6	1	7
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	6	23	13	10	26	—	3
Other Sanatoria	2	3	2	1	4	—	1
TOTAL	38	97	59	38	78	15	42

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 26 Rochdale patients admitted there were 29 patients admitted from the Lancashire County and other Areas, making 55 in total, as against 62 the previous year.

Artificial Pneumothorax Inductions were successful in 8 cases, 6 of Borough patients and 2 of County patients ; 2 inductions were unsuccessful, 1 Borough patient and 1 County patient.

Phrenic Evulsion was performed in 6 cases, 3 on Borough patients and 3 on County patients. Another Phrenic Evulsion was performed on a male patient in the Marland Hospital.

5 patients were treated with gold salts during the year, 4 County cases and 1 Borough case. Good results were obtained in 2 cases and no improvement in 3 cases.

4 patients were treated with Pleural wash-outs and gas replacements ; 2 were for Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 for Malignant disease of the Lungs.

426 X-ray examinations (with films) were made during the year ; 334 of these were of out-patients from the County Borough ; 87 were of in-patients of the Sanatorium (36 being Borough cases and 52 being Lancashire County Council cases) ; and 5 examinations were of Nursing Staff contacts of these patients.

A further 618 X-ray examinations without films, i.e., screen examinations, were made during the course of and as a guide to treatment ; of these, 514 examinations were on behalf of Borough in-patients and out-patients and 104 on behalf of Lancashire County Council in-patients.

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) VENERAL DISEASES.

No change has taken place in the clinic arrangement for dealing with this disease. There were 565 cases (303 males and 262 females) dealt with during the year, as against 451 in 1942. The number of new cases was 325 which is below the average for the years prior to the war.

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

	Year	1943	1942	1941
1. No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year		224	206	255
2. No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection		3	8	4
3. No. of cases who have had previous treatment		13	4	6
4. No. of new cases		325	233	204
Total cases dealt with		565	451	469
5. Total attendances—For attention of Medical Officer		7,826	7,125	5,843
For irrigation, dressing, etc.		8,344	6,821	5,764
6. No. who ceased to attend—				
(a) Before completion of treatment ...		29	25	40
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure		7	4	34
7. No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal		275	183	187

It is not felt that any useful comment can be made upon the above figures, since although the number of new cases does show an increase compared with the last two years, the figures remain very similar to those occurring in the immediate pre-war years.

Rochdale and District has not been affected by the major changes in population and employment which have occurred in many other districts due to war-time conditions.

Pathological Examinations.

The arrangements with the Broadfield Laboratory and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens referred from the clinic and examined at the Laboratories number 643 as compared with 436 the previous year.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1943,
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
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
1941	†85,780	1136	13.2	76	67	1371	16.0
1942	†83,150	1276	15.3	90	71	1282	15.4
Average for years 1933-1942	90,230	1107	12.3	79	72	1370	15.2
1943	†81,550	1268	15.5	58	46	1324	16.2

* 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 1943.

	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES ... Males ...	635	36	10	9	51	172	357
... Females	689	22	5	12	61	165	424
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	5	1	2	...	...	2	...
3—Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
4—Whooping Cough ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria ...	6	...	...	5	...	1	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	36	...	...	...	20	11	5
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	10	1	1	2	5	1	...
8—Syphilitic Disease ...	14	...	...	...	3	7	4
9—Influenza ...	42	...	...	...	2	13	27
10—Measles ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
11—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12—Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus ...	12	...	...	...	...	4	8
... Cancer of Uterus ...	13	...	...	...	2	9	2
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	50	...	...	...	2	14	34
15—Cancer of Breast ...	23	...	...	...	1	16	6
16—Cancer of all other sites ...	88	...	...	...	8	44	36
17—Diabetes ...	13	...	...	...	2	5	6
18—Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	114	...	...	...	2	26	86
19—Heart Disease ...	352	...	...	3	18	65	266
20—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	50	...	...	...	...	6	44
21—Bronchitis ...	142	1	...	...	6	31	104
22—Pneumonia ...	58	10	5	1	3	16	23
23—Other Respiratory Diseases ...	18	...	...	...	5	9	4
24—Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	13	...	...	...	3	7	3
25—Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...
26—Appendicitis ...	3	...	...	1	...	1	1
27—Other Digestive Diseases ...	34	1	...	...	...	5	28
28—Nephritis ...	33	...	...	2	2	13	16
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis... ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes ...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...
31—Premature Birth ...	17	17	...	...	...	...	...
32—Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	16	15	1	...	...	...	...
33—Suicide ...	10	...	...	...	3	5	2
34—Road Traffic Accidents ...	9	...	1	4	...	1	3
35—Other Violent Causes ...	24	1	1	2	6	3	11
36—All Other Causes ...	101	3	3	...	11	22	62

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under one year of age—Year 1943.

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	1943	1942
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	1	4
Pneumonia	2	...	6	1	1	10	12
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... ..	...	3	4	...	...	7	12
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Premature Birth	17	...	...	...	...	17	30
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	8	7	...	...	...	15	20
Violence	1	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other Causes ... ..	...	2	...	1	1	4	5
ALL CAUSES	28	12	12	4	2	58	90

Nett Live Births in the year :—Legitimate 1,188 ; Illegitimate 80.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 55 ; Illegitimate infants 3.

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF AGE

TABLE III
INFANT MORTALITY—New Deaths from stated causes at various
ages under one year of age—Year 1921

Cause of Death	Age in Months												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Respiratory Diseases	15	12	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	1
Diarrhea and Enteritis	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	5	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Convulsions	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Causes	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
All Causes	35	27	23	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	5	4	3

REPORT

ON THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

New Deaths in the year—Respiratory Diseases 56; Diarrhea and Enteritis 32; Other Digestive Diseases 17; Convulsions 13; Other Causes 10.

New Deaths in the year—Respiratory Diseases 56; Diarrhea and Enteritis 32; Other Digestive Diseases 17; Convulsions 13; Other Causes 10.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1943, being the thirty-sixth report on the work of the School Medical Service.

Staff.

Dr. Kraus, the temporary lady dentist, resigned on the 31st August, 1943, and was replaced by Mr. Bickerdike, L.D.S., in September, 1943, so that at present two dentists are engaged in full time work. The staff of the Medical Service remains the same except that the Part-time Assistant Medical Officer has been off duty since July.

School Premises.

There has been little change except in the provision of new canteens referred to under the heading of "School Meals".

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

During 1943, one Central School, both High Schools and the Junior Technical School, and twenty Elementary Schools were inspected. The Inspection of seven Elementary Schools and one Central School was not carried out owing to the absence of one Medical Officer and the necessity for the other Medical Officer to attend the morning Clinics.

The Open Air School has been visited once weekly.

Total Inspections during the year by Medical Officers :—

	1942	1943
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Routine Inspections :—		
Elementary Schools	1,986	1,848
Secondary Schools	104	228
Special Inspections	448	283
Re-inspections	507	585
Open Air School Inspections	2,133	2,685
Clinic Inspections	2,518	3,426
Clinic Re-inspections	3,889	4,379
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,585	13,434
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cases seen by Ophthalmologist	635	531

It will be seen that the work done at the Consultation Clinics has very considerably increased during the year ; this is probably due in part to the fact that private practitioners are reduced in numbers, with the result that their consulting rooms are very crowded and some at least of the children who would be normally taken to the family doctor have attended the Clinic instead.

Uncleanliness.

The School Nurses made 18,573 inspections for cleanliness during 1943 and found 89.73 clean and 10.26 unclean children. Over the whole year there is, as last year, no deterioration of personal hygiene, but it was particularly noted that more scabies, dirt, vermin, fleas and general lack of hygiene was seen in September than in any other month. This was largely due to the lack of supervision during the school holidays when many children apparently had little parental attention. Seven verminous children were cleansed at the Cleansing Centres.

Twelve parents who made no real attempt to cleanse their children after ample opportunity were prosecuted, convicted and fined under the Attendance Bye-laws.

Scabies.

The arrangements outlined last year for the use of the three First Aid Posts as Cleansing Centres have been continued throughout the year.

During the Autumn when pressure on the Cleansing Centres became rather severe so that cases were having to wait several days or a week for treatment, it was decided to give the baths and benzyl benzoate treatment on two consecutive days only instead of three, with a further treatment after a week if necessary. This arrangement seems to work well and the majority of children are clear after the two treatments. The new cases of scabies met with in school and clinic are much less severe than formerly and reluctance to attend the Centres is rarely met with now.

The following numbers were dealt with during the year :—

	1943	1942
Scabies diagnosed	582	619
Cases treated at Centres	554	520
Home treatments	23	88
Treated by family doctor	46	8
Refused treatment	—	3

All cases discovered are reported to the Sanitary Inspectors so that home conditions can be investigated.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Again the general nutritional standard of the children seems well maintained as regards physique and gain in weight, but large numbers of children suffer from "spots" of a sluggish nature with little tendency to heal ; and a number of cases of gum infection have been seen during the year, always in cases where fresh foods were not being taken in sufficient quantity and where personal hygiene was not of the best.

More unsatisfactory footgear has been seen lately than for some time. Clothing remains more or less adequate though frequently ragged and much lacking a "stitch in time", but it seems to be more difficult to keep a child properly shod than clothed or fed.

Minor Ailment Clinic.

The total attendances at this Clinic were 8,932 for 1943 and the number of individual cases 6,312. There is nothing in the type of case attending to call for comment, except that ear-ache and otorrhoea seem to have been very prevalent this Winter.

Defective Vision.

The Ophthalmologist held 40 clinics and did 531 refractions compared with 635 last year ; of these, 39 were for children of pre-school age.

Dental Clinic.

Report from Messrs. Young and Bickerdike, School Dental Officers :—

If one excludes "Refusals" the dental condition of the children compares favourably with reports from other Authorities. The infants show an unusual immunity to caries and have well formed mouths due, no doubt, to ante and post-natal care, school meals and the supply of milk.

Amongst the older children extensive caries is rare but gingivitis common due to lack of cleanliness. This problem with the rise of infective gingivitis is a serious one and can only be attacked by vigorous propaganda.

The older children show a high incidence of irregular incisors, the upper lateral being trapped behind the lower. Correction is practicable and has proved popular under some Authorities.

A noticeable feature of the year's work has been the comparative freedom from caries in the case of entrants, no doubt due in part to the restricted consumption of sweets. The dental condition of the older children while not showing a similar immunity has been such that a large proportion of the teeth have been able to be restored by filling.

The introduction of gas oxygen as a routine anaesthetic has enabled cases of multiple extractions to be treated expeditiously with less apprehension and nervous wear and tear to the young patients and has increased the efficiency of the service.

After five years of wartime conditions there were no obvious signs of dieting deficiency affecting the teeth or their investing tissues. Isolated cases which occurred received suitable treatment and advice."

Child Guidance Clinic.

The following report is supplied by the Medical Director, Dr. M. Hughes.

"The Clinic has been open for two sessions weekly during the year with the Director and the Psychologist in attendance. The services of the social worker are available for two and a half sessions weekly".

TABLE I.

	1941	1942	1943	TOTAL
Number carried forward from previous year	—	30	26	—
Numbered referred during year	43	54	73	170
Number dealt with during year	13	58	52	123
Number awaiting examination at end of year	30	26	47	—

TABLE II.

Number of new cases dealt with in 1943	52
Examined in the Clinic	45
Withdrawn from the waiting list	7
(i) Symptoms improved, parents considered examination unnecessary	4
(ii) Parents unwilling for examination... ..	3

TABLE III.

Of the 45 examined in the Clinic :—

Treatment recommended... ..	34
Supervision	2
Diagnostic :—	
(i) Condition due to Mental Deficiency and Backwardness	4
(ii) Institutional Treatment recommended	3
(iii) Unalterable environmental difficulties	1
(iv) Nursery School recommended	1
	<hr/> 9
	<hr/> 45

TABLE IV.

Treatment :—

(i) Treatment recommended in 1943	34
Carried forward from 1942, under treatment	8
Carried forward from 1942, awaiting treatment	14
	<hr/>
	56
(ii) Treatment undertaken in 1943	36
Committed to Approved School before treatment started	2
Left district before treatment started ...	1
Left school before treatment started ...	1
Parents refused treatment	2
Awaiting treatment, carried forward to 1944	14
	<hr/>
TOTAL ...	56
	<hr/>

TABLE V.

Closed in 1943

Completed Treatment	14
Child unresponsive	3
Mother unco-operative... ..	4
Treatment interrupted by external interference ...	1
Treatment recommended, not undertaken	6

(See Table IV.)

28

TABLE VI.

Sources of reference :—	1941	1942	1943
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
School Medical Department	13	8	34
Maternity and Child Welfare Department ...	2	7	13
Speech Therapist	3	8	3
Education Department	2	5	3
Teachers	15	17	6
Magistrates	6	—	4
Doctors	2	3	2
Parents	—	5	8
Other Social Agencies	—	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	43	54	73
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Work of the School Nurses.

	1943	1942
Dressings etc., at morning clinics	6,312	12,145
Cleanliness Inspections... ..	14,974	19,348
Re-inspections	3,599	10,555
Inspections with Medical Officer :—		
At school	2,725	2,090
At clinic	4,418	6,407
Refraction cases	531	635
Open Air School Inspections	2,517	2,133
Home Visits	236	513
	35,312	53,826
	35,312	53,826

Infectious Diseases

	1943	1942
Scarlet Fever	181	102
Diphtheria	42	43
Measles	288	497
Whooping Cough	177	18
Chicken Pox	199	34
Other Infections	3	2
	890	696
	890	696

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Saturday morning clinic has been continued and 434 children have received two injections of A.P.T., with an interval of at least a month between, compared with 889 children in 1942. Arrangements are in hand for carrying immunisation to the schools during 1944.

Day Open Air School.

At the completion of a very busy year 103 children were discharged from the school after varying periods of attendance. The following were the reasons for their original admission :—

	Girls	Boys
Rheumatism	3	4
Malnutrition	2	5
Pre and Post Tuberculosis	9	7
Heart Disease	4	5
Bronchitis	3	2
Other Non-Tubercular Affections of the Chest ...	2	6
Nervous conditions	6	7
Orthopaedic defects	—	1
Anaemia and debility	15	9
Cases admitted for observation	5	—
Miscellaneous (recurrent boils, etc.)	3	5
	<u>52</u>	<u>51</u>

Nursery Schools.

The Nursery Schools have completed a very busy year during which the number on the register at each school has been increased beyond the normal capacity, so as to raise the number in actual attendance to the capacity of each school. There have, unfortunately, been considerable staffing difficulties during the year at times giving concern to the responsible Committee. The average number in attendance at the various Nursery Schools was as follows :—

Brimrod	87
Howard Street	93
South Street	97
Thames Street	99

The average number on the waiting list for all the four schools has been :—

	4 yrs. of age	3 yrs. of age	2 yrs. of age	Under 2 yrs.
Brimrod	13	28	37	11
Howard Street	4	10	26	16
South Street	0.5	9	23	14
Thames Street	6	21	25	16

The medical supervision of the children at the schools by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitors of the district in which the schools are situated has continued on the same lines as in previous reports and the same arrangements have been continued whereby the children can share in all the facilities available through the School Medical Services.

Particular attention has been paid during the year to the problem of cleanliness, which with less supervision at home is often a problem to the Superintendents and to the Health Visitors.

During the last three months of the year a large proportion of children suffered from rashes, sometimes urticarial in nature, later becoming septic. Although many theories were advanced and forms of treatment adopted, no very satisfactory explanation was forthcoming as to the nature and cause of these rashes which were obvious in other groups of children both under and of school age. Children suffered in November and December from the influenza epidemic and at one time one of the schools had 33% absences due to this cause. The epidemic so far as the children were concerned did not appear to leave any permanent ill effects.

The dietary continues to be satisfactory from all points of view, considering war-time restriction, particularly of fruits.

Despite war-time difficulties mothers' clubs and other forms of liaison between the schools and the homes have continued. To such club meetings talks and demonstrations have been given on cookery and dietetics, child behaviour, minor ailments and special lessons have been arranged, at the request of the mothers, dealing with venereal diseases.

The assistance of the W.V.S., is here again acknowledged in conveying children from the Nursery Schools to the various clinics.

Meanwood War-Time Nursery Class.

This class opened in January, 1943, for the convenience of working mothers in this district for children from 2 to 5 years of age. The class is open for the reception of children from 7-0 a.m. to 7-0 p.m., the times outside normal school period being covered by Child Care Reserve personnel.

As in all such organisations the times of arrival and departure of the children vary considerably within the limits given above. It is found that the early arrivals require considerable longer rest periods than the usual two hours given in the Nursery Schools. The majority of the children are observed to come well clothed and in a clean condition.

The Child Welfare Medical Officer visits the school regularly once a week and in addition carries out a routine medical examination of new children once a month. The Health Visitor for the district also visits for the purpose of seeing the children and carrying out cleanliness inspections. The results of these inspections and the advice given has been very satisfactory. The use of Lethane Hair Oil has proved efficacious in many cases.

The same experience with regard to the adequacy of diets provided and the use of new and varied foodstuffs has been observed as has previously been reported with regard to Nursery Schools.

16 children have been given Ferrous-Sulphate tablets, a supply by the Ministry of Health for nutritional anaemia. 6 children were referred to the Education Committee's Ear, Nose and Throat specialist for discharging ears or enlarged tonsils and adenoids, 2 were referred to the Consultant in diseases of the eye. Arrangements were also made for the children to attend the Ultra-Violet Ray Clinic and the Orthopaedic Clinic through the arrangements already in existence for the School Medical Service. The W.V.S., have been helpful on these occasions in providing escorts or transport.

The general impression is that the children are settling down well in this class and that there is a harmonious and friendly atmosphere in the Nursery.

Speech Clinic.

The Speech clinic has been closed as no new Therapist was available when Mrs. Marland left at the end of August, 1943. She had held the position for 14 months.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

During 1943, 121 new cases were referred to this Clinic with the usual completely satisfactory results.

Torticollis	...	...	...	1
Ganglion...	...	...	...	3
Kyphosis	...	...	...	4
Foot Deformities	...	...	...	68
Other postural defects	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	39
				<hr/>
				121
				<hr/> <hr/>

More foot defects are being found than hitherto and in some cases this is due entirely to unsuitable footwear.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

A total of 359 children was referred to the consultant's clinic ; of these 288 received operative treatment and 71 other forms of treatment.

In-Patient Treatment of Debility.

In addition to the orthopaedic cases mentioned above, Dr. Bateman has examined 49 children suffering from severe debility and has admitted 35 of them to the Memorial Home ; 14 were on the waiting list at the end of the year. This scheme remains one of the most valuable aids to the delicate child, particularly to those too young to attend the Open Air School.

Periodical Weighing of Children.

The six monthly weighing of all children at three of our largest schools has continued.

	1943	1942
Number weighed	2,064	3,209
Number who have gained weight	99.85%	98.2%
Number who have remained stationery	0.15%	0.63%
Number who have lost weight	0.15%	1.1%

Provision of Meals.

During 1943, 54,011 free dinners have been supplied compared with 83,512 in 1942. The number of dinners for which payment was made was 405,619 compared with 402,391 in 1942.

Three additional canteens have been opened at Heybrook Junior, Spotland and Norden C. of E. Schools, making a total of 27 canteens. The food for these canteens is cooked at Brownhill kitchens now working to capacity. The demand for meals still increases and to meet this demand plans have been prepared for the erection of two central kitchens each with a cooking capacity of 2,000 main meals per day.

Meals for pupils in attendance at the High School for Girls are cooked in the school kitchen ; approximately 320 dinners are served daily. Food for the Nursery Schools is also cooked in those schools' own kitchens.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

Our thanks are again due to the N.S.P.C.C., the St. Annes Convalescent Home and the Moorland Home for their help in various directions.

Clog Fund.

The Head Teachers' Clog Fund was closed in April, 1943, chiefly owing to the difficulty in obtaining clogs. Up to that date 41 pairs were supplied to poor children.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

Again the number of cases examined has increased, the total for the year being 288, compared with 268 in 1942 and 159 in 1941.

The increasing number of children undertaking part-time work causes some anxiety to the School Medical Service. Although such work is regulated under the local bye-laws there is often a risk of the willing child working more than he (or particularly she) should. A certificate of fitness cannot however be withheld if a child is in reasonably good health.

Cost of Medical Inspection.

The costs of this department from April 1st, 1942, to March 31st, 1943, were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	3074	8	1
Printing, Stationery and Postage	176	4	9
Drugs, Materials, Apparatus, Spectacles	576	5	10
Hospitals, Nursing Associations, etc.	983	15	11
Travelling	62	18	6
Rent	470	12	2
Upkeep of premises	6	10	0
Fuel, Light and Cleaning... ..	21	13	2
Conveyance of children	95	5	10
Aural Clinics and Eye Specialist's fees	135	9	0
Other expenses	42	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£5645	3	3
	<hr/>		
Recovered from parents	£295	13	10

In summarising this Report it is satisfactory to be able again to note that the level of nutrition and of general health remains high in spite of the many difficulties of war-time.

In this area it would appear that the only serious effects upon the welfare of the children are firstly, the difficulty of maintaining footgear in a satisfactory condition ; secondly, the degree of neglect of the general cleanliness of children which is inevitable when parents are absent from home on war service or overtime work in the factories and lastly, the effects of black-out conditions on the ventilation of sleeping accommodation.

There can be little doubt that the high level of nutrition reflects very considerable credit upon the manner in which the food supplies of the nation have been handled with particular regard to the needs of the growing child.

I have once more to record with pleasure my appreciation of the work carried out by the medical, dental and nursing staffs and assistance received from the Education Committee and the Director of Education.

John Limes.

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
ROCHDALE.

26/6/44.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection and Treatment Returns

Year ended 31st December, 1943.

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	783
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,060
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,845
Number of other Routine Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,073

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 7,983

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.	%
2073	78	4.22	1670	90.42	97	5.25	2	0.09

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—**Minor Ailments** (excluding uncleanliness).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under
the Authority's Scheme : 6,312.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	531
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I	—
Total	<u>531</u>
No. of children for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed	509
(b) Obtained	341

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

Received Operative Treatment	286
Received other forms of Treatment	71
Total number	<u>359</u>

TABLE IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist—					
(a) Routine age-groups					8763
(b) Specials					650
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)					9413
(2) Number found to require treatment					5388
(3) Number actually treated... ..					3678
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment... ..					4526
(5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection	107				
Treatment	703	Total			810
(6) Fillings—Permanent teeth	3400				
Temporary teeth	145	Total			3545
(7) Extractions—Permanent teeth	566				
Temporary teeth	3980	Total			4546
(8) Administrations of General anaesthetics for extractions					311
(9) Other operations	Permanent teeth 411				
Temporary teeth 515		Total			926

TABLE V.—Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	9
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	18573
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	1906
(iv.) Number of individual children cleansed under Sec. 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	12

TABLE VI.—Blind and Deaf Children.

No. of totally, or almost, blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to all such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

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

TABLE VII.—School Medical and Dental Staff.

		Portion of time served to	
		S.M.S.	Public Health
S.M.O.	Dr. J. Innes	one sixth	five sixths
A.S.M.O.s	Dr. Nora Mills	whole	none
	Dr. Helen Smith	4 mornings	none
	Dr. Gladys Montgomery ...	one tenth	nine tenths
Dentists	Mr. R. J. C. Young.		
	Mr. Bickerdike.		
	Mr. Gledsdale, serving with H.M. Forces.		

School Nursing Service.

		Time given to S.M.S. Work	
School Nurses	five	...	all
Dental Attendants	two	...	„