

[Report 1936] / Medical Officer of Health, Rochester City and Port.

Contributors

Rochester (Kent, England). City and Port Authority.

Publication/Creation

1936

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xvk5ekae>

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>

CIVIL (1) ROCH-3702

CITY OF ROCHESTER

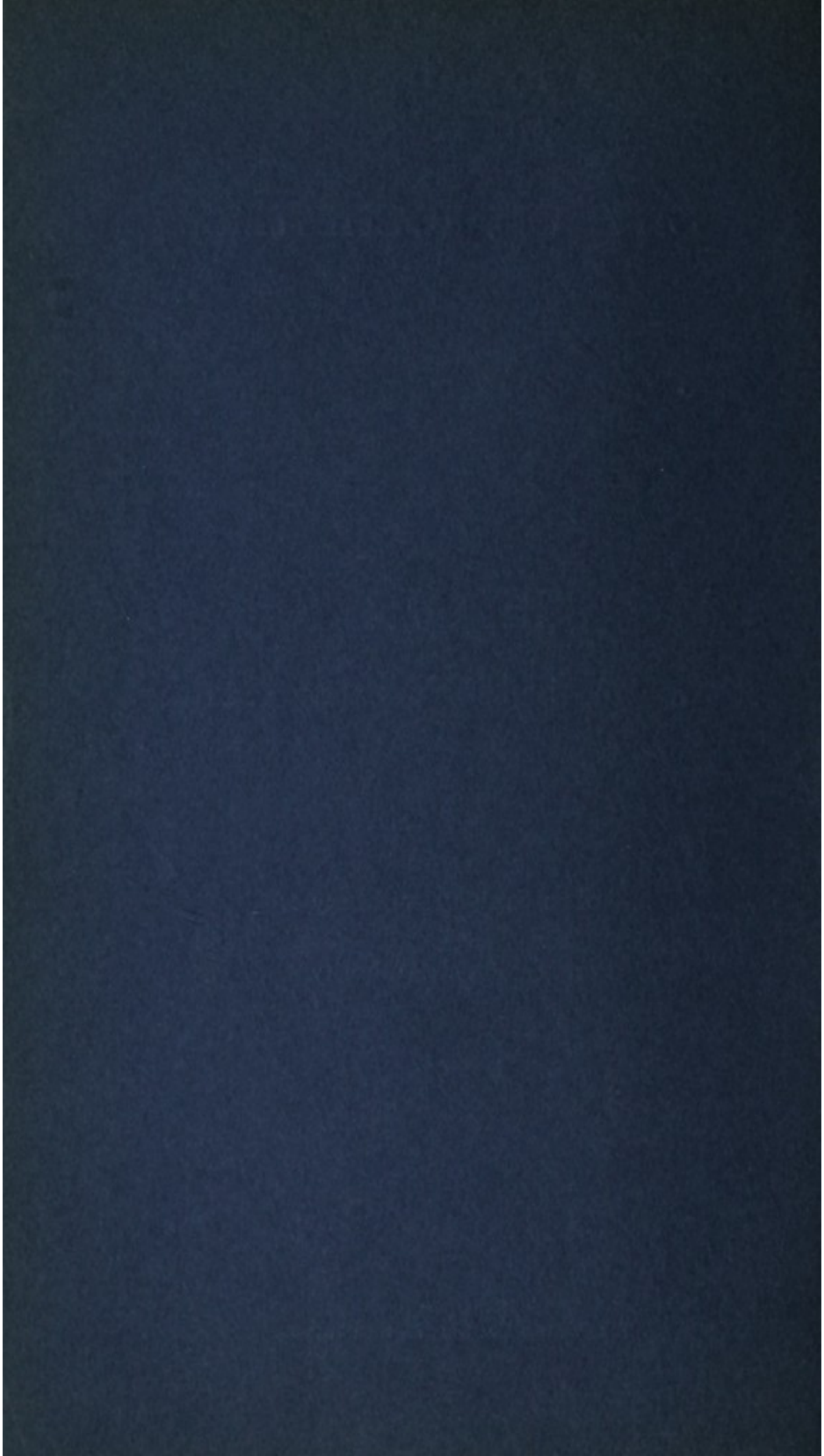


REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health

Urban Sanitary Authority
and
Port Sanitary Authority

1936

ROCHESTER:
THE PRINTING CO., LTD., 77, HIGH STREET.



CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health

Urban Sanitary Authority
and
Port Sanitary Authority

1936

ROCHESTER:
THE PRINTING CO., LTD., 77, HIGH STREET.

CITY OF BOSTON

REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1881

BY

1881

INDEX

Ambulance Facilities	8
Area of District	4
Bacteriological Examinations	23, 29, 30
Bakehouses... .. .	23
Births and Birth Rate	4, 5, 6, 41
Blindness	32
Canal Boats... .. .	49
Cancer	31
Census Statistics	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	27, 28
Cesspool Emptying	20
Child Mortality	5
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT	17-25
Clinics	8
Closet Accommodation	12
Common Lodging Houses	25
Complaints	17
Dairies and Cowsheds	22
Deaths and Death Rate	4, 5, 7, 34, 35, 41
Diphtheria	27, 28, 29, 30
Disinfection and Disinfestation	13, 25, 30
Domestic Refuse Storage	21
Drainage and Sewerage	11, 12, 20
Dried Milk	37
Enteric Fever	27, 28, 29, 30
Erysipelas	27, 28, 29
Factories and Workshops	24, 26
Fried Fish Shops	23
Food and Drugs Acts	23
Food Inspection	21, 22, 48
Health Visitors' Annual Report	36-39
Home Helps	11
Hospitals	8, 9, 10, 31
Hospital, Isolation	9, 10, 31, 42
Housing and Housing Statistics	14-18
Housing Act Inspections	17
Infant Life Protection	37
Infant Mortality	4, 5, 35
Infectious Diseases	26-30, 42
Influenza	30, 34
Inspections, Summary of	25
Laboratory Facilities	8
Legislation	40
Maternity and Child Welfare	11, 35
Maternity and Nursing Homes	11
Measles and Whooping Cough	30, 34
Meat Inspection	21
Milk (Mothers' and Children) Order	37

INDEX (continued)

Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	22
Mosquitoes...	...	...	...	...	...	50, 51
Neo-Natal Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	5
Notifications of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	28, 29
Nursing Arrangements, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Nutrition	...	...	...	...	...	12
Occupation of Inhabitants	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	26, 27, 28, 29
Orthopædic Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	24, 41
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	27, 28, 29, 30
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	27
Population...	...	...	...	...	...	4, 6, 7, 41
PORT SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT	...	...	...	...	...	43-51
Public Cleansing	..	...	...	...	...	12
Puerperal Pyrexia and Septicæmia	...	...	...	...	...	27, 28, 29
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	30, 46, 47, 48
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	19, 20
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	27, 28, 29
Schemes for Maternity and Child Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	...	35, 36
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	12, 30
Shops Acts...	...	..	...	...	...	24, 25
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...	12
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	21
Small Pox...	...	...	...	...	...	27, 28, 29
Smoke Abatement	...	..	...	...	...	13
Special Reports	...	...	...	...	...	39
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	13
Staff	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tables	...	...	...	...	...	7, 16, 26-28, 31, 32, 35
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	32-34
Unemployment	...	...	..	...	...	5
Unsound Food	...	...	..	...	...	22
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	34
Vital Statistics	...	...	...	...	...	7
Verminous Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	21
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	11, 45

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SAYE HOUSE,

ROCHESTER.

1st July, 1937.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1936. The Report conforms with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 1561, and certain matters which have been dealt with in previous Reports have been omitted or curtailed.

In the production of a Report which deals with so many aspects on Public Health, a considerable amount of the data is necessarily provided by my colleagues in this and in other Departments, and in taking this opportunity to record their co-operation, I cannot fully express my appreciation of the help they have given me.

General Note on Mortality and Population.

The year 1936 has been conspicuous by its very low Death Rate (10.5 per 1000 persons living). This low Death Rate is partly due to a decrease in deaths from Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases. The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (viz., 16) is the lowest to be recorded in Rochester, and is about half the number that occurred annually 20 years ago.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 49 per 1000 live births compares favourably with the corresponding figure for other parts of England and Wales. The large proportion of deaths which occurred in the first month after birth (see Table H, page 35). indicates the necessity for preventive measures during pregnancy.

The City was comparatively very free from notifiable infectious disease and the majority of cases were of a mild type. Infectious Diseases occur in cycles, however, and the past year, no doubt, represents a low, if not the lowest, point of the inter-epidemic curve.

The population is increasing rapidly, probably at an approximate rate of 1000 persons per annum. The increase is largely due to an influx of population, and not to an increase in the Birth Rate.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Corporation have made extensive arrangements to provide an efficient Maternity service, and any improvement in the health of mothers and children which will occur in the future will depend largely on the extent to which this service is utilised by the community. A Local Authority cannot *make* the populace healthy. All that it can do is to ensure that the necessary facilities are available to permit individual members of the community to practise the principles of health, and as far as the Maternity and Child Welfare Services are concerned, Rochester Corporation have taken every possible step to provide both preventive measures and facilities for treatment to safeguard the health of mothers and children. In paragraph 7, page 11 a statement will be found showing the extent to which the services have been utilised during the year 1936.

The service of Home Helps has been very much appreciated by that section of the community for whom it is intended. 89 Home Helps were supplied during the year and I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the very valuable co-operation I have received from the Trustees and Officials of Watts'

Charity by whom Home Helps are supplied upon application made through the Health Department. Whilst this service fulfils a definite need, and is well patronised I do not think sufficient use is made by expectant mothers of the facilities which are available for medical ante and post-natal care. Fortunately the large majority of births is unattended by complications or danger to the health of the mother, and it is probably for this reason that many mothers do not avail themselves of the facilities. On the other hand, it cannot be too strongly emphasised that it is only by supervision throughout the ante-natal period that true preventive medicine can be practised in the interests of the mothers.

Child Welfare.

In an endeavour to eliminate the seeds of ill-health at the earliest possible age the Corporation have now made available for pre-school children all the medical and ancillary services which are provided for children of school age.

Housing.

539 houses have been built during the year and to judge from the number of persons living in sub-let premises, the housing needs have not yet been fully met. Good progress is being made in the demolition of slum property, and in the abatement of overcrowding (see pages 14 & 15). A perusal of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report (pages 17-25) shows the enormous number of visits and reports which the Inspectors have to undertake in the administration of the Housing Acts. A considerable proportion of their time is devoted to improvement of housing conditions, and in spite of the vast amount of detailed work and the trying conditions under which this work sometimes has to be carried out, there can be no question of the value of the steps which are taken in this direction.

Nuisances.

Amongst the nuisances which gave rise to complaint were those relating to a pollution by dust and to mosquitoes.

The dust nuisance, which is chiefly industrial in origin, has been largely abated and I do not think it has had any prejudicial effect on the health of the community, although at one time it was distinctly objectionable.

The mosquito infliction was caused mainly by the female of the species known as "Aedes detritus." These mosquitoes breed in brackish stagnant water and have a large range of flight. Endeavours are being made this year to locate the extensive breeding grounds on the marshes. The enormous extent of marshes on the River Medway, however, renders the eradication of the mosquitoes a problem of great difficulty. (See page 50).

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the staff for the valuable support and assistance which they have given in the Department during the year. To the Chairman and Members of the various Committees I have to acknowledge my gratitude for their courteous consideration and help throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER	3.759
POPULATION—Census 1931 ... 31,193	Estimated (Middle of 1936) R.G. ... 35,050
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1936) ACCORDING TO RATE	
BOOKS	10,050
RATEABLE VALUE	£233,561
SUM REPRESENTING A PENNY RATE	Gross £907 Nett £892

Extract from 1931 Census compared with 1921 Census and Local Census 1935.

	At date of Housing Survey		
	1935	1931	1921
(a) Total Dwellings occupied	9579	7415	6792
Ditto vacant	160	180	—
(b) Number of private families therein	9663	7925	7244
(c) Average number of persons per family	3.6	3.72	4.17
(d) Average size of occupied dwellings	—	5.28 rooms	5.38 rooms
(e) Families living with more than 2 persons per room density	—	223 (1271 persons)	184 (1439 persons)

TOTAL BIRTHS—529.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	529	280	249
	Illegitimate	24	14	10
Still Births	Legitimate	22	10	12
	Illegitimate	2	2	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 persons living ...		15.1		

TOTAL DEATHS—All causes at all ages ... 371 210 161

Death rate per 1,000 persons living ...	10.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—	
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	...

	Total	...
Natural Increase in Population (Excess Births over Deaths) ... ..	...	150

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Total Infant Deaths	20
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	40
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	1

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths appears at the end of the Report on page 41.

The following Table shows a comparison between the " Rates " in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1936.

	Live Births. Rate per 1,000 Resident Population	Deaths per 1,000 Population.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Registered Live Births.
England and Wales	14.8	12.1	59
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	12.3	63
143 Smaller Towns. Populations from 25,000 to 50,000	15	11.5	55
London	13.6	12.5	66
Rochester	15.1	10.5	49

PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diseases of the Circulatory System (including Heart Disease and Cerebral Hæmorrhage)	137
Cancer	49
Respiratory Diseases:	
Pneumonia (all forms)	14
Bronchitis	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	20
Deaths from all causes	371

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND BIRTH RATE.

Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births, and births per 1,000 persons living:—

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Infant Mortality ...	42.8	43.2	65.5	53.9	35.4	35.6	35.3	50.0	65.3	49.0
Birth Rate ...	16.6	15.2	15.5	15.1	14.0	15.4	12.8	14.6	15.1	15.1

Table H, p. 35 shows the causes of death in children under 1 year of age at different ages.

CHILD MORTALITY.

Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1935	4
Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1936	2

NEO NATAL MORTALITY.

Total Deaths	11	(1935=15)
Death rate of children under 1 month of age per 1,000 births ...	20.8	(1935=28.8)

UNEMPLOYMENT.

I am indebted to A. J. Cushing, Esq., Manager of the Ministry of Labour Exchange, and S. T. Osborn, Esq., Manager of the Juvenile Employment Agency, Elm House, Chatham, for the following information, which shows to some extent the amount of unemployment in the area during the past 5 years.

(a) Number of persons (estimated for Rochester) registered as unemployed at the Ministry of Labour Exchange, Chatham, in March of each year:

1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
1375	1450	1250	800	575

(b) Average monthly figures of Unemployed Juveniles between the ages of 14 to 18 years. (Estimated for Rochester):—

1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
44	42	33	99	63

DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The occupations of the Inhabitants (1931 Census) and the distribution and density of the population at the time of the Housing Survey, 1935, are shown on page 6 of the Annual Report for 1935.

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WARDS.

	Population at time of Housing Survey in 1935	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Death Rate
Rochester City M.B. ...	34980	529	15.1	371	10.6
Frindsbury Ward ...	6874	36	5.2	23	3.3
St. Margaret's Ward ...	4465	68	15.2	68	15.2
St. Nicholas' Ward ...	1388	16	11.5	18	12.9
St. Peter's Ward ...	8360	110	13.1	47	5.6
Strood Ward ...	9228	234	25.3	149	16.3
Troy Town Ward ...	4665	65	13.9	66	14.1

COMMENTS ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION.

The population is engaged predominantly in industry. The Royal Dockyard at Chatham by reason of its proximity absorbs a proportion of the employable population of Rochester. The River Medway trade, cement manufacture, agriculture, engineering and airplane building form the main local industries. The cathedral and historical and Dickensian associations of the City attract many visitors.

TABLE A.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1936 and Five Previous Years
Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non-Registered in the District.	of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1931	30200	423	14.0	520	17.2	281	150	15	35.4	389	12.8
1932	30980	477	15.4	487	15.7	228	95	17	35.6	354	11.4
1933	30700	396	12.8	509	16.5	212	86	14	35.3	383	12.4
1934	32807	480	14.6	513	15.6	154	133	24	50.0	408	12.4
1935	34480	521	15.1	435	12.6	159	114	34	65.3	390	11.3
1936	35050	529	15.1	481	13.7	161	110	26	49	371	10.5

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

There are 16 doctors resident in the area who are engaged in civilian practice (excluding St. Bartholomew's Hospital).

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

See page 8 of the Annual Report for 1935 and page 29 in this Report.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

See page 8 of the Annual Report for 1935.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME.

See page 8 of the Annual Report for 1935.

The number of patients receiving nursing attention at home through Watts Charity in 1936 was 324, and, in addition, Home Helps were supplied during the year in 89 cases.

5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Clinic.	Situation.	By whom provided.
School Clinic	Strood House, The Common, Rochester	Rochester Education Committee
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	Do.	Rochester Corporation
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	36, New Road, Rochester	Kent County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary	13, New Road, Rochester	Do.
Centre for Distribution of Dried Milk, etc.	The New Corn Exchange, Rochester	Rochester Corporation
Birth Control Clinic	Henderson House, New Road, Rochester	National Birth Control Association, London
Orthopædic Clinic Radium & X-Ray Centre Ultra Violet Light Clinic Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic Ophthalmic Clinic	St. Bartholomew's Hospital	Voluntary Hospital

The question of the provision of a new Health Centre and Clinic is under consideration by Rochester Corporation.

6. HOSPITALS. (See Table.)

To co-ordinate still further the services provided by the Local Authority and those provided by St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and the County Hospital, Chatham, arrangements have been made whereby every child discharged from Hospital is notified to the Health Department in order that the Health Visitors may visit to advise the parents of such children after their discharge from Hospital.

St. William's Hospital, which is the Infectious Diseases Hospital in the District, is under the control of a Joint Hospital Board and serves primarily the Districts of Rochester and Chatham. Cases of infectious disease are also admitted from the Kent County Council Institutions, viz., the Medway Cottage Homes, Rochester and Strood, and the County Hospital, Chatham. The Hospital consists of 85 beds on the Ministry of Health's standard of 144 square feet floor space per head, and included in the 85 beds is a block of 7 cubicle isolation beds which are about to be modernised. The Hospital grounds have an extent of 6 acres and the accommodation could be increased to 120 beds if such increase became necessary.

Consideration is being given to fuller use being made of this Hospital. In non-epidemic periods cases of disease other than the ordinary notifiable Infectious Diseases could and should be admitted. The matter is still sub judice, and a decision is dependent upon the Kent County Council's scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929.

6. HOSPITALS.

Public Hospitals in and adjoining the City of Rochester.

Name and Situation.	Number of Beds.	Classification of Beds.	Management.	Purpose.	Medical Staff.	Nursing Staff.	Area of Site.	Remarks.
County Hospital, Hospital "House" Rd., Chatham.	412	Acute Medical and Surgical Male 86 Female 62 Children 35 Tuberculosis ... 26 Male 14 Female 12 Isolation ... 8 Male 4 Female 4 Maternity ... 22 Beds 16 Cots 6 Chronic Sick ... 134 Male 42 Female 92 Mental ... 114 Female 61	Public Assistance Committee, Kent C.C.	For all general diseases, Tuberculosis, Sick Children and Lunatics (female only).	Senior Medical Officer 1 Assist. Medical " 3 do. Consult. Physic. 1 non-Resident " Surgeon 1 do. Dental " 1 do. Ophthalmic " 1 do.	Supt. Nurse 1 Assist. Supt. " 1 Sisters " 11 Home Sister 1 Sister Tutor 1 Massage Ward Sisters 2 Staff Sisters 12 Midwives 7 Staff Nurses 7 Probation Nurses 64 Assist. Nurses 9 Mental Nurses 10	About 10 acres. Chatham, Gillingham and part of the City of Rochester	Not an appropriated hospital, but a mixed institution administered under the Poor Law Acts. There is room for the erection of two additional blocks of 100 beds each.
R.N. and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, (Canada House), Barnsole Rd., Gillingham.	28	Maternity Wards 25 Private Wards 3 Labour Wards 2	Officers and Men of R.N. and Royal Marines and Ladies' Committee.	Primarily for the wives of Service members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Rochester patients admitted by agreement under M. & C.W. Scheme.	Hon. Medical Officer 1 Medical Practitioners engaged by patient or at request of Matron.	Matron 1 Sisters 2 Nurses 9	1 acre Gillingham, Rochester, Chatham, Sittingbourne and localities.	Consultants provided by Rochester Council for Rochester Patients. Ante-Natal Clinic opened 1935.
St. Williams' Hospital, St. Williams' Way, Rochester.	85 on Ministry's Standard 144 sq. ft. per head.	Block 1 2-8 bed wards 2-12 do. Block 2 2-6 do. 2-2 do. Block 3 2-6 do. 2-2 do. Block 4 2-3 do. Block 5 8 cubicles (including operating Theatre).	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.	Isolation and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.	Medical Officer 1 non-resident Deputy Medical Officer 1 part time.	Matron 1 Sisters 2 Staff Nurses 3 Probation Nurses 11	6 acres Rochester and Chatham.	Extension possible to 120 beds, on present site.

Name and Situation.	Number of Beds.	Classification of Beds.	Management.	Purpose.	Medical Staff.	Nursing Staff.	Acreege of Site.	Area Served.	Remarks.
Small Pox Hospital, City Way, Rochester.	26	Small Pox beds only.	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.	Isolation and Treatment of Small Pox.	As and when required.	As and when required.	3 acres	Rochester and Chatham. Approximate Population 81,000	Temporary Buildings. Cases of Small Pox may be admitted to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, by arrangement with London C.C.
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester.	120	Medical Orthopaedic Surgical Ophthalmic	... 31 Voluntary ... 4 Committee ... 77 of 34 ... 8 Trustees.	General Medical and Surgical complicated maternity cases. Clinics for children, Ear, Nose, and Throat, Out-patients, Orthopaedic, Electric Therapeutics, Surgical, T.B. and Ophthalmic Cases, Pathological, X-ray and Radio-Therapeutic Depts.	House Surgeon ... 1 Hon. Surgeons ... 3 Assist. Hon. Surgeons 3 Hon. Physicians ... 3 Assist. Hon. Physicians 3 Hon. Ophthalm. Surgeon 1 Hon. Anaesthetists ... 5 Hon. Pathologist ... 1 Hon. Radiologist ... 1 Hon. Dental Surgeon... 1 Registrar ... 1 Casualty House Surg. 1 House Physician ... 1 Hon. Surgeon, Ear, Nose and Throat 1	Matron 1 Assist. Matron 1 Sisters 10 Nurses 37 Sister Tutor 1	1 3 acres	Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Sittingbourne Sheerness and district. Approximate Population 200,000	Extension scheme in progress which includes 2 new wards to contain 60 beds. School of Massage attached to Orthopaedic Dept. 2 new operating theatre units were opened during 1936.
Strood P.A.C. Institution Gun Lane, Strood.	Hospital "House" 126 Maternity 191 Tuberculosis Others	... 4 Public ... 8 Assistance ...114 Committee, Kent C.C.	Treatment of Chronic Sick and Tuberculous patients.	Medical Officer 1 non-resident, part time	Head Nurse 1 Assistant Nurses 8	4.8 acres	Strood and Hoo Rural District, and Northfleet Urban District	A "mixed" unappropriated institution administered under the Poor Law Acts. Approximate Population 37,000.	

This Hospital was closed during the year.

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

(a) MIDWIVES. There are ten midwives living and practising in the area. In addition four midwives living outside the City practise in the District, and there are 11 midwives employed on the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

(b) HEALTH VISITORS. Two Health Visitors are employed and details of their work are shown on pages 36 to 39. One additional School Nurse/Health Visitor was appointed on November 2nd, 1936.

(c) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. (See Annual Report for the year 1935.)

(d) PROVISION FOR MATERNITY CASES. (See Annual Report for the year 1935.)

SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 1936.

Number of cases in which Midwives' Fees were subsidised or paid in full by the Council	14
Number of children attended by Watts' Charity Nurses in the Home	41
Number of cases in which Home Helps were provided by Watts' Charity	89
Number of patients admitted to Canada House	
(a) Privately	45
(b) By Local Authority	16
Number of occasions on which the services of a Consultant were provided	7
Number of women for whom medical ante-natal and post-natal care was provided	138
Number of pre-school children referred to Hospital for special treatment	20
Number of expectant and nursing mothers who received dental treatment provided by the Local Authority	28
Number of children of pre-school age who received dental treatment by the Local Authority (see also page 36)	35
Number of patients admitted to Convalescent Homes	3

HOME HELPS. The provision of Home Helps has been very successful and the service has been extensively used by that section of the community for whom it is primarily intended. The success of the scheme, of course, is due to the fact that there is complete co-operation by the Trustees and Officials of Watts' Charity. The other factors which make the service so acceptable are:—

1. The high standard and type of Home Help provided.
2. The fact that no charge to the recipients is made for the service provided.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER. (See Annual Report for 1935.)

The usual number of chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples of water have been carried out during the year, and the results have shown the water to be in a satisfactory condition and suitable for drinking purposes.

RAINFALL FOR THE PAST 9 YEARS (RECORDED AT STROOD WATER WORKS).

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Total Depth (inches)	27.29	21.03	26.38	22.01	18.68	18.60	19.5	26.88	26.4

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

SEWERAGE. For particulars of the Rochester and Chatham Joint Sewerage Scheme see Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1928, page 10.

Gillingham M.B. became a constituent authority of the Joint Sewerage Board on 1st October, 1934. The treatment of the sewerage before discharge into the River Medway is, as formerly, by Tank Settlement only.

The principal sewer extensions during 1936 were continued in the added area, the Brompton Farm Road and Cliffe Road area being completed.

DRAINAGE. Connection of house drains to the new sewerage scheme which began in 1928 still continues, as is shown in the following table.

Number of houses connected to sewers at the end of each year:—

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
1608	2628	4107	4955	5790	7188	7655	8350

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS. (See Annual Report for 1935.)

The Scheme of the Strood Rural District Council to discharge drainage from the Hoo District into the River Medway which was reported upon in 1935 has so far not become operative.

The Medway Shellfish Regulations, 1935, dated December 11th, 1935, made by the Minister of Health under Section 130 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as amended came into operation during the year. Shellfish from the River Medway must either be subjected to a satisfactory process of cleansing at an establishment approved by the Minister, or relaid for a specified time in such place and subject to such conditions as may for the time being be approved by the Minister.

The question of the establishment of a Cleansing Station for Shellfish in the vicinity of the River Medway has been considered by the Council during the year.

The large area of marshes and saltings on the banks of the River are very favourable breeding grounds for a certain kind of mosquito. Mosquitos were very troublesome in the City at certain times in the year and particulars will be found on page 50.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are very few privies remaining in the City. For details see Annual Reports for 1933 and previous years.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging and house refuse collection and disposal are carried out under the direction of the City Surveyor, and there has been no change of procedure.

The number of cesspools which require emptying still continues to decrease.

DUSTBINS. During the year the completion of the arrangements for the provision of a sanitary dustbin in every house was effected. The actual number of dustbins provided during the year was 2,456.

6. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the public elementary schools is dealt with in the Report of the School Medical Officer, which has been submitted to the Council as an independent document.

7. NUTRITION.

Every effort is made to bring to the knowledge of the public the newer conception and the great importance of diet as a fundamental in the promotion of the health of the community.

The best method of disseminating information on this subject is considered to be by personal talk with the parents and every opportunity is taken by the professional and nursing staff to give effect to this very necessary form of public health education. Personal talks are augmented with the distribution of leaflets which, although useful in their way, are not nearly so effective as personal contact with the persons concerned. Simple talks and lectures are also given by the Health Visitors at the various Clinics and Centres.

8. SHELLFISH.

For particulars see Port Sanitation, page 49.

9. SWIMMING POOLS.

The following Swimming Pools are situated in the City area:—

1. Open Air Swimming Pool, The Esplanade, Rochester. Constructed by Rochester Corporation and opened in May, 1935. The water is in continuous circulation and is chlorinated.
2. Open-air Swimming Pool in grounds of King's School, The Precincts, Rochester. (Privately owned.)
3. Open-air Swimming Pool in grounds of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School Playing Fields, The Esplanade, Rochester. (Privately owned.)

Samples of water from each pool are taken during the season for bacteriological examination.

The samples taken from the Corporation Swimming Pool have shown it to be a very clean pure water at all times.

10. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

With the increase in industrial undertakings in the District there is a natural tendency for a greater amount of atmospheric pollution. The actual atmospheric pollution by industrial smoke is neither extensive nor of a serious character, but there has been a certain amount of atmospheric pollution from industrial dust, siliceous in character. Representations were made to the industry concerned and a new and much larger dust extraction plant was installed, with the result that the atmospheric dust pollution has diminished to negligible proportions.

11. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation is employed in all suitable cases for the eradication of bed bugs, both in dwelling houses and in furniture. In cases where the condition of the house renders such a procedure dangerous, and in cases where it is impossible to obtain vacation of the dwelling house for a sufficient length of time, alternative methods are employed, such as stripping wallpaper and spraying all woodwork and walls, etc., with various insecticides, and the use of sulphur dioxide.

1. Number of Council Houses found to be infested with bed bugs during the

year 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of Council Houses deinfested	(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
	(b) By other methods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number of other Houses found to be infested with bed bugs during the	year 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Number of other Houses deinfested	(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
	(b) By other methods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
2. Infested houses are treated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas wherever possible, insecticides only being used when Cyanide cannot be employed.
3. The belongings of tenants about to be moved to Council Houses from bug infested houses are always disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide Gas.
4. Hydrogen Cyanide disinfestation is carried out by a Contractor. Other forms of disinfestation are carried out by the Health Department. (For further particulars with regard to Verminous Dwellings, see Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 21.)

D. HOUSING.

Dwelling houses erected during the past ten years:—

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	Total
Erected by Local Authority	120	64	53	50	30	92	82	24	24	52	591
Erected by Private Enterprise	116	21	41	21	82	115	221	437	322	487	1863

Dwelling houses demolished under Housing Acts:—

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	Total
	0	6	15	2	13	15	15	48	42	48	204

The five years' programme of the Corporation to erect 100 houses for purposes of Slum Clearance was completed during the year.

For purposes of abatement of overcrowding and for re-housing of tenants displaced or to be displaced from insanitary property which was not included in the Five Years' Programme, the Council have decided to erect 58 houses.

At the time of the Housing Survey, 1935, there were 254 families living in sub-let rooms and from the available information the number of families living under such conditions is tending to increase. Very few of these families are living in overcrowded conditions or in insanitary houses, but in spite of this there is an urgent need for better housing conditions for such sub-tenants.

An official representation was made with regard to the Free School Lane Clearance Area, No. 2, on the 2nd January, 1936, and a Clearance Area Order became effective in due course.

In addition, Demolition or Closing Orders were made on 33 houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1936.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		715
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		2417
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		144
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		569
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		60
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		655

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	594
--	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR 1936.

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

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	*15
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

* Includes Notices served in 1935 and remedied in 1936.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	31
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	48
D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930. ...	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	53
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	54
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	409
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported At time of Survey ...	102
during the year Cases since Survey ...	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	51
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	399
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	

At the time of the Housing Survey, which was completed early in 1936, 102 families were found to be overcrowded. This number was equivalent to one per cent. of all the families in the City. Since that time continuous efforts have been made by the Department to abate the known overcrowding as far as possible by means of co-operation of house owners and agents, and by the utilisation of certain houses owned by the Corporation. It was found possible to re-house in satisfactory conditions 51 of the total overcrowded families which were discovered at the time of the Housing Survey. For the remaining 51 overcrowded families and for the additional overcrowded families which have been reported during the year the Corporation intend to erect new dwelling houses.

The number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the Corporation at the time of the Housing Survey was 45.

During the year overcrowding in houses owned by the Corporation has been relieved in 14 cases.

In anticipation of applications from owners under Section 62, Housing Act, 1936, for information as to permissible number of occupants, systematic measurements of all working class dwellings in the City was commenced by two temporary assistants at the end of June, and by the end of the year nearly 3,900 dwellings had been measured and formally recorded.

CITY OF ROCHESTER.

Population and the Housing Accommodation in the Wards at date of Housing Survey, 1935.

Table B.

Ward.	Number of Occupied Houses (including Institutions)	Number of Empty Houses		Total Population	Number of Children under 1 year of age	Number of Children 10 yrs. of age and under	Total number of Children 10 yrs. of age and under	Percentage of Children 10 yrs. of age and under in the Ward	Density of Population		Average number of Persons per Dwelling Occupied	Number of families overcrowded on the 1935 Housing Act standard	Percentage	Number of Sub-Tenants	Number of Institutions	Acreage
		Work-ing Class	Other						Houses per acre	Persons per acre						
St. Margaret ...	1209	6	37	4465	15	210	225	5.0	0.9	3.1	3.7	2	.16	18	3	1426
St. Peter ...	2284	20	14	8360	70	870	940	11.2	2.8	10.4	3.7	10	.44	26	4	805
Troy Town ...	1259	14	4	4665	48	473	521	11.2	16.0	59.5	3.7	30	2.46	54	—	78
St. Nicholas ...	401	10	1	1388	14	94	108	7.7	3.2	11.1	3.4	5	1.24	24	1	125
Frindsbury ...	1952	8	6	6874	45	666	711	10.4	5.0	17.7	3.5	17	0.87	75	—	389
Strood ...	2474	26	14	9228	125	1316	1441	15.6	2.6	9.8	3.7	38	1.54	57	2	936
Total ...	9579	84	76	34980	317	3929	3629	11.3	2.5	9.3	3.6	102	1.06	254	10	3759
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

E. CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to submit my 29th Annual Report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints—937—made by householders and others during 1936 constituted a record, and was nearly double that of the previous year. The exceptional number is partly accounted for by the house-to-house visitations made for the purpose of overcrowding survey and for refuse receptacle investigation. Many tenants took the opportunity of making requests for inspection of existing unsatisfactory conditions, and in all cases as soon as possible after the complaints were made the necessary inspections and appropriate action followed.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

Formal inspections of 144 houses were made under the Housing Acts, and reports on each were submitted to the Health Committee. The properties were situated as follows:—

Bartholomews Square	1	High Street	2
Barton Road	1	John Street	12
Bill Street Road	5	King Street	10
Burritt Street	1	Montfort Road	1
Church Street	1	Morden Street	2
Collis Street	1	North Street	2
Corporation Street	6	Parrs Head Lane	8
Cromer Road	1	Pearson Street	7
Davis Square	8	Pleasant Row	2
Delce Road	5	Prentice Street	1
Dunnings Lane	2	Princes Street	2
Factory Cottages, Borstal	6	St. Peter's Place	5
East Row	1	Temple Street	31
Friary Place	3	Victoria Terrace, Borstal	1
George Lane	4	Waterworks Cottages	2
Gordon Road	1	Windmill Street	2
Gravel Walk	1		
Grove Road	3		
Gun Lane	1		144
Henry Street	2		

One Clearance Order affecting 5 premises, and 31 Demolition Orders were made. Closing Order procedure was applied to two other dwellings. The properties so dealt with were as stated below:—

NO. 2 CLEARANCE ORDER.

No. 117, High Street and Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8, Free School Lane.

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Nos. 94 to 104, Corporation Street; Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Crown Court; Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, George Lane; Nos. 7, 58, 60, 62 and 64, King Street; Medway Mews Cottage, High Street; Nos. 9 to 23, Parrs Head Lane; Nos. 1 and 2, Waterworks Cottages; and Nos. 65 and 67, Windmill Street.

CLOSING ORDERS.

No. 89, High Street and No. 15, East Row.

48 houses were pulled down under Demolition Orders during the past year, as follows:—

No. 42 and Nos. 85 to 97, The Common.
 Nos. 51 and 53, Corporation Street.
 Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Crown Court.
 Nos. 2, 4, 6, 6a, 8 and 8a, Five Bells Lane.
 No. 79, Frindsbury Road.
 Nos. 6 to 11, Jerusalem Row.
 Medway Mews Cottage.
 Nos. 2, 4 and 6 and Nos. 9 to 23, Parrs Head Lane.
 Nos. 15 to 21, St. Margaret Street.
 Nos. 1 to 6, Troy Place, King Street.

At the end of the year 38 houses under Demolition Orders were still standing, and of these 16 were occupied. This latter number would have been considerably larger had it not been that the Council's first re-housing scheme was completed during the year. The hundred houses built during 1935 and 1936 not only facilitated the clearance of condemned dwellings, but assisted materially in the reduction of the number of cases of overcrowding. A considerable number of tenants in condemned houses have also accepted tenancies of Council houses in the estates other than those specially erected in Smith Street and Darnley Road. Although extensive building of house property is still going on in the city, very few of the tenants of condemned houses can afford to take such of the privately built properties as become available at weekly rents. This is particularly the case where condemned houses are occupied by aged or childless couples, or by single persons, who needing only one or two bedrooms cannot find other housing accommodation at a rental within their means. A further 16 two-bedroomed houses included in the Council's second re-housing scheme will give considerable assistance in displacement of small families now in condemned dwellings.

The following summary of the action taken with respect to totally unfit houses since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, shows the progress made up to the end of 1936:—

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	Totals
Clearance Order No. 1								
No. of houses	—	—	—	—	—	25	1	26
Clearance Order No. 2								
No. of houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Individual Demolition								
Orders made	9	20	19	27	34	39	31	179
Houses demolished	2	13	15	15	48	42	48	183
Closing Orders made and Closing Undertakings ...	—	2	—	4	2	5	2	15
Houses or Parts of houses closed	—	2	—	4	2	5	1	14
Council houses built for displaced tenants	—	—	—	—	24	24	52	100
Condemned houses still occupied	9	17	17	21	7	32	16	—

Of the 30 houses demolished in 1930 to 1932, fourteen were under Orders made under the Housing Act, 1925, and two were voluntarily pulled down following informal representation to the owner.

The making of Clearance Area Order No. 2 was unsuccessfully appealed against by the owners. The owners of four other houses subjected to Demolition Orders in 1936 gave notice of intention to appeal to the County Court against the Orders, but later withdrew.

BACK-TO-BACK HOUSES.

12 back-to-back houses were converted into 6 single through-ventilated houses, and in each case thorough general re-conditioning was also carried out. Arrangements were complete at the end of the year for the conversion of 6 more as soon as accommodation could be found for the tenants who must be displaced. In most cases the families in back-to-back dwellings number 2 or 3 persons each, and the type of small house they need has been steadily disappearing in the City for the past 20 years, principally through demolitions. In the past year, for instance, of the 35 houses condemned as unfit for occupation, 24 had either one or two bedrooms only, and none was overcrowded within the meaning of the Housing Act, 1936.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

12 Statutory Notices were served during the year requiring owners to carry out improvements in housing or to remedy nuisances, but comparison of this with the fact that, exclusive of those where only dustbin provision was required, 953 houses were the subject of action indicates that informal action was very largely successful. In all cases of house inspection the standard of inspection is that which would be applied if formal Housing Act procedure were intended, and the informal schedules of defects and unsatisfactory conditions sent to owners correspond. The number of repairs and improvements effected under Sanitary Inspectors' direction and supervision is tabulated herewith:—

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	235
New ventilated soil pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
W.C.'s provided with pans and traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
New lavatory basins and baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
New urinals constructed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	458	...	...
Smoke tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	76	...	...

MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Number of houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Back-to-back houses converted to through-ventilated dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dangerous walls re-constructed and underpinned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	310
Yards repaved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
New wash-houses built	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Concrete floors provided to cellars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	248
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	662
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	774
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	630
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Lighting of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Ventilation of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Ventilated food stores provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Steam outlets provided in scullery wash-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2456
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	409
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1681

Total 9,655

Expenditure of £30 to £50 on single houses for complete re-conditioning was necessary in numerous cases, and in one particular street of 104 houses my estimate is that a total expenditure of not less than £5,000 will be necessary before the houses are in a satisfactory condition. Contracts for blocks of 13, 15 and 16 houses in this street have been carried out, and at the time of writing this report the work of a fourth contract for another 22 houses is well in progress. As each contract approaches completion a further batch of houses is inspected, and an informal detailed specification of works necessary for reconditioning is prepared and sent to the owners. As in all other cases where extensive repairs and renovations are being carried out under Sanitary Department direction, regular supervisory visits are made to the work while it is in progress, and the foregoing tabulated statement will give some indication of the demands on Sanitary Inspectors' time for this particular duty.

DRAINAGE.

During the year there was continued co-operation with the Main Drainage Department in preparation of plans and in negotiating with owners for re-draining of houses to the sewerage system. In any case of difficulty I visited the premises concerned to decide details of the new scheme of domestic drainage, and in some instances complete direction, supervision and testing of the work in progress was taken over.

CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES.

Whenever an existing cesspool is notified as being full, a request is sent to the owner to connect the drainage to the sewer if there is one available. Although there are a number of cesspools in the outlying parts of the City which must continue to exist and be emptied, there was in 1936 a continued reduction in the total amount of emptying done. 2,780 loads were pumped from cesspools as compared with 3,370 loads the

previous year, and the 243 loads of sludge removed by night work was 45 less than the figures for 1935. The sludging out in nearly all cases was the final cleansing before cesspools were put into disuse because of sewer connections having been made.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS.

409 rooms in 147 dwellings were subjected to deinfestation treatment as compared with 427 rooms in 137 houses in 1935. 37 were Council houses, and 110 were privately owned property. It is a matter for some satisfaction that, although there was an increase in the total number of houses dealt with, there was a marked reduction in the number of bug-infested Council houses—37 as compared with 61 in 1935.

The change in law made by the Public Health Act, 1936, may result in added net expenditure on deinfestation work. In the past it has been the practice to charge 2/6 per room (or 5/- for double treatment) with sulphur dioxide where such a charge appeared to be warranted. The new Public Health Act gives the Council power to require that they be allowed to use gas in private dwellings for vermin destruction, but also requires that they shall bear the cost of such operations. Although the Act also empowers the Council to serve a notice on the owner or occupier to destroy or remove vermin, a knowledge of the difficulties either would have in effectively doing this, leads to the forecast that deinfestation action will become as much the work of a Public Health Department as disinfection has been for many years.

DOMESTIC REFUSE STORAGE.

An outstanding feature of the past year's work was the successful systematic action taken to secure for each house in the City a sanitary dustbin. The inspections commenced in the Autumn of 1935, were continued until the 10,000 houses and other premises in the City had all been visited. By the end of the year 3,556 houses had been provided with new receptacles of an approved type following service of notices on the owners, and only a comparatively few houses remained to be dealt with. The total number of new dustbins provided must have been very much larger than the figures just given, as many owners anticipated the systematic visits of inspection, and provided dustbins without waiting for formal request. It is pleasing to be able to state that for only 10 houses was it necessary for the Council to provide dustbins at the owners' expense because of the latter's default.

FOOD INSPECTION.

MEAT. There was an increase in the number of carcasses, etc., of animals inspected at the time of slaughter—9,822, as compared with 9,345 for 1935. This was mainly due to increased slaughtering of pigs and sheep for the London Market, and incidentally this necessitated inspection work almost every Saturday evening and every Sunday, as well as late evening work. The subjoined list of condemned food differs only in a few respects from that of previous years. The carcasses of two cows condemned were of animals removed from cowsheds in the City area and slaughtered under the powers of the Tuberculosis Order, 1925. There was a reduction in the number of pigs found to be affected with generalised tuberculosis—10 as against 23 in 1935, but the number with tuberculous glands in the head, 101, was only seven fewer than in the previous year. The number of carcasses of mutton condemned was 10, as compared with 14 in 1935, and it is perhaps worthy of mention that one condemnation was because of a very rare disease, Lymphosarcomatosis. Parts were sent to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and added permanent

specimens to the College Museum. The condemnation of the carcase, etc., of a sheep for tuberculosis was another exceptional occurrence as this disease is very rare in sheep. Enquiry revealed that the sheep was bottle-fed when a lamb, and as the lesions of the disease were of old standing, possibly infection occurred from the cow's milk fed to it.

2 Carcasses, etc., of Cows	Tuberculosis
1 Carcase, etc., of a Steer	do.
1 Forequarter of Beef	do.
1 Hindquarter of Beef	Peritonitis
3 Carcasses, etc., of Calves	(1 Immaturity, 1 Dropsical, 1 Septicæmia)
10 Carcasses, etc. of Pigs	(9 Tuberculosis, 1 Toxæmia)
10 Carcasses, etc., of Sheep and Lambs	(5 Emaciation and Dropsy, 1 Tuberculosis, 1 Lymphosarcomatosis, 1 Inflammation, 1 Suffocation and 1 badly bled)
1 Saddle of Mutton	Unsound
14 Ox heads and tongues	(13 Tuberculosis, 1 Actinomycosis)
24 Ox livers	(17 Flukes, 4 Abscesses, 3 Tuberculosis)
87 Sheep livers	(85 Flukes, 2 Cirrhosis)
101 Pigs' heads and tongues	Tuberculosis
65 Pigs' livers	(60 Cirrhosis, 2 Tuberculosis, 2 Fatty Infiltration, 1 Necrosis)
1 Pig's pluck	Tuberculosis
2 Kidneys	Cystic
7 Tinned hams	Unsound
6 6lb. tins of corned beef	do.
2 Tins of brawn	do.
6 Beef pies	Mouldy meat
1 Bushel of whelks	Unsound
14 lbs. of tomatoes	do.

In the case of the last-mentioned, a formal seizure was made on exposure for sale, and the Company's manager was formally warned that any further offence would result in Court proceedings.

The tinned foods were inspected by request of traders. As nearly all the tinned hams were of one particular Continental brand, an intimation was sent to the Port District of their arrival in this country. The beef pies were the subject of a caution to the retailer as to procedure in storage.

MILK. The number of cowsheds within the City area was reduced by 2 to 5 by the end of year. Factory Farm changed hands and the new tenant decided not to continue the cow-keeping. In the case of the other cowshed at Great Delce Farm, the loss of grazing land through building development has resulted in transfer of the cows to Upper Delce Farm.

At three out of the five cowsheds remaining, the cowkeepers are producing Graded Milk under licence—one "Tuberculin Tested (Certified)" and 2 "Accredited." At one of the latter, improved lighting of the cowsheds, re-flooring of the dairy, and the provision of a utensil-washing room fitted with sterilising cabinet were secured prior to licensing.

There are 17 retail dairies in the City, but 75 other persons are registered as retailers of milk in sealed bottles. With two or three exceptions, the latter sell sterilised milk.

11 milk producers and retailers with premises outside the City are registered as retailers within the City boundary.

Although four dairymen have pasteurising plants, only one conforms to a standard which has permitted formal licensing of the premises as a pasteurising establishment. At this last-mentioned, completely new pasteurising and cooling plant was installed during the past year, and a bottle-crate washing machine was also added.

BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS. 13 samples of Certified Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and all proved to be well within the standard prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

14 samples of milk supplied by Rochester dairymen to schools within the City were taken, and of these 4 fell below the bacteriological standard which it is considered school supplies should reach. (There is no Regulation standard.) In one instance the dairy firm concerned were temporarily sending out unpasteurised milk because their plant was under process of complete renewal, and the other 3 samples came from a dairy where the pasteurising plant had steadily been losing efficiency. This had been the subject of representation to the dairy firm, who have now ceased to supply schools but are making new provision for milk pasteurisation.

BAKEHOUSES. The 17 bakehouses in the City were subjected to periodic inspections and were found to be kept in satisfactory condition. One bakehouse was enlarged to meet the needs of the proprietor's growing business, and the opportunity was taken to secure improved provisions for lighting and ventilation of the older part of the premises.

FRIED FISH SHOPS. There are 17 registered fried fish shops, of which only one is without a modern cooking range, but the latter does comply with the limited requirements of the Byelaws. The establishment of one new fish-frying business was approved but a destructive fire occurred a day or two before the shop was due to be opened and the building was almost completely destroyed. The fish-fryers generally have continued to carry on their businesses with due regard to cleanliness and necessary care; only in one or two instances was it necessary to request special cleansing operations for parts of the equipment.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING, 1936.

72 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis as to quality and the use of forbidden preservatives. His reports are summarised below:-

Article	No.	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	43	40	3
Butter	7	7	—
Cream	4	4	—
Coffee	4	4	—
Sausages	4	4	—
Lard	3	3	—
Pepper	3	3	—
Brawn	3	3	—
Chocolate	1	1	—
	—	—	—
	72	69	3
	—	—	—

Of the 3 samples of milk returned as "adulterated" one taken from a retailer was deficient in fat, and the other two were subsequently taken at his request at the time of delivery from the producer. These also were deficient in fat, but further investigation proved that it was natural deficiency, and the case was referred to the County

Agricultural Adviser for him to assist the producer with advice having as its object improved quality of the milk.

50 " Gerber " tests of milk were done in this Department either at the requests of dairymen who suspected the quality of milk being delivered to them, or in follow-up tests after deficiencies in fat had been proved. In all cases of natural deficiency assistance was given to discover the cows which were giving a very low quality milk, so that corrective action could be taken, and the cases were also referred to the County Agricultural Adviser.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of premises on the Factory and Workshops Register is 114. The increase of 21 on last year's figures is mainly due to the registration of small businesses previously unregistered. Inspections necessitated action in 20 instances, but in no case was the matter serious.

There are also 14 " outworkers " on the register, and the houses in which they carry on work were found to be clean and free from illness.

SHOPS ACTS.

During the past year the main work done was to obtain the information necessary for compiling a complete and detailed register record of all the shops in the City area. This revealed that there was a total of 726 shops, coming under the following classification:—

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Boot, Shoe and Leather Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Builders, etc., Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Chemists and Opticians	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Corn Factors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairymen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Departmental Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drapers and Outfitters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Electrical Suppliers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers and Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Florists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Furniture Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Grocers, Provision Dealers and General Shopkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Hardware Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Jewellers and Watchmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Licensed Victuallers and Wine and Spirit Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Motor Requisite Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Radio and Cycle Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Restaurant Keepers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Stationers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tobacconists and Newsagents and Sweet Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57

726

Of the 726 shopkeepers, 428 employ a total of 1,719 assistants. In a number of the shops there are conditions which will call for action under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, but it has been desirable to complete records of all existing conditions before taking any formal action, excepting in one or two cases where conditions were so unsatisfactory that immediate procedure was necessary.

To prevent duplication of inspections by different officers of the Council it was decided that I should be appointed Inspector for all purposes of the Shops Acts and Regulations, and detailed reports to the Health Committee have indicated that much work will be necessary before the shopkeepers generally are all giving due regard to the enactments regulating their businesses. Advisory action on a considerable scale has been and during the current year will be the main procedure, but if breaches of the law continue more drastic action will be necessary. In partial excuse for offenders it must be said that the various Acts and Regulations are confusing, particularly to small traders, but the explanatory assistance now being given to the City shopkeepers should soon make such an excuse unacceptable.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The one common lodging house in the City was subjected to periodic inspection, and the Byelaws were found to be receiving due observance.

DISINFECTION.

124 rooms were disinfected by formaldehyde fumigation after cases of Infectious Disease, including 40 after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Primary inspections	7434
House-to-house inspections	144
Caravans inspected	155
Re-inspections	5813
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	2914
Visits to factories and workshops	182
" " bakehouses	64
" " slaughterhouses	985
" " other premises for food inspection	110
" " cowsheds and dairies	98
" " offensive trades	51
" " stables and mews	151
Visits for food sampling and testing	100
" to cases of infectious disease	220
" to common lodging houses	4
" for water sampling	15
Shops Acts inspections	977
Miscellaneous	2048
	<hr/>
Total ...	21,465
	<hr/>

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE C.
1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	23	4	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	159	16	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	182	20	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	9	9	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	16	11	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective ...	6	2	—	—
{ not separate for sexes ...	1	0	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ...	32	22	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Act.

F. PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

Notifications

	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	Average annual number from 1916 to 1935
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	27	78	109	129	48	81	105	85	76	53	74	43
Diphtheria	26	71	86	50	15	32	44	62	137	41	30	49
Enteric Fever	0	0	4	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	6	5
Puerperal Fever	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	.7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	2	0	3	0	3	1	3	4	2	0
Pneumonia	31	20	35	22	16	12	9	19	7	29	20	14.7
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1.3
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	3	4	3.2
Erysipelas	11	12	11	7	7	4	8	12	9	16	7	10.5

Deaths

	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	Average annual number from 1916 to 1925
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	.2
Diphtheria	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	7	0	2	6
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	.6
Puerperal Fever	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	.4
Pneumonia	14	18	19	20	18	17	14	29	21	15	14	22.7
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	.5
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3

TABLE D.1 NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1936

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.												Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total Number of Cases removed to St. William's Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.															
		Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	SOUTH	NORTH		
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	27	2	3	3	0	12	1	3	3	0	0	0	11	16	22	0	0
Diphtheria	26	0	1	1	3	11	7	1	1	0	1	0	8	18	25	0	0
Pneumonia	31	5	2	3	1	7	0	1	2	4	2	3	17	14	0	14	0
Erysipelas	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	5	1	8	3	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Diseases Notifiable locally	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

In addition to the above figures, 2 cases of Diphtheria for observation and 3 observation cases of Scarlet Fever, were notified during the year and were admitted to St. William's Hospital. Diagnosis was not confirmed in these 5 cases.

One fatal case of Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred in a patient, whose usual place of residence was outside the City area,

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DIVIDED INTO WARDS, 1936.

	Troy Town Ward	Saint Peter's Ward	Saint Margaret's Ward	Saint Nicholas Ward	Strood Ward	Frindsbury Ward	Totals
Scarlet Fever	0	2	7	1	15	2	27
Diphtheria	2	4	1	1	18	0	26
Puerperal Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Erysipelas	3	1	4	0	3	0	11
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	4	6	6	1	14	0	31
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	5	9	2	1	16	1	34
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	2	0	3	1	9
Totals ...	16	24	23	4	71	4	142

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The following is a tabulated statement of bacteriological work by the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria Bacilli	16	166	182
Tubercle Bacilli	35	123	158
Hæmolytic Streptococci	2	3	5
Typhoid Agglutination Tests	1	3	4
	54	295	349

There is a small laboratory at St. William's Hospital which in addition to hospital bacteriological examinations is available for the examination of certain specimens sent by local medical practitioners.

OBSERVATIONS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

PREVENTIVE INOCULATION.

This subject was reported on in last year's Annual Report.

During the year 1936 the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic dealt with the following number of children:—

No. of children immunised	366
No. of children undergoing immunisation at the end of the year	291
Total attendances of all children	2097

In addition to immunisation at the Immunisation Clinic, Schick testing and Immunising material are supplied free to general practitioners who desire to immunise their patients, and in this way 27 were immunised and tested.

SMALL-POX.

See Annual Report for 1935. No cases occurred during 1936.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were only 27 cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with 78 in the previous year. The disease generally was of a mild character.

81.5 per cent. of the total notified cases were admitted to Hospital and the average duration of treatment was 33.6 days.

DIPHTHERIA.

Twenty-six cases of Diphtheria were notified, as compared with 71 in the previous year. There was no death.

A few mild cases of Diphtheria occurred in July on the T.S. "Arethusa," which is moored off Upnor. The infection did not spread and was soon eradicated.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free of charge and is available day and night at the Police Headquarters, Guildhall, Rochester. During 1936, 174,000 units of anti-toxin were supplied, at a cost to the Local Authority of £6 19s. od.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case of Enteric Fever was reported during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 31 cases of Pneumonia notified during the year, as compared with 20 during the year 1935. There were 14 deaths.

Suitable cases of Pneumonia can be admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and home nursing is provided by the nursing staff of Watts' Charity when required.

INFLUENZA.

A mild form of Influenza was prevalent in the last month of the year and became more extensive in the early part of 1937. The epidemic did not produce many cases of serious illness.

The number of deaths during the year was five.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Measles was prevalent in the second quarter of the year. One death occurred.

Whooping Cough became prevalent in the latter part of the year. There were two deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year, and the child made a complete recovery.

Home nursing is provided by Watts' Charity and severe cases of the disease are admitted to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, by an agreement which has been made between the Local and Hospital Authorities.

SCHOOL AND OTHER INTIMATIONS OF DISEASE.

For particulars see Annual Report for 1935.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

All specimens are sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, and the extent of the work done is shown on page 29.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

These matters have been referred to in previous reports. For particulars of Hydrogen Cyanide fumigation see page 13.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
Total number of rats destroyed ...	5900	5170	5546	6919	5743	5725
Total number of poison baits laid ...	9546	6610	8331	9497	8517	9386

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

See Report for 1935 and previous Reports.

CANCER.

DEATHS, 1927-1936.

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Incidence per 1,000 persons living.
1927	27	25	52	1.6
1928	19	25	44	1.3
1929	22	22	44	1.3
1930	27	17	44	1.3
1931	21	25	46	1.4
1932	19	21	40	1.3
1933	29	25	54	1.7
1934	27	27	54	1.6
1935	36	24	60	1.7
1936	24	25	49	1.4

TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Modern facilities are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the treatment of Cancer. A plant for deep X-ray Therapy has been installed and 350 milligrammes of radium are in use at the Hospital.

The following particulars of cases treated at the Hospital have been kindly supplied to me by Mr. Taunton, Surgeon-in-Charge of the Radio-Therapeutic Department:—

ANALYSIS OF CASES TREATED DURING THE YEAR 1936.

A.	Breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
*B.	Cervix	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
C.	Tongue, Lip, Floor of Mouth, Cheek, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
D.	Rectum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
F.	General (Rodent ulcers, etc., and including Vulva and Vaginal)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
	Non-Malignant:										
	Keloid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Menorrhagia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
	Nævus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Warts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
											— 39
											Total ... 132

Total attendances made during 1936—880.

* Each Carcenomia of the Cervix involves three treatments.

Table E. Cancer Mortality according to Site and Age.

Localisation.	5-15 yrs.		15-25 yrs.		25-45 yrs.		45-65 yrs.		65 yrs. and upwards.		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Buccal Cavity ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach, Liver, etc.	—	—	1	0	2	0	2	3	4	3	9	6
Peritoneum, intestines and rectum	—	—	—	—	1	0	3	2	6	7	10	9
Female genital organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	5
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	5	2
Totals ...	—	—	1	—	3	0	7	12	13	13	24	25

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken during the year under Sec. 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eye.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1936.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936.

TABLE F.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-10	1	...	4	...	...	...	1	...
10-15	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
20-25	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25-35	7	2	...	...	4	4	1	...
35-45	5	2	1	1	3	...	...	...
45-55	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	...
55-65	3	1	1	...	2	1	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Totals ...	22	12	7	2	12	6	2	...

Two cases of Tuberculosis were not notified before death.

THE NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS WERE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS :

	South	North	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	11	7	18
Non-respiratory do ...	1	1	2
Totals ...	12	8	20

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis for the preceding 5 years are as follows :

	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Average for preceding 5 years ...	31.4	23.8	9.2	2.8
1936 ...	34	18	9	2

One hundred and fifty-eight specimens of sputum were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination, with 35 positive, and 123 negative results.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this District:—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1936.

Number of New Cases ...	114
Total number of Attendances (old and new) ...	646
Number sent to Institutions ...	29

Diagnosis—New Patients	Excluding School Children	School Children (Age 5 to 14)
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	23	0
Surgical do. ...	9	2
Other Diseases (including Tonsils and Adenoids) ...	6	4
No Disease ...	33	33
Under Observation, 31.12.36 ...	4	0
	<u>75</u>	<u>39</u>

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1936:—

Lenham Sanatorium 10; King Edward VII, Midhurst, 1; Preston Hall 1; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, 1; Keycol Hill Sanatorium 3; Grosvenor Sanatorium 4; Eversfield Chest Hospital 1; Haslemere Sanatorium 1; County Hospital, Chatham, 4; Tait Convalescent Home, Broadstairs, 2; Bishopsbourne Home, Broadstairs, 1.

TABLE G. REGISTER OF TUBERCULOSIS IN 1936.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Cases notified during the year 1936	22	12	7	2	43
Cases transferred from other districts during the year 1936	2	1	0	1	4
Cases removed to other districts during the year 1936	6	2	1	0	9
Cases recovered during the year 1936	3	2	1	0	6
Deaths during the year 1936	12	6	2	0	20
Cases on Register 31st December, 1936	67	42	45	16	170

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Sessions are held at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6.45 p.m., and on Thursdays from 11.15 a.m. to 2 p.m., and new patients are seen at any time the Clinic is open. This information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, and through the various other clinics, doctors and nurses.

The Clinic is under the administration of the Kent County Council and is conducted by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S. It serves a considerable area, and the following details refer only to patients from Rochester.

NEW PATIENTS.

	All Cases
Syphilis	15
Soft Sore	1
Gonorrhœa	26
Non. Spec. V.D. and N.V.	33
Total	<u>75</u>

Total Attendances, 2,842.

The number of new cases in the previous ten years beginning in 1926 was 61, 32, 50, 103, 56, 55, 88, 67, 47 and 72.

Lectures arranged by the Kent County Council were given during the year in co-operation with the British Social Hygiene Council, with the object of making the dangers of untreated Venereal Disease more generally known.

DEATHS FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
Measles	2	0	3	0	2	2	0	8	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	5	2	1	2	0	1	6	4	3
Influenza	5	0	3	13	4	19	6	20	5	20

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1936:—

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

TABLE H.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	Over 1 and under 3 months	Over 3 and under 6 months	Over 6 and under 9 months	Over 9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	2	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Injury at Birth	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Marasmus, Inanition and Malnutrition ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Congenital Deformity ...	1	1	1	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	6
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Other Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	5
All Causes ...	4	3	3	1	0	11	4	7	1	3	26

Nett Births 529.

Nett Deaths registered 26.

CITY OF ROCHESTER MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Full particulars of the various schemes for Maternity and Child Welfare Services were given in the Annual Report for 1935.

The following is a list of the services available:—

Payment of subsidy towards Midwives' Fees.

Provision of Ante and Post-natal Medical Care.

Provision of Consultants for complicated cases, and cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Provision of Hospital Accommodation for normal and complicated maternity cases, and ante-natal cases.

Laboratory facilities.

Supply of Maternity Outfits.

Supply of Milk and accessory foodstuffs.

Provision of Dental Treatment.

Treatment of Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.

Treatment of Eye Disease.

Convalescent Home treatment.

- Provision of Home Helps.
- Home Nursing in certain cases.
- Provision of Orthopædic appliances.

For particulars of the use made of these services see page 11.

There has been no alteration in the schemes as dealt with in last year's Report, with the exception of the Scheme for Dental Treatment. In the new arrangements for Dental Treatment the services are provided on a sessional basis, the Dentist being remunerated according to the number of sessions held, and one Anæsthetist is employed at each dental session instead of anæsthetics being administered by the patient's private practitioner. The new arrangement is much more satisfactory.

A Birth Control Clinic was opened at Henderson House, New Road, Rochester, under the auspices of the National Birth Control Association. Suitable cases who require advice for health reasons are referred to this Clinic.

All the Health Services which are available for children of school age are now available for those of pre-school age.

HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1936.

During the year 476 births were registered in the District, of which 14 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
South	125	107	232
North	124	120	244
	<u>249</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>476</u>

The total number of births (corrected for inward and outward transfer) in the City was 529 (R.G.'s figure).

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

519 births were notified under the Act, of which 13 were still-births. The notifications were made up as follows:—

Doctors	Midwives	Total
196	323	519

525 infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 2,973 visits, or an average of 5.6 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—

Infants visited during 1936: Total number, 525.

KIND OF FEEDING.	Total	Percentage
1. Entirely breast-fed	314	59.8
2. Hand and breast-fed	62	11.8
3. Entirely hand-fed	149	28.4
KIND OF FOOD (when hand-fed).		
1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water	23	4.4
2. Dried Milk	152	29
3. Patent Foods	2	.4
4. Condensed Milk	33	6.3
5. Biscuits	1	.2
MODE OF FEEDING.		
Boat-shaped bottle	209	39.8
Spoon-fed	2	.4

CONDITION OF HOUSE.

1. Clean	...	...	...	...	...	454	86.5
2. Fairly Clean	...	...	...	...	...	65	12.4
3. Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	5	1.0
4. Very Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	1	.2

OVERCROWDED HOUSES.

More than two persons per bedroom: Total, 138; Percentage, 26.2.

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were five pairs of twins and one set of triplets.

Forty-six cases not notified under the Act were visited and are included in the above figures.

In three instances the Nurses were refused admission.

There were 26 deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives a mortality rate per thousand births of 49.

One hundred and fifty inward transfers of children under five years of age were received during the year, 40 of whom were under one year of age and 110 over one year of age.

BIRTHS OCCURRING IN THE CITY.

Five births occurred in houses of one apartment, 34 occurred in houses of two apartments, 37 in houses of three apartments, 149 in houses of four apartments, and 245 in houses of five apartments and over.

BIRTHS IN HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.

Number in Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	...	79
Number in Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number occurring in Nursing Homes in the City Area	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number occurring in Hospital in the City Area	...	...	...	...	...	9

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER.

One hundred and one new applications were received for the supply of dried milk free or at a reduced price, and the following particulars are given regarding these applications.

Dried Milk supplied to Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	35
do. Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	21
do. Artificially-fed Infants	...	...	...	...	23
do. Children between 1 & 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	22
					<hr/>
					101
					<hr/>

At the end of the year there were 125 cases receiving milk free of cost, and 9 cases at a reduced price.

During the year under report 7,701 lbs. of dried milk were distributed free of cost and 327 lbs. at less than cost price.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Infant Life Protection Visitors are the two Health Visitors employed by the

Local Authority. During the year 90 visits were paid by the Health Visitors.

The following notices were received during the year:—

Reception of Nurse Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Change of Address	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Return to Parents	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Adoption	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
							12
							—

At the end of the year there were 11 children on the register.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1936.

First visits to Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	529
Subsequent visits to Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	2448
Infectious Disease visits	...	...	...	...	3
Visits of Enquiry into Still-births	...	...	...	...	14
Infants' Deaths enquired into	...	...	...	...	18
Children's Deaths enquired into	...	...	...	...	2
Maternal Deaths enquired into	...	...	...	...	2
Registered Nursing Homes visited	...	...	...	...	7
Infant Life Protection—Number of visits	...	...	...	...	90
Ante-Natal visits	...	...	...	...	226
Children visited between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	3681
Special visits	...	...	...	...	334
Visits of Enquiry under the Midwives' Act	...	...	...	...	8
do. re Home Helps	...	...	...	...	68
do. re Doctors' Assistance	...	...	...	...	65
do. re Midwives' Assistance	...	...	...	...	2
do. re Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	44
do. re Milk Forms	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous and Ineffectual Visits	...	...	...	...	1013
					—
					Total ... 8,560
					—

The following Table shows the number of cases seen by the Medical Officer of Health.

Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	124
Children between 1 and 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	53
Children between 2 and 3 years of age	...	...	...	...	69
Children between 3 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	83
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	59
Post-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	15
Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	33
Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous Interviews	...	...	...	...	26
					—
					Total ... 473
					—

Fifty-one of the mothers and children seen by the Medical Officer were sent to their private doctors or to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for treatment.

ATTENDANCES AT MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE, 1936.

Infants under 1 year of age	2978
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	767
Ante-Natal Cases	91
Post-Natal Cases	4
Infant Life Protection	25
Dental Cases	33
Applications for Home Helps	8
Applications for Doctors' Assistance	4
Miscellaneous	164
Total ...	4074

Hospital Tickets were given in 32 necessitous cases.

Number of Clinics attended:

Medical Officer of Health Clinics	40
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	30
Dental Clinics	20
Total ...	90

Number of Children visited:

Under one year of age	525
One to two years of age	441
Two to three years of age	465
Three to five years of age	800
Total ...	2231

Five children over five years and under nine years were visited under the Children Act.

NUMBER OF FIRST ATTENDANCES AT THE MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE.

Children under 1 year of age	243
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	564
Ante-Natal Cases	71
Post-Natal Cases	4
Infant Life Protection	3
Dental Cases	8

SPECIAL REPORTS.

- Report on the provision of a Welfare Centre and Clinics in Rochester.
- Report on the provisions for the health of children.
- Report on the treatment of orthopædic and postural defects in children.
- Report on overcrowding and re-housing requirements.
- Report on the administration of the Midwives' Acts.
- Report on the occurrence of two cases of Meningococcal Septicæmia.
- Report on the establishment of a Shellfish Purification Plant.

EXTENSIONS OR ADDITIONS IN THE HEALTH PROVISIONS OF THE CITY.

The Free School Lane Clearance Area was confirmed by the Minister of Health. Sanitary dustbins were provided in all dwelling houses in the City.

All the medical and health services which are available for school children were

A total of 52 houses were built by the Corporation during the year, and in addition 487 houses were erected by private enterprise. made available for children of pre-school age.

A Birth Control Clinic under the auspices of the National Birth Control Association was opened at Henderson House, New Road, Rochester.

Facilities for the treatment of Cancer were extended at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Women's League of Health and Beauty opened a branch.

LEGISLATION.

ROCHESTER CORPORATION ACT, 1936.

This Act received the Royal Assent on the 16th July, 1936. The Act empowers the Local Authority to acquire a portion of the undertaking of the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company, to construct waterworks, to confer further powers on the Corporation with regard to the supply of water, to make further and better provisions for the health improvement, local government and finance of the City.

OTHER LEGISLATION AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULARS.

The following documents have been reported upon during the year to the Council:—

Midwives Act, 1936.

Midwives Act. Circular 1569, dated 18th September, 1936.

Nursing Homes Registration Acts. Circular 1574, dated 30th September, 1936.

Milk Special Designations Order, operative from 1st June, 1936. Memorandum 197 Foods.

Housing Act, 1935.

Circular 1539, dated 7th May, 1936.

Circular 1560, dated 30th June, 1936.

Housing Act, 1935, Overcrowding Provisions Order, dated 26th June, 1936.

Housing Act Regulations dated July 25th, 1936.

Maternity and Child Welfare Circular 1550, dated 29th May, 1936.

Memo. 166 Med. on Acute Poliomyelitis. December, 1936.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Circular 1576, dated 3rd November, 1936.

Medway Shellfish Regulations, dated 11th December, 1935.

The Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936.

Local Government Act, 1929, Section 63.

The Scheme for the provision of Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases to be made by the Kent County Council under the above Act has not yet come into operation.

SURVEY OF HEALTH SERVICES.

A Survey under Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 1929, was made by officials of the Ministry of Health towards the end of 1935, and the result of this Survey was communicated to the Council during 1936.

The Survey extended into all sections of the Public Health and associated services. Certain recommendations were made to the Council and all such recommendations have either become effective or are in process of being made effective.

TABLE I.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1936.
CIVILIANS ONLY.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>		M.	F.
ALL CAUSES		210	151
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2.	Measles	2	0
3.	Scarlet fever	0	0
4.	Whooping cough	0	1
5.	Diphtheria	0	0
6.	Influenza	2	3
7.	Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	10	6
10.	Other tuberculous diseases	4	0
11.	Syphilis	0	0
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	0	0
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	24	25
14.	Diabetes	3	8
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc	6	8
16.	Heart disease	57	45
17.	Aneurysm	1	0
18.	Other circulatory diseases	12	9
19.	Bronchitis	8	3
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	7	7
21.	Other respiratory diseases	3	2
22.	Peptic ulcer	3	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1
24.	Appendicitis	5	3
25.	Cirrhosis of liver	0	1
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc.	1	2
27.	Other digestive diseases	5	4
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	5	8
29.	Puerperal sepsis	0	0
30.	Other puerperal causes	0	3
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	8	4
32.	Senility	6	6
33.	Suicide	6	0
34.	Other violence	10	0
35.	Other defined diseases	20	11
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	0
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)			
	Small-pox	0	0
	Poliomyelitis	0	0
	Polioencephalitis	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:			
	Total	15	11
	Legitimate	15	11
	Illegitimate	0	0
Live Births:			
	Total	280	247
	Legitimate	266	239
	Illegitimate	14	10
Stillbirths:			
	Total	12	12
	Legitimate	10	12
	Illegitimate	2	0
POPULATION		35,050	

REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1936.

(See page 8.)

One hundred and fifty patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shows the total admissions from each District in the past nine years:—

Year	Rochester	Chatham	Gillingham	Other Authorities	Totals
1928	155	263	246	35	699
1929	132	128	202	15	477
1930	110	108	84	16	327
1931	104	70	54	4	232
1932	55	131	11	1	198
1933	131	140	0	28	325
1934	162	123	0	16	301
1935	160	64	0	23	247
1936	78	53	0	19	150

The average yearly number for the last nine years, including 1936, was 121.8.

The following Table shows the total admissions in 1936:—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Tuberculosis	Measles	Chicken Pox	Streptococcal Infection	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Totals
Rochester	24	42	0	0	7	1	1	2	1	78
Chatham	19	33	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	53
Other Authorities	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Total	43	94	0	0	8	1	1	2	1	150
Deaths	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

The operation for tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was performed on one occasion during the year, and other operations were performed on three occasions.

ACCOMMODATION.

See Table on page 9

NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED IN HOSPITAL.

AVERAGES.

	In 1936	In 1935	In 1934	In 1933	In 1932
Scarlet Fever	33.6	31.8	35.7	36.6	36.1
Diphtheria	39	26.4	33.3	27.3	25
Typhoid Fever	—	47.3	31.2	—	63.8
Measles	14.1	33.5	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	22	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	15	—	—	—	—
Streptococcal Infection	9	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	31	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	12	—	—	—	—

PORT SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROCHESTER.

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1936.

TABLE A.

	Number.	Tonnage.	No. inspected		Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.			
Foreign	Steamers	295	309369	19	262	69	68
	Motor	72		8	70	10	10
	Sailing	0		0	0	0	0
	Fishing	0		0	0	0	0
	Total Foreign	367		309369	27	332	79	78
Coast-wise	Steamers	440	288098	17	393	76	73
	Motor	395		3	380	24	24
	Sailing	137		—	125	35	34
	Fishing	0		—	—	—	—
	Total Coastwise	972		288098	20	898	135	131
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1339	597467	47	1230	214	209

The above Table does not include local and estuarial craft.

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING 1936:—

No. of Passengers.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Transmigrants.
Inwards	0	0	0	0
Outwards	0	0	0	0

The passenger traffic of the Port is confined entirely to day trips between this Port and various British and Continental seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC:—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS. Wood pulp, coal, timber, china clay, stone, crude oil, petrol, iron ore, potatoes, flour, grain, cattle food, oats, various seeds and kernels for making cattle food, fertilizers, cotton seed, beet sugar, maize starch and gypsum.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. Cement, cattle cake, vegetable oils, paper, fruit boxes, scrap iron, bitumen bi-products of petrol refining, plaster board and apples.

(c) COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES:—

Import trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German, Estonian, Latvian and Baltic Ports, and with West African, West Indian, South American and North American Ports.

Cement and Paper are shipped to practically all parts of the world, usually via London, Southampton, or Liverpool.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are London, Southampton, Tyne, Tees, Blyth, Keadby, Goole, Seaham Harbour, the Scottish East Coast Coal Ports, Swansea, the Welsh Stone Ports, Channel Island and the Cornish Stone and China Clay Ports.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

British 939, Dutch 172, Swede 80, Norwegian 45, Finn 44, Danish 31, German 11, Estonian 7, Latvian 3, Belgian 2, Yugo Slavian 2, Lithuanian 1, Greek 1, Hungarian 1.

III. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

I. (a) FOR THE PORT.

There are two sources. The South side of the river is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company and the North side by the Strood Water Works, the latter being the property of Rochester Corporation.

(b) FOR SHIPPING.

The supply is from the same source, with one exception. Small barges lying at the wharves of the British Oil and Cake Mills are supplied with water from the firm's well. This is an artesian well 895 feet deep taking water from the greensand. Samples submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination have been found to be satisfactory.

2. HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES. WHAT PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN AGAINST CONTAMINATION.

The majority of points at which ships' tanks are filled are fitted with standpipes and taps. There are, however, hydrants in covered pits at two wharves. These sources have been examined and are not likely to be contaminated. At one wharf the concrete pits are fitted with drains so that water in the pit runs directly into the river and allows it to be flushed. The water outlet pipe is raised high above the bottom of the pit. The other hydrants referred to are also in deep covered pits with porous bottoms, the pipes standing some six or seven inches above the floors of the pits.

Hosepipe connections are washed before being attached, the water being allowed to run after attached and the tank tops washed before removing the manhole cover or filling cap.

3. NUMBER OF WATER BOATS AND THEIR SANITARY CONDITION.

There is one water boat for supplying the shipping. This craft is inspected at frequent intervals and the sanitary condition is satisfactory. The tanks have been cleaned out and cement washed four times during the year.

IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

I. Vessels are boarded and pratique given at the mouth of the river, which is situated within the area of the London Port Health Authority. Normally the Declaration of Health Certificate is given up at this point. When for any reason a vessel comes up to Rochester without giving up the Certificate at Sheerness it is collected by the Rochester Customs Officers and sent back to Dr. Madwar, the boarding Medical Officer at Sheerness.

The Rochester Customs and Shipping Agents are supplied with Declaration of Health Forms P.1, so that Masters may replenish their stock if necessary. In order to avoid confusion, arrangements are made with the Rochester Customs to collect the Certificate whether or not the Sanitary Inspector boards the vessel first. As the Certificates in the majority of cases are collected at Sheerness, it is seldom that a vessel arrives in the Port of Rochester with her Certificate still on board.

2. BOARDING OF VESSELS ON ARRIVAL.

As mentioned above, all incoming vessels from Foreign ports receive the initial boarding at Sheerness. In the Port of Rochester they are again boarded by the Customs Water Guard and by the Sanitary Inspector, and where necessary as a result of information from (a) the Boarding Medical Officer at Sheerness, (b) Customs at Rochester, or (c) Port Sanitary Inspector at Rochester, they are boarded by the Port Medical Officer.

3. NOTIFICATION TO THE AUTHORITY OF INWARD VESSELS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION.

There are no arrangements whereby wireless messages will be received other than general instruction to wireless "Portelth," Rochester, contained in the Declaration of Health Certificate, the useful result of which will, of course, depend on the vessel having such a certificate on board. Particular information is received from H.M. Customs, Pilots and Shipbrokers.

Notices are displayed at the principal landing stages pointing out the duty of Masters, Pilots, Stevedores, and all others concerned with shipping in the Port of Rochester to inform the Port Sanitary Authority of any infectious disease of which they may become aware during the course of their work.

4. MOORING STATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 10.

(a) WITHIN THE DOCKS. There is one small commercial Dock used by small coastwise and continental traders in which no special mooring is provided for the purpose of quarantine.

(b) OUTSIDE THE DOCKS. The primary quarantine ground is off Garrison Point at Sheerness. If, and when a vessel is allowed to proceed to Rochester with suspected cases aboard which require her isolation, she is quarantined at a single ship mooring in the stream, of which there are several in the vicinity of Rochester. It has not been necessary during the year to make use of any mooring as a quarantine measure.

5. PARTICULARS OF ANY STANDING EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 14.

There are no standing exemptions.

6. EXPERIENCE OF WORKING ARTICLE 16.

It has not been necessary to take initial action under this Article. Notifications of contacts sent from other Ports which have been given under direction of this Article have been received from time to time and either dealt with in this District or sent on to the appropriate Authority.

7. (a) PREMISES AND WAITING ROOMS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

When necessary, the Port Sanitary Offices, Castle Hill, Rochester, are used for this purpose.

(b) CLEANSING AND DISINFECTING OF SHIP, PERSONS AND CLOTHING.

The Port Sanitary Staff attend to fumigation and disinfection of cabins, etc., on ships. Persons are dealt with at St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and clothing and other articles are dealt with by steam disinfection at the same Hospital.

(c) PREMISES FOR THE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION OF PERSONS FOR WHOM SUCH ACCOMMODATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE REGULATIONS. St. William's Hospital, Rochester, is available for this purpose.

(d) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR PLAGUE, CHOLERA, TYPHUS, YELLOW FEVER, SMALLPOX, AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By agreement with the Port of London Sanitary Authority accommodation will be provided for the first five diseases at the Port of London Hospital at Denton. Other infectious diseases are dealt with at St. William's Hospital.

(e) AMBULANCE TRANSPORT.

For river transport a cabin launch is available, and for the shore an ambulance is available from St. William's Hospital.

(f) SUPERVISION OF CONTACTS.

This is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RATS. Arrangements have been made with the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR OTHER BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION. This is done at the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE AMONGST SAILORS UNDER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

A Clinic for this purpose is situated in the District at No. 36, New Road, Rochester, through which all facilities for diagnosis and treatment are available.

11. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERMENT OF THE DEAD.

A mortuary is available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. The burial is carried out through the Shipowners, the Local Authority, or, in the case of Foreign seamen through the respective Consuls.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of cases during 1936.		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.	No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
typhoid	—	1	1.05	1

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease.	No. of cases during the year.	No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.
—	0	0	0

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

I. STEPS TAKEN FOR DETECTION OF RODENT PLAGUE.

(a) IN SHIPS IN THE PORT. Inquiry is made when inspecting the vessels, and stevedores are questioned respecting the finding of dead or dying rats and mice. The importance of reporting the finding of dead rats or mice is stressed. In special cases traps are set on board in an effort to secure specimens for examination, but this is

not a routine procedure for all ships as the majority come from Scandinavian Countries not associated with Plague. The masters of the smaller craft bringing grain and similar cargoes which have been received from ocean-going vessels in another port are warned of the possibility of their craft harbouring rats brought indirectly from a potential plague port. These vessels, however, are of simple construction and rats do not remain undetected for the length of time they would do in a larger vessel of a more complicated lay-out. It has been found that the operation of the Paris Convention Regulations regarding deratization has had a marked effect on the rat situation generally, where ships are concerned.

(b) ON QUAYS, WHARVES, WAREHOUSES, ETC. These places are examined from time to time in order to discover serious infestation. Persons in charge of warehouses are interviewed and the warehouses examined in order to ensure that preventive measures are not relaxed. The significance of dead or dying rats or mice is pointed out to the people concerned and they are required to report the finding of such rats or mice and with due precaution to retain the specimen for examination.

2. MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF RATS FROM SHIP TO SHORE.

Except in special circumstances no measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore. Owing to the fact that the majority of vessels from foreign ports, and in every case those from tropical ports, are discharged while moored to buoys out in the stream, orthodox anti-rat measures in the shape of tarred beams, etc., are impracticable.

3. METHODS OF DERATIZATION.

(a) SHIPS. Methods used are fumigation by sulphur dioxide, varnish boards, traps and poisons. Such deratization methods are not for the purpose of Article 28, Paris Convention, as Rochester is not an authorised Port for the issue of these certificates. Arrangements under Article 4 of the regulations have been made with the London Port Health Authority for the issue of deratization and Exemption Certificates in this Port.

(b) PREMISES IN THE VICINITY OF DOCKS OR QUAYS. Smoke machine, dogs, fumigation, varnish boards, traps, poisons and, on occasion, ferrets, are used separately or in combination as the circumstances may require.

4. MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS AND ON SHORE.

SHIPS. Rat traces are looked for in vessels, particularly in store rooms, food lockers, etc., and the crew questioned as to the presence of rats in or near their quarters. Stevedores are questioned as to rat traces they may have noted while working cargo. When a vessel is under observation holds, lifeboats, lazarettes, etc., are examined for rat traces. Vessels laid up in the Port receive periodical visits from the rat-catcher.

ON SHORE. On shore rat traces such as droppings, runways, etc., are looked for. The rat-catcher makes a regular round of the riverside with his dogs, the latter often detecting the presence of rats when no visible evidence is available.

5. RAT PROOFING.

There are a few riverside buildings not built on rat proof lines and such methods as blocking up possible rat entrances with metal plates or expanded metal are resorted to in an effort to make them as rat proof as practicable. With the improvement in industrial conditions, however, there is a tendency toward reconstruction on the part of some of the wharf owners, and considering the position over a number of years many old wooden buildings have been replaced by modern structures in which conditions are more satisfactory.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1936.

TABLE E.

I. ON VESSELS.

No. of Rats.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brown	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species not recorded ...	4	3	6	4	3	0	0	0	5	8	3	7

EXAMINED. Where available rats are opened and any sign of ill health or lack of condition is brought to the notice of the M.O.H. No rats have been examined bacteriologically.

TABLE F.

2. IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES.

No. of Rats.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species not recorded ...	206	158	199	139	158	182	143	100	128	299	250	194

TABLE G.

MEASURES OF RAT DESTRUCTION ON PLAGUE "INFECTED" OR "SUSPECTED" VESSELS OR VESSELS FROM PLAGUE INFECTED PORTS ARRIVING IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

No vessels arrived from Plague infected ports during the year.

TABLE H.

DERATIZATION CERTIFICATES AND DERATIZATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR.

Four vessels received Deratization Exemption Certificates from the London Port Health Authority by arrangements made under Article 4 Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREW SPACES.

TABLE J.

Nationality of Vessel.	No. inspected during 1936.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	876	2	59	177
Other Nations	354	1	15	60
Estuarial	597	2	22	40

With the exception of one intimation, all instructions were verbal.

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

I. ACTION TAKEN under The Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, The Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and The Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927.

Cargoes of flour, wheat, sugar, maize, oats, barley, potatoes and maize starch were examined to the number of 98.

A consignment of damaged barley was released under guarantee in another port for the purpose of cattle feeding. Notification was received from the port concerned and the barley was inspected on arrival. Owing to delay in transport on arrival it was found to be in such a condition as to render it unfit for the purpose for which it was released, and it was voluntarily destroyed by the owners.

No food cargoes other than those enumerated above arrived in the Port during the year, and no further action than already stated was taken.

The Port was visited and food inspection arrangements were reviewed by Dr. Letham of the Ministry of Health.

2. SHELLFISH.

The River Medway contains several shellfish layings, which are controlled by the "River Medway Shellfish Regulations, 1936." The position at present is that shellfish from these layings must be relaid in approved waters or passed through a Cleansing Station before being placed on the market. A scheme to provide a Cleansing Station on the River Medway is at present under consideration.

PLACES TO WHICH SHELLFISH TAKEN FROM LAYINGS IN THE DISTRICT ARE SENT TO BE MARKETED.

As pointed out above, no shellfish from the layings in the River Medway may be sent directly to any market. At present they are sent to Whitstable for relaying.

THE LAYINGS FROM WHICH SHELLFISH (SPECIFYING THE KINDS OF SHELLFISH WHICH MAY BE MARKETED IN THE DISTRICT) ARE DERIVED.

Oysters and Mussels from any approved layings may be marketed in the District. Sources of local supply are Whitstable and Billingsgate Market. No shellfish are imported for sale into the Port from either Overseas or British Ports.

3. NUMBER OF SAMPLES OF FOOD EXAMINED BY (a) BACTERIOLOGIST; (b) ANALYST.

(a) It has not been necessary to have any samples of food bacteriologically examined during the year.

(b) It has not been necessary to submit any samples of food for either bacteriological or chemical analysis.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION.

I. CANAL BOATS.

As previously reported there are no canal boats at present operating in the Port, the place of these boats being taken by lighters and barges, and small motor vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act.

2. GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT.

(a) The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, Port Sanitary Inspector and a general assistant.

(b) A motor launch is provided.

(c) Provisions for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons have been reported and have undergone no change.

(d) There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem necessary at present.

(e) In addition to the cargo traffic of the Port, several large day trip passenger vessels operate during the summer months between Kent and Essex seaside resorts and between Rochester and Continental seaside resorts.

(f) There are a few houseboats on the river which are used as dwellings and it has not been necessary to take any action during the year with regard to these vessels. A complaint, however, was received stating that a family was living in the cabin of a barge. On investigation it was found that the barge referred to was an ordinary Thames barge registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, which, owing to the nature of its trade, was laid up during the summer months, working only in the winter and spring. The woman and three children referred to were the family of the master of the barge, who pleaded that he could not find suitable accommodation ashore. Representation was made to the owners of the barge, with the result that it ceased to be used as a dwelling for the wife and family who were housed on shore.

(g) It has not been necessary to take any special action during the year with respect to "infected" or "suspected" vessels. As previously reported, the majority of vessels from Foreign Ports are discharged out in the stream and temporary isolation is therefore possible without special measures. A Scarlet Fever contact was reported on a barge, but he was allowed to proceed on the understanding that he would report to the nearest doctor should he show signs of illness.

3. CASES OF SICKNESS.

One coloured seaman suffering from Venereal Disease was sent to the local Venereal Diseases Clinic.

One case of Appendicitis was sent to Hospital.

Cases of sickness of a minor and non-infectious character were advised to obtain medical treatment wherever this appeared necessary.

4. GENERAL.

Mention was made in the report for 1935 of the presence of fur-eating beetles—*Dermestes Volpinus*—in cargoes of waste fur and the means taken to warn consignees of the potentialities of this beetle becoming a pest if it gained access to human habitation in any numbers. There has been one cargo about which it has been deemed advisable to warn farmers. Other cargoes of fur waste have been comparatively free from the beetle.

The following are the figures for arrivals (other than estuarial craft), for the preceding five years and 1936:—

1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
1339	1278	1426	1260	1100	1432

MOSQUITOES.

In the summer and autumn of 1936 the Port and City of Rochester were afflicted with a Mosquito nuisance which, in many parts of the area, prevented people from sitting out of doors in their gardens during the afternoon and evening.

There are some 25 different species of mosquito in Great Britain, some of which are capable of transmitting disease such as Malaria, and others which cause considerable annoyance by their irritative, and sometimes poisonous, bites.

There are two big divisions of mosquitoes in the British Isles, viz., Anophelines and Culecines. Three species of Anopheline and twenty-two of Culecine have been found. The three British Anopheline Mosquitoes are all capable of carrying the malarial parasite, and that danger of the transmission of Malaria by this kind of

mosquito is always possible is shown by the fact that small outbreaks have been periodically reported in this country. As an instance there were small outbreaks of Malarial Fever at Sandwich and the Isle of Grain during the war. These outbreaks were due to Anopheline Mosquitoes.

Fortunately the conditions which favour the dissemination of Malaria are of rare occurrence at the present time in this country.

The mosquito nuisance which afflicted the City last year was found to be due to a Culecine mosquito known as the *Aedes detritus*. In connection with its identification I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Rev. Canon W. H. Mackean, D.D., who took the trouble to collect specimens of this mosquito and have them identified by the British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island.

Aedes detritus are found in stagnant salt or partly salt water. They are never found in entirely fresh water or in sea water which is in free circulation. Breeding is almost continuous throughout the year, but the adult mosquito is scarce during the winter.

The adults usually appear in March and become increasingly evident during the summer. The eggs are laid over marshes in dry hollows and hatch out when they are flooded with brackish water, but the eggs can retain their vitality in a dry state for a long time, sometimes for over a year. The eggs do not hatch until they are submerged in stagnant water, when they hatch out into larvæ.

Aedes detritus are persistent biters, chiefly at dusk, but only out of doors. The adults have a very long range of flight and are found some miles from their breeding places. It is characteristic of all mosquitoes that only the female mosquito bites, and *Aedes detritus* is no exception. (This information is extracted from articles written by Mr. John F. Marshall, M.D., of the British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island, Mr. F. W. Edwards, B.A., of the British Museum, and Col. S. P. Thomas, M.D., of the Ministry of Health.)

The tidal portion of the River Medway with its numerous marshes and saltings is an ideal breeding ground for this mosquito, and to deal with the nuisance it would be necessary to remove all conditions which favour the production of stagnant pools and creeks. This is a stupendous task.

With a view to discovering, if possible, those parts of the river in which the breeding of the mosquito is greatest, the Port Sanitary Inspectors are engaged periodically in searching for the larvæ, and, if the findings warrant it, it may be possible to deal with prolific breeding grounds and thus mitigate the nuisance.

An endeavour is also being made during 1937 to identify all forms of mosquito indigenous to the area.

