Archives (1) Rochester

CITY OF ROCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1944.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.	J. O. Murray, M.D., D.P.H..
Assistant Medical Officer of Health.	+W. Hall, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H..
	R. P. Mathers, M.B., B.S.. (Temporary. Resigned 31.3.44).
	P. R. Lowns, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.. (Temporary. Appointed 1.4.44. Resigned 30.9.44).
	R. T. Chamings, M.D., B.S., B.Sc.. (Temporary part-time. Appointed 4.10.44 Resigned 18.11.44.).
	G.M. Archer, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.. (Temporary. Appointed 13.9.44).
Senior Sanitary Inspector.	E. W. Barton, C.R.S.I., C.M.I..
Sanitary Inspectors.	A. H. W. Chapman, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I..
	+R. T. Howell, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I..
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Veterinary Inspector. (Part-time).	Elmer Ebbetts, M.R.C.V.S..
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Health Visitors.	Helena G. Tod, C.M.B., C.R.S.I..
	Catherine J. Geeleher, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.R.S.I..
	Marjory L. Abbott, S.R.N., C.M.B.. (Appointed 1.9.44).
Clerks.	Winifred Jones.
	Joan Smith
	++Eveline Hookins.
	E. Monk (Temporary. Resigned 31.3.44).
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+ On Active Service.
++ Called up for service with A.T.S.

Public Health Department,
Castle Hill,
Rochester,
25th October, 1945.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Rochester.

Your Worship and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1944. It is abbreviated and in accordance with suggestions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 49/45.

Population.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of 1944 is 34820, an estimate which may be considered too low.

Births.

The Birth Rate per 1000 of the population calculated on the Registrar General's estimated population of 34820 is 23.9 which is the highest rate recorded since 1920.

Deaths.

The Death Rate, viz. 14.3, is the highest since 1918 when it was 16.6.

Since the commencement of war the following deaths of residents have occurred from enemy action in the City area (civilians only):-

1940	..	11
1941	..	13
1942	..	Nil
1943	..	"
1944	..	39

Infantile Mortality.

I would draw your attention to the high number of deaths in children under one year of age, on which some observations are no doubt desired.

Ante-natal conditions in the mother and infection in the baby are the two main causes of our infantile deaths.

The deaths in the first month after birth are in most cases due to circumstances which operated during pregnancy, whereas most deaths at ages 1 to 12 months are attributable to infection.

There are also many babies still born in whom the factors which resulted in the still birth are similar to those causing deaths within a month of birth, and are referable to ante-natal causes such as poor heredity, faulty nutrition, toxaemia of pregnancy and infectious disease in the mother.

It is thus reasonable to assume that still births and deaths within one month of birth increase or decrease according to whether the adverse ante-natal circumstances have been counteracted or not.

Similarly, any decrease or increase in infant deaths from infection is a pointer to the efficiency of hygiene and associated matters on which the control of infection depends.

This year there has been an appreciable rise in the Infantile Mortality. Indeed, the rate of 75 per 1000 live births is the highest since 1921 when it was 77. In recent years it has been comparatively low and reached the lowest recorded figure, - 28, - in 1940, but during the past three years the position has deteriorated.

Investigations show that the recent increase in infant deaths is practically entirely due to infections and not to ante-natal factors. The following tables of classified deaths show, in fact, that proportionately there were fewer still births and non-infectious neo-natal deaths during the war years.-

Death Rates from Still Births and Neo-natal Deaths per 1000 live and still births 1930 - 1944.

	A. Still-births.	B. Neo-natal deaths excluding infections.	Total A and B indicating the effect of pre-natal conditions.
1930 - 1934	40	20	60
1935 - 1939	39	22	61
1940 - 1944	26	25	51
1944	18	32	50

Death Rates from Infections per 1000 Live Births.

	Neo-natal (under 1 month).		1 - 12 months.		Total	
	Gastro Enteritis.	Other Infections.	Gastro-Enteritis.	Other Infections.	Gastro Enteritis.	Other Infections.
1930 - 1934	0	0.4	0	8.9	0	9.3
1935 - 1939	0.6	2.6	5.5	8.4	6.1	11.
1940 - 1944	3.2	1.4	8.8	7.4	12.	8.8
1944	4.8	0	26.4	7.2	31.2	7.2

The reduction in still births and neo-natal deaths may be attributed to better economic conditions, less unemployment, and rationing with its consequent balanced diets. The priority supplies of milk and vitamins to expectant and nursing mothers have also played a part.

Ante-natal and other maternity services have also been extended during the war years. There were no ante-natal clinic with a Medical Officer in charge before 1939. Now there are two such clinics held weekly. Child Welfare Clinic services have also increased, an additional Health Visitor has been appointed, and the mortality figures indicate that all these additional provisions (food, vitamins, clinics, medical and nursing services) are producing results in reducing infant mortality due to causes of pre-natal origin.

But the picture with regard to infant deaths from infection is very different. In the years 1930 to 1934 the Infantile Mortality rate from infections was 9 per 1000 live births, and in these five years there were no deaths from Gastro Enteritis. In 1934 - 1939 the infectious disease figure rose to 17, in 1940 - 1944 to 21, and in 1944 to 38 per 1000 live births. One may state that this rise in infectious deaths is due entirely to deaths from Gastro-Enteritis, the rate for which has risen from zero in the years 1930 - 1934, to 6 in 1934 - 1939, to 12 in 1940 - 1944, and to 31 per 1000 live births in 1944 Deaths from infections, other than Gastro-Enteritis, have remained fairly constant during the 15 years in question.

So it becomes clear that to reduce the high infantile mortality rate of 1944, the primary objective should be an attack on all conditions which predispose to Gastro-Enteritis.

In the present state of medical knowledge it is impossible to state one specific cause of Gastro-Enteritis in babies. In some it starts with dyspepsia. In others there is an actual infection of the bowel, but in a certain proportion the infection commences outside the bowel in such sites as the throat, ears, lungs or skin.

Although new-born infants are attacked with Gastro-Enteritis, the period of greatest susceptibility is between three to twelve months, and it is very striking how babies who are exclusively breast fed escape this very serious and fatal disease.

The disease affects children of all social classes, but is more prevalent when there is poverty, overcrowding and uncleanliness.

Since the actual cause of the disease is not fully ascertained, it is not possible to define preventive measures for its complete elimination, but by dealing with the known predisposing causes its incidence can be materially influenced.

Breast fed babies escape, so every possible effort must be made to promote this natural form of feeding. The percentage of breast fed babies has fallen about 10 per cent in Rochester during war-time, but I do not think that this can be attributed to any disinclination on the part of the mothers. Psychological and nervous reactions have a pronounced effect on lactation, and failure to suckle the baby is more likely to have been associated with nervous exhaustion and over-anxiety during the stress of war, and in a few cases to the necessity of mothers returning to employment, or being overtaxed in their domestic duties at home.

The provision of Home Helps for the latter category, the return of peace-time conditions, and the continued help and advice of Health Visitors should effect an increase in the number of breast-fed babies, and so lead to substantial reduction in infant mortality.

It is clear that there is a larger number of people in the district and that there are fewer houses for them to inhabit. Houses destroyed, rendered uninhabitable or requisitioned during the war, when there have been no replacements, must have led to much more overcrowding than in pre-war years.

Overcrowding reacts very adversely on infant health. It prejudices the practice of hygiene and cleanliness and ventilation which are primary barriers against infection. To add to the problem of overcrowding, the 'black-out' made ventilation at night still worse. Furthermore, there has been little or no internal decoration and repair of houses, and restricted supplies of soap and other cleaning materials, and shortage of clothing, have made the maintenance of peace-time standards of domestic hygiene a difficult matter. All these factors have made infection a greater possibility and a greater risk.

More houses and relaxation of restrictions constitute the main considerations in removing the potentialities of infection, particularly infection resulting in Infantile Gastro-Enteritis, but in addition it is essential that strict cleanliness in the feeding, nursing and care of the babies must be practised. A high standard of domestic hygiene is of paramount importance. With these concepts put into practice, one may anticipate a fall in the incidence of Gastro-Enteritis in infants.

Care of Premature Children.

The deaths of eleven babies were attributed to Prematurity in 1944, and for many years past prematurity has been the most frequent cause of death in the first month.

This is a common finding in all areas and recommendations by an Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health (Circular 20/44) were adopted locally as far as was practicable.

To obtain more accurate information on the prevalence of prematurity, it was arranged to obtain at the time of notification of birth the birth weight of every baby when this is 5½ lbs. or less. There were eight cases of prematurity notified in this way during 1944. Special equipment, including a draught-proof cot, electric blankets, clothing, etc. were made available, but the special equipment was only used on one occasion.

Attention was also given to the possibility of special hospital beds, the services of a paediatrician, and the supply of breast milk, but war-time difficulties precluded any developments on these lines.

Liaison was maintained with the hospitals in order that premature babies born there could immediately be followed up at home on discharge from hospital.

Care of Illegitimate Children. Circular 2866 (October 1943).

The number of illegitimate births (live + still-births) in Rochester since 1935 and the illegitimate Birth Rate per 1000 live and still births have been as follows:-

	Number.	Birth Rate per 1000 live and still births.
1935	19	35
1936	26	45
1937	14	22
1938	31	42
1939	16	21
1940	23	36
1941	34	53
1942	32	45
1943	43	56
1944	47	55

In 1943 the Council agreed in principle to implement the suggestions contained in the Circular on the subject issued by the Ministry of Health, and also decided to co-operate with the Kent County Council and other autonomous welfare authorities in Kent. As a consequence, in March 1944, a joint meeting of twenty three interested authorities, and forty five voluntary bodies was held at County Hall, Maidstone, and Rochester Corporation accepted the joint scheme which was finally decided.

The proposals adopted were

(1) That the medical officers of the respective welfare authorities be responsible for ensuring close co-operation between officers of the authority, particularly the health visitors, and the voluntary organisations concerned with the problem.

(2) That approval be given to the appointment of an additional Health Visitor to the Headquarters staff of the County Council, to assist in administration and co-ordination and with the investigation of special cases, the officer to have, if practicable, special qualifications and training in this type of social work. Where the services of this officer are utilised by autonomous welfare authorities, they be asked to contribute towards her salary and expenses on the basis of user during each financial year.

(3) That wherever possible the expectant mother should be persuaded to make known her circumstances to her parents and, if the home is likely to be a satisfactory one, persuade the grand-parents to make a home for the child.

(4) That the expectant mother should be advised on suitable accommodation before and immediately after confinement, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

(5) That the mother should be assisted to obtain an affiliation order or otherwise to secure assistance from the father of the child; if the mother so desires, the assistance of the Probation Officer to be sought.

(6) That the mother shall be assisted to find employment, preferably with her baby, in an institution or in private employment; in this connection the assistance of the appropriate officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to be enlisted at an early stage.

(7) That if a home cannot be found for the baby with the mother's relatives, lodgings for the mother and baby should be sought when she desires non-resident work, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

(8) That a suitable foster mother should be sought if it is necessary for the mother and baby to be separated, the Welfare Authority undertaking to give financial assistance towards the cost.

(9) That places should be sought in a residential nursery or home for babies whose mothers cannot look after them and for whom accommodation cannot be found by other means, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

(10). That in special cases, e.g. where the mother is very young or is the wife of a man not the father of the child, every help should be given to the mother in regard to legal adoption.

(11) That the advice given should be followed up and every effort made to ensure that the baby is kept under observation at the Child Welfare Centre until the Education Authority or other body or person appointed by the Court to act in connection with adoption proceedings takes the case in hand.

(12) That any cases in which difficulties arise or special action is required, be referred to the County Medical Officer for consultation and, if necessary, special investigation.

(13) That to facilitate early supervision and assistance, Health Visitors, Midwives, Probation Officers, Moral Welfare Workers and others who may be concerned, should notify the County Medical Officer of cases in the County welfare area, or the respective Medical Officers of Health of cases in autonomous welfare areas, of any unmarried pregnant woman or girl who is known to need or is likely to need help, in order that steps to care for her during pregnancy and arrangements for her and the child after birth can be co-ordinated.

(14) That autonomous welfare authorities be recommended to take action on the same lines as the County Council particularly as regards the granting of financial assistance to voluntary bodies under paragraphs (4), (7) and (9).

(15) That the County Council do immediately endeavour to obtain premises suitable for adaptation as a residential nursery to which children could be admitted as soon as the mothers are able to return to work, this establishment to be available for the reception of children from the autonomous welfare areas upon their agreeing to bear in respect of such cases the ascertained weekly cost of maintenance.

(16) That pending exploration of the possibility of the establishment as a permanent part of the County Maternity and Child Welfare scheme of a post-natal Hostel in which mothers and children could be accommodated during the period between discharge from hospital and fitness for employment, negotiations be opened by the County Council with the Ministry of Health for the admission

of these cases, both from the County and autonomous welfare areas, to a post-natal Hostel expected to be established by the County Council on behalf of the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme, the cost of maintenance to be borne by the responsible Welfare Authority at such rates as the Ministry may decide. The average duration of stay of the mother and child in such a Hostel should be three months. If and when a similar post-natal Hostel is established by the County Council as part of its welfare scheme, autonomous authorities to be permitted to make use thereof on a cost of maintenance basis.

During 1944 assistance and advice were given in four cases

Additional Maternity and Child Welfare Provisions during 1944

1. Child Guidance at Kent County Council Clinic, Maidstone.
2. 'Long Stay' Residential Orthopaedic Treatment by arrangement with Kent County Council.
3. X-ray diagnostic facilities for ante-natal and maternity cases at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.
4. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Strood Institution.
5. Domiciliary nursing of expectant mothers.
6. Appointment of additional Health Visitor.
7. Admission of children of expectant mothers to Nurseries.
8. Priority Dockets (Circular 154) for sheets for expectant mothers.

War-time Nurseries.

Accommodation.

There was no change in the Nurseries capacity during the year, the total accommodation available being 150 places, of which 80 day places are in Rochester Nursery and 70 in Strood Nursery.

At the beginning of the year accommodation for twelve children at night was concentrated at Strood Nursery, but this provision was transferred in June to Rochester Nursery where shelter accommodation against aerial attack was more convenien and accessible.

In addition to children of mothers in war work, a few children of mothers not engaged in war work were admitted to relieve temporary domestic difficulties.

Usage.

The use of the nursery accommodation varied from time to time, the peak daily admissions being in April and May when the average daily admission totalled almost 100 children. At oth times the average daily admissions fell to some 60 children, t lowest being 56 in August.

In January 1944 there were 111 children on the registers with aan average daily attendance of 72.

One hundred and forty new children were admitted during year, and at the end of the year there were 89 children on the registers with an average daily admission of 59 children.

This fluctuating attendance and high proportion of new admissions and leavers causes difficulty in staff adjustment. It is not possible to adjust the numbers of staff to conform w the fluctuation in the daily number of children attending. The result is that in slack periods the staff is numerically greater than is necessary to meet requirements. The total staff employed is 40 whole-time and 7 part-time. This includes nursing, teaching and domestic staff for both nurseri and would be capable of dealing with larger numbers of childre than have been admitted during the year.

Absence of Children.

A considerable amount of the children's absence has been due to illness, mostly infectious. There were 187 absences for periods over 3 days on account of illness. Diarrhoea and Dysentery accounted for 47 absences throughout the year, Measles 49, Whooping Cough 24, Chicken-pox 23, Diseases of the respiratory tract 22, and other Diseases 22. This meant that in the worst months for infection, one quarter of the children on the registers were absent from the Nursery for varying periods. The total days absence of these 187 cases was 3970, an average of 21 days per sick child.

In a certain number of cases, children were absent because the mothers were unable to go to work on account of illness or domestic reasons.

Absences for less than 3 days and children excluded as infectious contacts, have not been included in the figures given.

Costs.

The overhead charges on the Nurseries remain constant, irrespective of whether the accommodation is fully occupied or not. In 1944 the average daily occupation was only about half the capacity, and consequently the cost per child was high. For the financial year ending 31st March, 1945, the gross cost per child in daily attendance was £112 per annum. The total gross cost for both Nurseries was £8092. The gross income chiefly from fees paid by parents was £1085, making a net cost of £7007, and the net cost per child in attendance was £97 per annum.

The provision of the Nurseries was primarily to relieve mothers from domestic duties for war work. Undoubtedly it was the only way to get mothers to work on a large scale, but when viewed in relation to the number of staff employed in the Nurseries, the result locally has been disappointing.

Effect on Physical and Mental Condition of children.

As for the children I think it can safely be said that their physical condition has been maintained, and in the majority, improved. This is the more commendable when it is remembered that the adapted buildings were never ideal for the purpose and the fact that the children arrived early and departed late, a circumstance which must have been anything but beneficial to small children during bad weather and the short days.

On the mental aspect very young children, two years and under, lose a good deal when they are separated from their mothers for long periods. They suffer from the loss of maternal care, succour and support which they should have, and for this reason, and also because of the greater hazards of infection at this age, they would be better at home with the mother.

The majority of the 3 - 5 years old children do not seem to be affected in the same way, but there is always a tendency, as with all young children brought up away from the domestic circle, for the bright child to be precocious and the dull child to become an automaton.

Control of Infection.

Infection has been troublesome in spite of all precautions. It would be easier to control if the Nursery population were constant. New admissions are always a risk. Suitable buildings erected specifically for Nursery purposes would enable the introduction of better preventive and control methods, and the infectious risk would be less in a Residential Nursery.

Nursery Provision of the Future.

The question naturally arises, - Is there a need for Nurseries in the post-war period? My personal opinion is that there is such a need. But it should be a different type of Nursery and the reasons for admission should be related to health considerations and not to economic conditions.

First of all with regard to the mother who has to go to work in order to maintain the home and look after her young family. She has to do two jobs, - earn her living and run her home, and sooner or later either her domestic or her occupational standards will deteriorate. If the child or children are under three years, then their welfare, and the mother's too, would be better served if she received financial aid to allow her to develop her natural instinct and maintain the children at home. Such financial aid would not cost more than, if as much as, the cost of maintenance of the children in a Nursery, and would be an infinitely better practice for all concerned.

But occasions and circumstances arise when it is essential to have nursery accommodation for young children. Generally speaking, such provision would not be for a longer period than three months for an individual child.

The circumstances I have in mind are various, and include the case where the mother is ill or requires rest at home and there is no one to look after the children, the admission of the mother to hospital, death or sickness amongst relatives, temporary removal from home on account of bad housing conditions or overcrowding, or deinfestation, and then there is the small minority when the parent or parents are ignorant or indifferent and the child's health is endangered.

To meet such needs the Nursery should be of the residential type and constructed and staffed to meet the requirements of the different age groups to be admitted.

For what one might term the "chronic" problems, such as the child of the maladjusted unhappy home, the unwanted illegitimate child, the deserted child, the child of criminal parents, the mismanaged and neglected child, orphans without relatives able and willing to accept responsibility, in all cases of this type, a 'long stay' Residential Nursery is desirable, as the children's needs could only be met temporarily in the 'short stay' Nursery which has been mentioned previously.

Medical Examination of Staff. Preventive Measures.

All the staff were submitted to radiological examination for Tuberculosis and the children have all been immunized against Diphtheria except in a few cases where parental consent was refused.

The Hetherington Scale of Salaries for domestic staff was adopted in July 1944.

All the probationer nurses attended a twelve months part-time course for Nursery Students at Fort Pitt School (Kent County Council).

Ante-natal Care.

There was a considerable increase in the attendances of expectant mothers, viz. 204 first attendances and 665 total attendances. In addition, 57 expectant mothers were ante-natally examined by medical practitioners under Rochester Maternity Scheme.

The comparative figures for 1943 were 54 first attendances and 76 total attendances. In addition 115 expectant mothers were ante-natally examined by medical practitioners under Rochester Maternity Scheme.

Staff.

Shortage of Medical Staff.

On account of shortage of medical staff in Gravesend when the Medical Officer of Health was on military service, the Council agreed to assist by making the Assistant Medical Officer of Health in Rochester available for duty in Gravesend for five sessions a fortnight. This arrangement began on December 30th, 1943.

Dr. Lowns, Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who succeeded Dr. R. P. Mathers on April 1st, 1944, resigned his appointment on September 30th, 1944, and the vacancy was temporarily filled by the appointment on a part-time basis of Dr.E. Chamings. In November Dr. G.M. Archer was appointed as whole-time temporary Assistant Medical Officer.

Health Visitation.

To economize in staff and prevent overlapping, each of the Health Visitors and School Nurses were allocated a district in which they performed the dual duties of Maternity and Child Welfare and School Nurse. This policy was adopted by the Corporation in 1939, but on account of staff shortage and the unusual conditions, its operation has only now become possible.

Scale of Charges for Services rendered.

During the year the three Medway Borough Councils adopted a unified scale of charges for maternity and ancillary services, to be applied through the three areas.

Nutritional Survey.

A survey on cross sections of the community was made by two Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health (Drs. Adcock and Fitzgerald) who in a detailed report found that the general nutritional standard was good.

Domiciliary Nursing was provided for expectant mothers by arrangement with Rochester Nursing Association.

An endeavour was made to obtain more maternity beds for normal and abnormal cases and for premature and sick infants, by approach to the Kent County Council, and it was also proposed to adapt very suitable existing premises in the vicinity as and when they became available. The war circumstances made it impossible to provide beds by either means.

Health visitation was increased by the appointment of an additional Health Visitor. To relieve expectant mothers who required rest, their children were admitted to Nurseries where such a procedure was indicated, and the Home Help Service was further developed for similar purposes.

Home Helps have been in short supply, but it was only on rare occasions that the supply failed. On occasion Civil Defence personnel volunteered and were employed on a part-time basis as Home Helps.

The Council also resolved to provide a domiciliary nursing service for infectious diseases as soon as circumstances would permit.

Infectious Disease.

There were comparatively few notified infectious diseases during the year, but gastro-enteritis or so called 'gastric flu' was prevalent, usually in a mild form, producing diarrhoea and sickness varying from a few hours to one or two days as a rule.

Notifications are shown in tabular form on page 18

Diphtheria.

Twenty cases were notified and treated in hospital. The infection was severe in type. There were two deaths. Twelve of the cases occurred in a localized outbreak in Temple Ward during April. In connection with this outbreak 1641 children were swabbed for bacteriological investigation, and of this number 7 were found to be 'carriers' of diphtheria infection.

Whooping Cough.

This infection became prevalent in September and continued so until the end of the year. In all there were 155 notifications. There were no deaths.

Measles.

Measles was also evident in the last four months of the year. There were 137 cases with no death.

Dysentery.

Five notifications of Dysentery were received, but this number of notifications does not give a true indication of the extent of gastro-enteritis in the district of which there was a considerable amount, and in which many may reasonably be attributed to dysenteric infection. The infection was mild in character.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 103 cases and no death.

Arrangements for Hospital Treatment of Small Pox.

A joint scheme of hospital provision for treatment of Smallpox was proposed by the Kent County Council and accepted Rochester Corporation and other Local Authorities in 1943. During 1944, as a temporary arrangement, Capel Hospital, Tonbr was adapted for this purpose and is now available and can admi some 20 smallpox cases. Admissions are to be made by applic tion to the County Medical Officer.

St. William's Hospital.

The St. William's Hospital Board considered the adaptati of one of the existing Scarlet Fever wards to cubicle accommo tion. It was not possible to proceed with the project on account of the shortage of materials and labour, and the provision of more cubicle accommodation has been deferred unt building conditions have improved.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A Clinic for Immunization was established in September and it is estimated that at the end of 1944, 57.4% of childre under five years of age and 65% of children aged 5 - 15 year were immunized.

The following table shows the number of cases and the number of deaths in Rochester from Diphtheria during the past years.

	1895 to 1899	1900 to 1904	1905 to 1909	1910 to 1914	1915 to 1919	1920 to 1924	1925 to 1929	1930 to 1934	1935 to 1939	1940 to 1944	T
Notified Cases	478	[illegible]	199	510	[illegible]45	309	281	227	[illegible]	47	[illegible]
Deaths	82	2[illegible]	[illegible]	23	19	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	3	[illegible]

The incidence and mortality from Diphtheria since 1935 as follows:-

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1[illegible]
Notified Cases	71	26	44	42	22	13	3	6	5	[illegible]
Deaths	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	[illegible]

This remarkable change in incidence and mortality in recent years cannot be entirely due to Diphtheria Immunization, as the figures were showing a fall prior to the time when immunization could be expected to be producing its results, but there can be no question that this preventive measure is playing a fundamental role in combating this very fatal disease.

Fifty years ago there was an epidemic about every four years and between the two wars about every seven years. There has been no epidemic in the past ten years.

Lice Infestation.

The only reliable information as to the extent of lice infestation is that obtained from the inspection of school children.

School Inspections - Verminous Infestation.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Inspections.	1842	12677	13000	10618	12891	14364	15387	11769	1594	4055	7400	11254	10992
Verminous	119	79	90	113	223	282	271	272	24	44	269	244	208
Percentage	1.0	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.7	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.5	1.1	3.6	2.1	1.9
School Scabies.	11	4	9	9	1	10	9	8	17	9	37	72	34
Persons treated at Local Authority's Cleansing Stations.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	273	497	456

Such inspections show that there was a sharp rise in 1942 when in 3.6 per cent of 7400 inspections there was evidence of lice infestation.

Since them there has been an improvement to 2.1 per cent in 1943 and 1.9 per cent in 1944 , which corresponds fairly closely to the position just prior to the war.

Cleansing facilities were provided in 1944 for louse infested persons, but were not used, probably because most of the cases were head infestations and were dealt with satisfactorily at home.

Scabies Infestations.

There was a sharp rise in the number of Scabies infestations in 1943, and whilst there is an improvement in 1944 the numbers are still unduly high. Persons treated in 1942 numbered 273, - in 1943, 497, and in 1944, 456.

Similarly in the schools in 1943, 72 cases of Scabies were found whereas in 1944 there were 34 cases, but in pre-war years the number of Scabies infestations in the children never exceeded 10 in each of the 10 years prior to 1940. Arrangements for treatment were as indicated in the report for 1942.

Literature and Posters on Scabies and louse infestation were distributed for circulation amongst the public, and various commercial and industrial establishments in the district.

Bug Infestation.

Sixty eight bug infested premises came to notice in 1944, and were dealt with by sulphur dioxide

Water.

There are two sources of supply, viz.

(1) The Corporation Water Works for the supply of the Strood area on the North of the River Medway, and

(2) The Chatham and District Water Company which supplies the rest of the City to the South.

The Strood supply is from shallow wells in the chalk and is treated by chlorination (Paterson chlorograph. May 1942).

The Chatham and District supply is drawn from wells in the chalk and greensand and is also chlorinated.

The supplies are constant and ample and have been satisfactory in quality.

Bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses are carried out frequently and regularly on both the raw and treated water. All results have been satisfactory. The number of samples dealt with by the Health Department are as follows:-

(a) Bacteriological examinations of water.

Rochester Corporation Supply

Raw Water	17
Treated water	23

Chatham and District Water Company Supply.

Treated water	33
Total =	73

(b) Chemical Analysis

Rochester Corporation Supply

Raw Water	6
Treated water	6
Total =	12

The following is a copy of a report on the chemical analy of treated and untreated water taken from Rochester Corporation Supply on December 18th 1944.-

	Raw Water	Treated Water
Total Solids	53.8	38.4
Chlorides as Chlorine	12.7	4.7
Free Chlorine	less than .01	less than .01
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.96	.50
Free Ammonia	.0021	.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0092	.0034
Temporary Hardness	26.5	22.5
Permanent Hardness	5.3	2.8
Total Hardness	31.8	25.3
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil	Nil
Appearance in 2 ft. tube	Clear	Clear
Smell	Nil	Nil
Sediment	Nil	Nil

Swimming Pools.

During the bathing season the water in the Swimming Pool is frequently submitted for bacteriological examination. The pool, which is under the control of the Local Authority, gives consistently good results, the water being filtered and chlorinated continuously.

Conclusion.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairmen and members of the Committees controlling the departmental operation for their continued support and consideration in regard to all matters arising during the year.

I have also to express my appreciation of the whole staff who have carried out their duties very satisfactorily, and without whose help it would not have been possible to produce this report.

I am also indebted to colleagues in other departments for the information which they have given to me for inclusion in this report and for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA (in acres) LAND AND INLAND WATER.

Land = 3759 (Total = 4108 acres
Water = 349 (

POPULATION. Census 1931 31,193
Estimated (middle of 1944) R.G. 34,820

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS (as at 31.12.44) = 11,412

RATEABLE VALUE (at 31.12.44) .. £287,435

SUM REPRESENTING A PENNY RATE .. £ £1,216

TOTAL BIRTHS = 833

Live Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	787	(413	374)
Illegitimate	46	(26	20)
Totals =	833	(439	394)

Still Births.			
Legitimate	14	(7	7)
Illegitimate	1	(1	0)
Totals =	15	(8	7)

Birth rate per 1000 persons living = 23.9

TOTAL DEATHS = 499
(All causes at all ages).

Male	Female
271	228

Death rate per 1000 persons living = 14.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:- R.G.

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other maternal causes	1
Total =	1

Natural Increase in Population. (Excess Births over Deaths) = 334

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age.

Total Infant Deaths	63
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ..	75.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	76.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	65.2
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	23

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths appears at the end of the report on pages 20 and 21.

Infant Mortality and Birth and Death Rates.

Deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 births and births and deaths per 1,000 persons living for the past ten years are as follows:-

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944
Infant Mortality	65.3	49	52.9	48.3	39.1	27.8	40.3	63.7	46.4	75.6
Birth Rate	15.1	15.1	16.4	18.6	18.7	17.4	18.7	20.1	22	23.9
Death Rate	11.3	10.5	11.4	11.5	12.4	13.8	13.	12.8	13.	14.3

The Table on page 16 shows the causes of deaths in infants under one year of age at different ages.

Child Mortality.

Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during	1941 = 9
" " " " "	1942 = 8
" " " " "	1943 = 5
" " " " "	1944 = 9

Neo-natal Mortality.

Total deaths = 34. In 1943 the figure was 20.

Death rate of children under one month of age per 1000 births =40
In 1943 the figure was 26.5.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

During the year 1944 Rochester Nursing Association provided 241 patients with a nurse. The number of visits made by the nurse was 6395, and the total number of members at the end of the year 4900.

Services provided during 1943.

Cases provided by Kent County Council with	
(a) Midwife ..	241
(b) Maternity Nurse ..	52
Cases attended by Independent Midwives	
(a) as Midwives ..	236
(b) as Maternity Nurses	16
Number of children attended by Watts Charity Nurses in the Home ..	34
Number of cases in which Home Helps were provided by the Local Authority	51
Number of patients admitted to Canada House (a) Privately	85
(b) By Local Authority	5
Number of occasions on which the services of a Consultant were provided	4

Number of women for whom medical ante-natal and post-natal care were provided	261
Number of pre-school age children referred to Hospital for special treatment	30
Number of expectant and nursing mothers who received dental treatment provided by the Local Authority	17
Number of children of pre-school age who received dental treatment provided by the Local Authority	19
Number of Sterilized Maternity Outfits issued ..	188
Number of expectant mothers evacuated under the Government Evacuation Scheme	63
Number of patients treated for Scabies (a) adults	162
(b) children	206
Number of patients who received prophylactic treatment (a) adults	40
(b) children	48

Preventive Inoculation.

During the year 1944 the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic dealt with the following numbers of children:-

Number of children immunised ..	622
Number of children undergoing immunisation at the end of the year	124
Total attendances of all children	1292

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 15 were immunised, as compared with 20 in 1943.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1939.

Total number of rats destroyed during the year ..	1011
" " " mice " " " " ..	1281

Tuberculosis.

Seventy seven cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations during the year, and nineteen cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis. There were twenty two deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 6 deaths from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis.

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

	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths
Average for preceding 5 years.	40	22.2	13.4	6
1944	77	22	19	6

Venereal Diseases.

The Venereal Diseases Clinic is under the administration of the Kent County Council, and is conducted by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S.

During the year seventy two new patients from the District attended the Clinic, out of which number fifty six were non-venereal. The total number of attendances was eight hundred and twenty eight.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality during 1944:-

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age

Causes of Death	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	Over 4 & under 3 mths.	Over 3 & under 6 mths.	Over 6 & under 9 mths.	Over 9 & under 12 mths.
Premature Birth	5	2	3	0	1	11	0	0	0	0
Convulsions, Injury at birth, etc.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Congenital Deformity	3	5	1	0	1	10	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	0	0	0	2	2	4	2	7	9	4
War Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other Causes	2	2	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	1
All Causes =	10	9	6	2	4	31	4	12	10	6

Net births = 833 Net deaths = 63

Health Visitors' Annual Report (Curtailed).

The total number of births (corrected for inward and outward transfer) in the City was 833. (Registrar General's figure).

Births in Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

(1) Number in Nursing Homes .. 200
(2) Number in Hospitals .. 184

Number of births occurring in Nursing Home(in the City area (included in (1) above) (45
Number of births occurring in Hospital in the City area (included in (2)) above) 4

Classification of Visits paid during 1944.

First Visits to infants under one year ..	818
Subsequent visits to infants under one year	852
Infectious disease visits ..	226
Puerperal Pyrexia visits ..	1
Ante-natal visits ..	129
Post-natal visits ..	586
Still-births enquired into ..	9
Infants deaths enquired into ..	45
Children's deaths enquired into ..	2
Infant Life Protection - number of visits ..	60
Visits paid to children aged 1 - 5 years ..	2,018
" " " " over 5 years of age	36
" " " Registered Nursing Home ..	9
" " re Diphtheria Immunisation ..	175
" of enquiry re Home Helps ..	8

Visits of enquiry re Day Nurseries	..	4
" " Adoption	..	20
" " Evacuation	..	8
" " Tonsillectomy	..	9
" " Neglected homes and children		23
" " Midwives Act	..	3
" " Ringworm	..	3
" " Swabs	..	17
" to Nursing Mothers	..	317
" " Rest Centre	..	5
Special visits	..	191
Miscellaneous and ineffectual visits	..	1,109
	Total	=6,683

The following table shows the number of cases seen by the Medical Officer of Health:-

Infants under one year of age	..	57
Children between 1 and 2 years of age	..	36
" " 2 and 3 " "	..	35
" " 3 and 5 " "	..	65
Nursing mothers ..	..	10
Dental cases ..	..	2
Miscellaneous interviews ..	..	49

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

Attendances at Milk Distributing Centres, 1944.

	Corn Exchange.	St.Stephen's Hall.	Temple Farm.	Strood Institution
Infants under 1 year of age	2,909	598	992	147
Children between 1 & 5 years of age.	932	240	501	46
Ante-natal cases	55	-	21	1
Post-natal cases	187	55	21	10
Diphtheria Immunisation (enquiries.(	124	39	-	-
Nursing mothers	7	6	-	-
Adoption enquiry	1	-	1	-
Children over 5 years of age.	5	-	3	-
Infant Life Protection	7	-	1	1
Miscellaneous	160	-	77	5

St. Stephen's Hall Centre is held fortnightly only.
Strood Institution Centre opened on November 29th and is held weekly.

Number of Clinics attended by the Health Visitors.

Clinics held by Medical Officer of Health		24
Ante-natal Clinics	..	68
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	..	3
Other Clinics	..	251

(Here follows Table giving particulars of notifications for the past ten years).

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifications.

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1
Scarlet Fever	103	183	49	15	26	67	106	41	27	
Diphtheria	20	5	6	3	13	22	42	44	26	
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	2	4	2	4	5	10	2	
Pneumonia	27	33	25	21	13	35	10	35	31	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	4	5	6	8	4	0	1	0	
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	
Erysipelas	9	5	4	9	5	13	14	9	11	
Dysentery	5	109	1	1	1	0	7	0	0	
Measles	137	338	283	426	9	2	0	0	0	
Whooping Cough	155	22	150	152	5	0	0	0	0	

Deaths

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Diphtheria	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Pneumonia	24	17	23	24	19	36	19	24	14	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Whooping Cough	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	

REPORT ON ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1944 (Curtailed).

The following Table shows the number and type of admissions:-

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Mumps.	Erysipelas	Measles	Scabies	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Whooping Cough	Strepto-coccal Infection.	Dysentery	Catarrhal Jaundice	Others	Total
Rochester	84	24	0	0	11	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	127
Chatham	24	13	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	42
Other Authorities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	108	37	0	1	12	0	2	3	1	1	0	4	169

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF ROCHESTER.

Annual Report for 1944 (Curtailed).

		No.	Tonnage.	Number inspected by the P.M.O.	Number inspected by the P.H.I.	Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.
Foreign	(Steamers	-	-	12	18	5	5
	(Motors	-	-	2	7	1	1
	(Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign	=	-	-	14	25	6	6
Coast-wise	(Steamers	-	-	7	158	41	39
	(Motor	-	-	-	65	15	15
	(Sailing	-	-	2	90	12	12
	(Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise		-	-	9	313	68	67
Total Foreign & Coastwise.		-	-	23	338	74	73

The above figures are for Seaborne Traffic and do not include barges and small craft operating between the Thames and Medway.

Rats destroyed during 1944.

	Ships	Shore
Rats destroyed	8	1281
Rats examined bacteriologically	1	25
Rats examined macroscopically	0	7
Rats infected with Plague	0	0

Hygiene of Crew Space.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during 1944.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	270	3	20	64
Other Nations	68	1	3	19
Total =	338	4	23	83

Foodstuffs.

Cargoes of flour, grain and potatoes to the number of 109 were examined and found to be in good condition. Two cargoes of tinned meat and one cargo of tinned fish were also examined and found to be satisfactory.

Mosquitoes.

The measures against the salt marsh mosquito, Ades Detritus, have been continued during the breeding season.

During the winter months a survey was made of selected areas in order to discover to what extent, if any, harbourage was being given to anopelene mosquitoes, but there were only three of this species of mosquito discovered. In one case, two were found in a building closely adjacent to a cement static water tank, and in the other one the anophelene was found in a shelter which was also close to a cement water reservoir. The water tanks concerned are being kept under observation for the appearance of anophelene larvae.

Infectious Disease.

No case of dangerous infectious disease occurred during the year.

Two cases of Scabies were given treatment, and two cases o Venereal Disease were directed to the Venereal Diseases Clinic f treatment.

Port Fishery Officer.

The duties of Port Fishery Officer continue to be carried out by the Port Health Inspector.

Deratization Certificates.

Where these certificates are requested during the vessels stay in this Port, the issue of the certificate is carried out t arrangement with the Port of London Health Authority under Article 4, para. 2, of the Port Health Regulations 1933.

General.

During the year a new Water Boat has been put into service in the Port. In the construction of the water tanks, the suggestions of the Port Health Authority were carried out and th lay-out is satisfactory.

The boat is capable of carrying 40 tons of water in two tanks, the water being handled by power pump. Every precaution has been taken to prevent extraneous matter entering the tanks while watering operations are in progress.

The water used is from the supply of the Rochester, Chatha and District water supply.

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN ROCHESTER IN 1944.

Civilians only.

All Causes:- Male = 271(Total = 499
Female = 228(

	Male:	Female.
1.Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2.Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4.Whooping Cough	0	0
5.Diphtheria	2	0
6.Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	14	8
7.Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	2
8.Syphilitic Diseases	3	0
9.Influenza	1	0

	Male.	Female.
10. Measles	0	0
11. Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis	0	0
12. Acute infantile encephalitis ..	0	0
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) uterus (f)	3	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	4	2
15. Cancer of breast	0	3
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	29	19
17. Diabetes	0	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..	21	19
19. Heart disease	58	61
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	4	3
21. Bronchitis	12	13
22. Pneumonia	16	8
23. Other respiratory diseases ..	6	0
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	6	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	17	6
26. Appendicitis	1	1
27. Other digestive disorders ..	1	4
28. Nephritis	9	2
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ..	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	1
31. Premature birth	5	6
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infant disorders	11	6
33. Suicide	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	1	1
35. Other violent causes	19	31
36. All other causes	17	16
Totals =	271	228

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Worship & Gentlemen:

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

In the interests of economy, the report is again an interim one, but all records have been maintained for the compilation of a full report upon the return of normal conditions.

COMPLAINTS.

880 complaints were received from householders and others during the year as compared with 680 in 1943. In spite of the increase in the number in 1943, and the depletion of staff, all received prompt attention and the necessary action was taken to secure the abatement of the nuisances found.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Repairs and improvements to the total of 1230 were effected under the Inspectors' direction and supervision throughout the year. The records of the various kinds of repairs etc. carried out have been maintained.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

No. 114 Frindsbury Road, Frindsbury which was the subject of a Demolition Order made under the Housing Act, 1936 was demolished during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

1595 loads were pumped from cesspools in the City as against 2347 in 1943.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS.

175 rooms in 75 houses were subjected to disinfestation treatment for the destruction of vermin. In all cases the houses were thoroughly sprayed with insecticide followed by intensive sulphur dioxide fumigation.

FOOD INSPECTION.

1305 visits were paid by the Inspectors to various premises associated with the sale and production of food. Of this number 838 were visits to the Government Slaughterhouse in the City for the purpose of examining carcases etc. at the time of slaughter.

The number of carcases etc. examined during the year was 5461, and the following list of food, which weighed 25 tons, 12 cwt. 3 qrs. 22 lbs., was found to be diseased or unsound. The weight of food condemned in 1943 was 12 tons, 13 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.

P.T.O.

48 carcases etc. of cows	(44 Generalised Tuberculosis 1 Dropsy & Emaciation, 3 Septicaemia)
7 " " " steers	Generalised Tuberculosis
4 " " " heifers	" "
4 " " " calves	(1 Pyaemia, 1 Tuberculosis, 2 Immaturity)
10 " of sheep and lambs	(2 Dropsy and Emaciation, 8 Arsenical Poisoning)
13 forequarters of cows	Tuberculosis
6 forequarters of heifers	"
2 " of a steer	"
180 bovine heads and tongues	(179 Tuberculosis, 1 Actinomycosis)
227 bovine livers	(72 Tuberculosis, 58 Flukes, 35 Abscesses, 61 Cavernous Angioma, 1 Fatty Infiltration)
317 bovine lungs	Tuberculosis
4 ox kidneys	Nephritis
181 cows' udders	(159 Putrefaction, 22 Tuberculosis)
29 bovine stomachs, intestines, mesenteries etc.	Tuberculosis
3 calves heads and tongues	"
1 calf's pluck	"
1 calf's liver	Abscesses
18 sheep and lambs' plucks	(14 Parasitic, 3 Pneumonia, 1 Abscesses)
12 sheep & lamb's livers.....	Parasitic
507 lbs. of beef	Bone taint and bruising
261 lbs. of pork	Putrefaction
31 lbs. of mutton (frozen)	Black Spot mould
40 lbs. of veal	Unsound
297 lbs. bacon and ham	"
52 lbs. rabbits	"
30 pigeons	"
818 eggs, 10 pkts. dried egg	"
30 lbs. cheese	"
513 tins liquid milk	"
22 lbs. galatine	"
56 lbs. sultanas	"
56 lbs. butter	"
189 lbs. fish (wet)	"
23 lbs. preserves	"
12 lbs. cake	"
2 lbs. tea	"
188 tins meat (corned beef, luncheon meat etc.)	"
374 tins vegetables (beans, peas etc.)	"
419 tins fish	"
34 tins soup	"
150 lbs. sausages	"
1866 lbs. oranges	"
75 lbs. tripe	"
28 lbs. rolled oats	"
72 tins fruit	"
9 lbs. flour	"
30 pkts. bun flour	"
177 pkts. sponge and pudding mixture .	"
80 pkts. pea and lentil flour	"
10 tins chocolate sauce	"
38 meat pies	"
87 fishcakes	"
2 jars meat paste	"

MILK.

100 visits were paid to the 4 cowkeepers' premises and 17 retail dairies in the City throughout the year for the purpose of routine inspection and the taking of milk samples.

There are 95 shopkeepers registered as retailers of milk in sealed bottles, but of this number a few only are actually selling the commodity owing to the restriction on supplies.

At one of the producer's premises extensive improvements were carried out to the cow sheds and dairy, following which a Licence to produce a designated milk was granted by the County Authorities.

BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS.

Milk.

9 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) milk and 12 of Accredited Milk were taken from producers' premises in the area and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination.

8 samples of the Tuberculin Tested and 10 samples of Accredited milk satisfied the prescribed tests under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

In addition to the above, samples of mixed milk were taken from the herds for the detection of presence of Tuberculosis among cattle. In each case the biological test carried out at the County Laboratory proved there to be no evidence of Tuberculosis in the milk submitted.

Water.

101 samples of drinking water and 10 of swimming bath water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis during the year. Of this number 16 samples were taken from storage tanks situated in air raid shelters.

Fuller details in connection with the water supplies will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

BAKEHOUSES.

20 visits were paid to the bakehouses on the register and the premises proved upon inspection to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 19 premises on the register of fish fryers, but of this number 10 only were conducting business at the end of 1944.

Periodic inspections proved them to be conducted in a satisfactory manner and in only a few instances was it necessary to draw attention for greater care in the cleansing of equipment etc.

FOOD & DRUG SAMPLING, 1944.

151 samples of milk and other foods were taken and submitted to the Analyst for analysis under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. His reports are summarised overleaf.

P.T.O.

SUMMARY OF FOOD & DRUG SAMPLING, 1944.

Sample.	No.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Aspirin Tablets	3	3	-
Boracic Ointment	1	1	-
Borax	1	1	-
Cake Mixture	2	2	-
Camphorated Oil	2	2	-
Castor Oil	1	1	-
Cocoa	2	2	-
Cod Liver Oil	1	1	-
Coffee	3	3	-
Epsom Salts	3	3	-
Eucalyptus	1	1	-
Evaporated Milk	1	1	-
Fish Paste	7	7	-
Friar's Balsam	2	2	-
Golden Raising Powder	3	3	-
Ground Ginger	2	2	-
Ground Nutmeg	1	1	-
Meat Paste	3	3	-
Milk	73	69	4
Mustard	3	3	-
Pep tonic	1	1	-
Pudding Mixture	4	4	-
Saccharin	2	2	-
Sausage	24	24	-
Self-raising Flour	1	1	-
Scone Mixture	1	1	-
Sponge Mixture	1	1	-
Vienna Steak	1	1	-
Zinc Ointment	1	1	-
	151	147	4

It is very pleasing to note that of the various foods sampled, 4 milks only were declared by the Analyst to be "adulterated" within the meaning of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. Two of these "adulterated" samples were taken informally at the request of the County Authorities to whom the results of the analyses were forwarded. Simultaneous to the taking of the informal samples in this area, the County Authorities were sampli formally at the producer's premises outside the City. Consequen upon this action, successful prosecutions were obtained by the County Authorities against two producers, one defendant being fined £10 in each of two cases plus £2:2:- costs, and in the second instance, the defendant was fined £5 and ordered to pay £2:2:- costs.

The whole of the facts relating to the two remaining samples of milk were reported to the Health Committee, and after full consideration of the matters, it was decided not to institute legal proceedings.

With regard to the samples of sausage, whilst conforming wit the standard laid down in accordance with the Act, two did not conform with the meat content prescribed by the Regulations made by the Ministry of Food, and this information was forwarded to th Food Executive Officer for his attention and action.

The particulars relating to the adulterated samples are give in the following table:

P.T.O.

No.	Article.	Defect.	Action Taken.
3	Milk	Soured and deficient in fat.	Informal sample. Follow-up sample No. 4 proved to be genuine.
18	Milk	Deficient in fat and containing 2% added water.	Informal sample taken at request of County Sampling Department and information concerning the same sent to the County Authorities.
43	Milk	Deficient in fat and containing 2.68% added water.	do.
105	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 11%	Letter of warning from Town Clerk to vendor.

In addition to the taking of samples from milk retailers' premises and roundsmen for submission to the Public Analyst, Gerber tests of milk were carried out in the Public Health Department either at the request of dairymen, who are encouraged to report doubtful qualities of milk supplied to them, or in follow-up tests after deficiencies have been proved.

FACTORIES & WORKPLACES.

52 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors to factories and workplaces in the City during the year. The number of defects found during the course of visits was 20, 16 of which were abated at the end of the year.

DISINFECTION.

186 rooms were disinfected by Formaldehyde fumigation after infectious disease. This number includes 39 rooms disinfected after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

81 loads of bedding were removed from premises for the purpose of steam disinfection or destruction as against 64 in 1943.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Primary inspections	659
Caravans inspected	3
Reinspections	873
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	392
Visits to Factories & Workplaces	52
" " Bakehouses	20
" " Slaughterhouses	838
" " other premises for food inspection	334
" " Cowsheds and Dairies	87
" " Offensive Trades	24
" " Stables and Mews	17
" for food sampling and testing	221
" to cases of infectious disease	448
" for water sampling	82

(continued overleaf)

Shops Acts inspections	26
Smoke Observations	6
Explosive Act visits	9
Petroleum Act visits	34
Visits in connection with Decontamination of food	17
" " " " " " clothing .	12
" " " " Emergency Water Supply	4
Miscellaneous visits including Civil Defence visits ..	1150
Water Tests 61	
Smoke " 27	
Total	5308

In conclusion I beg to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee for their support, and to Dr. Murray and other Departmental Officials for the assistance and co-operation afforded me at all times.

I desire also to record my thanks to all members of the staff in the Department for their loyal assistance throughout.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.W. Batten

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.