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COUNTY COUNCIL OF SALOP.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health.

1939.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

SHREWSBURY,
June, 1941.



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee
of the Salop County Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1939, which has been much curtailed in accordance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health. It is regretted that its publication has been delayed, but owing to the additional duties arising out of the War which have been placed on this Department, it has not been possible to give it earlier attention. Amongst these are the A.R.P. Casualty Services in their various ramifications ; the development of the Civil Nursing Reserve, and the training, registration and allocation of its Personnel ; the various problems arising out of evacuation, including arrangements for the Medical Examination of evacuees and the establishment of Sick Bays ; the distribution and storage of enormous quantities of medical supplies and equipment ; the training of different categories of Civil Defence Volunteers ; and the arrangements in connection with the Emergency Medical Services and the Emergency Hospital Scheme.

Notwithstanding the not inconsiderable amount of extra work involved by these additional duties, it can be stated that the usual Services have been adequately maintained.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

*County Medical Officer and
School Medical Officer.*

COLLEGE HILL HOUSE,
SHREWSBURY,
June, 1941.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244,156
Estimated Population Mid Year, 1939	{	for Birth-rates		..	..	..	..	..	244,900
		for Death-rates		..	..	..	..	..	249,500
		Urban	{	for Birth-rates		..	..	..	124,500
				for Death-rates		..	..	..	127,300
		Rural	{	for Birth-rates		..	..	..	120,400
				for Death-rates		..	..	..	122,200
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census), 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,904
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,150,016
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£4,772

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

				Male.	Female.	Male and Female.	Rates.
Live	Total	..	..	2017	1783	3800	15.52
Births	Legitimate	..	..	1903	1686	3589	14.65
	Illegitimate	..	..	114	97	211	.86
Still-births	: Total	..	..	92	73	165	.43
Deaths	: Total	..	..	1670	1556	3226	12.93

Deaths of women in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—

Total	..	..	..	..	..	11	or 2.9 per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	2	
From other Puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	9	

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	48
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	57
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	441
„ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	8

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was—for Birth-rates 244,900 and for Death-rates 249,500.

Marriages.—The number of marriages was 2,534, the highest number since 1920, when it was 2,440, and this was the highest number during the previous 25 years.

Births.—There were 3,800 births in 1939, an increase of 110 as compared with 1938, the birth-rates being 15.52 and 15.28 per thousand of the population respectively. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1939 was 15.0 per thousand.

Deaths.—The number of deaths in 1939 was 3,226, or an increase of 156 as compared with the preceding year. The death-rate for 1939 was 12.93, and for 1938, 12.72. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

Cancer.—The number of deaths from cancer during the year was 441, or 18 less than in the previous year, the death-rates being 1.767 and 1.901 per thousand of the population respectively, or a decrease of 0.134 as compared with 1938.

For full particulars of the facilities available for the early diagnosis and treatment of persons suffering from cancer in the County reference should be made to the Annual Report for 1936.

Deaths from Cancer in 1939 (arranged according to age and Sex).

Age Group of Cases.	Urban Districts.		Rural Distr cts.		Total U. & R.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 25 years ..	—	—	2	2	2	2
25—35 years ..	1	2	1	2	2	4
35—45 years ..	2	5	2	8	4	13
45—55 years ..	18	15	15	15	33	30
55—65 years ..	26	31	24	19	50	50
65—75 years ..	43	38	24	27	67	65
75 years ..	21	38	29	31	50	69
Total deaths ..	111	129	97	104	208	233
	240		201		441	

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 182, or ten more than in 1938. The infant mortality rate was 48 per thousand live births, compared with 47 for 1938, and 2 less than the rate for England and Wales.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The scheme outlined in the report for 1934 has been postponed until after the War, but additional accommodation for infectious disease other than small-pox has been provided since the issue of my last report by increasing the beds available at the Monkmoor Isolation Hospital from 64 to 100. In addition, the old Ludlow Isolation Hospital has been reconditioned and 15 beds and 2 cots have been provided for cases from the Borough of Ludlow, but the Hospital has never been opened.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Compared with 1938, fewer notifications were received of cases of scarlet fever (43), diphtheria (52), respiratory tuberculosis (8), and non-respiratory tuberculosis (13); more notifications of cases of erysipelas (9), puerperal pyrexia (9), ophthalmia neonatorum (9), pneumonia (5), and acute poliomyelitis (5).

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1939.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Population Census. 1931. 244,156	SCARLET FEVER.	WHOOPING COUGH.	DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).	MEASLES.	PNEUMONIA.	CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.	ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	DYSENTERY.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PUERPERAL PYREXIA.	SMALL-POX.	ENTERIC (Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever).	ERYSIPELAS.	CHICKEN-POX.	MALARIA.	TUBERCULOSIS.	
																			RESPIRATORY.	OTHER FORMS.
RURAL.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Atcham ..	19,576	20	2	6	32	13	1	1	1	..	..	3	6	..	1	7	..	..	11	9
Bridgnorth ..	12,616	4	..	10	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	3	..	..	4	3
Clun ..	10,673	19	..	2	3	10	..	1	..	..	..	1	5	..	..	1	..	..	4	1
Drayton ..	7,888	7	8	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	3	3
Ellesmere ..	6,684	23	5	2	7	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	2	2
Ludlow ..	14,511	8	..	3	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	3	1
Oswestry ..	16,569	45	..	21	..	20	..	3	..	1	..	5	5	..	..	5	..	..	8	3
Shifnal ..	7,583	10	2	2	14	11	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	..	..	1	..	..	5	2
Wellington ..	16,118	54	..	2	57	22	..	1	2	1	..	3	4	..	1	2	..	..	7	6
Wem ..	10,273	17	..	4	28	10	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	1	..	..	1	5
URBAN.																				
Bishop's Castle ..	1,352	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Bridgnorth ..	5,295	5	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	1	1
Church Stretton ..	2,398	9	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Dawley ..	7,669	4	..	1	22	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	5	..	..	6	4
Ellesmere ..	1,872	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ludlow ..	5,823	..	..	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	11	3
Market Drayton ..	4,749	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Newport ..	3,437	10	..	2	79	7	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	3	1
Oakengates ..	11,249	17	1	2	19	5	..	2	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	4	..	..	2	7
Oswestry ..	9,961	17	..	21	..	11	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	9	3
Shrewsbury ..	36,732	103	1	42	6	25	..	1	..	1	..	10	10	..	..	9	..	..	17	10
Wellington ..	8,550	9	..	4	131	20	..	1	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	2	..	..	6	8
Wem ..	2,255	5	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wenlock ..	14,149	2	2	3	..	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Whitchurch ..	6,174	2	..	4	67	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	5	4
TOTALS FOR 1939		397	24	133	472	208	5	12	3	5	0	42	71	..	4	57	0	0	116	82
TOTALS FOR 1938		440	..	185	..	201	1	7	1	..	0	33	62	..	5	48	0	0	135	100
increase (+) or Decrease (—)		—43	..	—52	..	+7	+4	+5	+2	—	—	+9	+9	—	—1	+9	—	—	—19	—18

VACCINATION.

In 1938 there were 3,585 births registered, 1,751 declarations of conscientious objection, and 1,332 certificates of successful primary vaccination, the equivalent of 37.15 per cent. of the total births for the year. It is not at present possible to give full details for 1939. In that year, however, there were 3,800 live births and 1,618 declarations of conscientious objection; and the total number of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 years received was 1,417.

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1939 in the arrangements for the administration of the Institutional Medical Services transferred from the late Boards of Guardians or in the matter of Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

Below are given particulars of the cases treated at the Hospital during 1939, with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for 1938 :—

	Adults.				Children.				Total.	
	Men.		Women.		Under 5 yrs.		5—16			
	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938
Cases in Hospital on 1st Jan. ..	37	37	51	53	10	25	2	6	100	121
Cases in Hospital on 31st Dec. ..	57	37	37	51	18	25	8	6	112	119
Total Admissions	392	328	787	848	477	518	55	45	1711	1739
Total Discharges	290	239	741	807	449	491	50	41	1530	1578
Deaths	82	94	60	73	35	32	3	3	180	202

The following are extracts from the **Report of Dr. S. Burke, Medical Superintendent**, being brief particulars of the work undertaken during the year at the County Council Hospital:—

		1939	1938	1937
Total number of	{ Admissions	1711	1739	1623
	{ Discharges	1530	1578	1436
	{ Deaths	180	202	154
Number of beds occupied during year	{ Average	109	112	126
	{ Highest	170	141	155
	{ Lowest	75	73	104
Number of surgical operations performed in the Operating Theatre		134	110	136

Antenatal Clinic.—A clinic is held every Wednesday morning where all booked cases are seen and advice is given. The average number in attendance was 18 per session.

	1939	1938	1937
<i>Maternity.</i> —Cases admitted	494	499	430

Average duration of stay—14 days. No. of infants not entirely breast fed—14.

Midwifery.—

Caesarean Sections	20
Forceps Delivery	33
Other conditions	448

Maternal Deaths (of patients confined in Hospital) 3. Cause :—Eclampsia 1, Acute Pulmonary Oedema and Eclampsia 1, Acute Yellow Atrophy 1.

Stillbirths 34. *Death within 10 days of birth* 15.

Puerperal Pyrexia—1 case was treated.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—One.

Tuberculosis.—Twelve shelters are provided for the treatment of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in an infectious condition which cannot properly be looked after at home.

		In Hosp. Jan. 1st.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hosp. Dec. 31st.
Pulmonary—Males		6	5	4	4	3
	Females	—	3	1	2	—
	Children	1	—	—	1	—
		7	8	5	7	3
Non-Pulmonary—Males		—	2	2	—	—
	Females	—	2	1	1	—
	Children	—	4	3	1	—
		—	8	6	2	—
Total		7	16	11	9	3

Malignant Disease.—Fifty-eight cases of Carcinoma were treated. Their classification is as follows:—

Uterus 1	Breast .. 4	Larynx .. 4	Rectum .. 7
Tongue & Mouth 8		Bladder .. 5	Other sites .. 29

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—Births, with the exception of those occurring in the Borough of Shrewsbury, must be notified to the County Medical Officer of Health by the midwife, doctor in attendance at the confinement, or other responsible person. The following are the particulars :

Live-Births.	Average 1931—35	Actual 1936	Actual 1937	Actual 1938	Actual 1939
Notifications—					
by midwives	2,791	2,686	2,950	2,885	3,106
by medical practitioners ..	367	343	237	322	231
by parents	1	—	—	—	2
Births otherwise ascertained—					
discovered by Health Visitors	—	5	4	4	4
reported by local Registrars	36	13	21	10	18
	3,195	3,047	3,212	3,221	3,361

During the year, 134 still-births were registered, and 116 notified—107 by midwives and 9 by medical practitioners.

In the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, 579 live births and 31 still-births were registered during the year.

Medical, Health Visiting and Nursing Services.—The Assistant School Medical Officers are also the Medical Officers for Maternity and Child Welfare Work, to which they devote three-tenths of their time.

There were fourteen whole-time health visitors in 1939 whose work included attendance at child welfare centres, ophthalmia neonatorum nursing, tuberculosis visiting and attendance at tuberculosis dispensaries, measles visiting, supervision of mental defectives and also duties as Infant Protection Visitors. Twelve of the whole-time health visitors were also engaged in school work and attended school medical inspections, school clinics, eye clinics, and visited physically defective school children. In addition, on 1st July, 1939, there were 52 district nurses doing part-time health visiting.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.	To Children.				To expectant mothers.
	under 1 year.		1 to 5 years.	Total.	
	1st	Total.			
Whole-time (14)	1,997	10,137	16,920	27,057	808
Part-time	1,298	10,774	12,260	23,034	8,454
Totals for 1939	3,295	20,911	29,180	50,091	9,262
Totals for 1938	3,232	22,660	28,738	51,398	8,892
Totals for 1937	3,462	21,752	31,265	53,017	8,292
Average 1932—1936 ..	3,245	21,631	31,876	53,507	7,758

Orthopaedic Cases.—See under Orthopaedic Section, page 14.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—Of the fourteen Welfare Centres in the County, nine are held weekly, and five (at Church Stretton, Ellesmere, Newport, Highley, and Wem), fortnightly.

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1938 and 1939.

CHILDREN.											
Under 1 year.						Between 1 and 5 years.					
New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.		New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.	
1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
1,340	1,347	1,932	1,612	15,044	13,750	495	543	2,915	2,527	20,964	17,624

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Welfare. Centres.	New Cases.		Total Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
Bridgnorth	73	71	74	74	146	130
Church Stretton ..	9	10	9	11	19	27
Dawley	54	38	61	54	184	157
Ellesmere	54	40	91	105	93	84
Highley	5	4	6	5	15	10
Ironbridge	55	46	57	49	120	118
Ludlow	36	42	112	51	125	109
Market Drayton ..	67	31	67	32	225	196
Newport	43	51	54	62	111	130
Oakengates	34	22	41	31	97	158
Oswestry	49	72	55	84	122	206
Wellington	78	79	92	90	270	281
Wem	24	18	31	21	73	36
Whitchurch	53	53	53	62	147	125
	634	577	803	731	1,747	1,767
Increase +						
Decrease —	— 57		— 72		+ 20	

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, the County Council makes a small payment per case attending the Shrewsbury Welfare Centre or Ante-natal Clinic. This arrangement proves very helpful with County Council cases resident near Shrewsbury who are not conveniently situated for attending a County Council Welfare Centre.

During the year 20 expectant mothers made 23 attendances, and 35 children under five years of age made 127 attendances.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During the year 49 cases were notified, 13 more than in the previous year. All the cases recovered with apparently no injury to the eyesight.

County Home for Ailing Babies.—The number of babies admitted to the Home was 42 (which is 21 less than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 94 days (31 more than 1938).

Dr. A. W. M. Battersby, Medical Officer of the Home, states in his Report :—

" The decrease in the number of admissions was due to the closure of the Home from 4th September until 18th December, on account of the outbreak of the present war. Only one case actually died in the Home, and he suffered from a severe degree of malnutrition, was only three weeks old and was very ill when admitted."

" Classification of cases discharged, died or transferred :—Eczema 1, malnutrition 26, prematurity 9, marasmus 2, feeding difficulties 5, acute rhinitis and bronchitis 1, persistent vomiting 2, tuberculous contact 2, baby's mother in Mental Hospital."

Supply of Free Milk.—Milk is supplied free in necessitous cases to expectant mothers after the third month of pregnancy, to nursing mothers, and to children under the age of three years. The sum of £2,232 was spent on free milk in the year ended March, 1939—£375 less than in the previous year.

Child Life Protection.—Child Life Protection cases are put under the supervision of the whole-time Health Visitors, who are required to visit them at least once a quarter, or more frequently should the home conditions or health of the child not be found satisfactory.

The following are the particulars of the cases supervised during the last seven years :—

		1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Number of cases	on 1st Jan. ..	146	177	186	168	143	123	112
	on 31st Dec. ..	177	186	168	143	123	112	90
	added during the year	71	44	37	21	22	24	24
No. of cases removed from Register	reached 9 years of age	7	8	22	21	15	11	20
	legally adopted ..	4	4	3	6	4	4	4
	left County ..	13	10	11	10	8	10	5
	removed to relatives	13	11	17	6	13	10	17
	died	0	2	2	1	2	0	0
	removed to places of safety	3	0	0	2	0	0	0

Midwifery Services.—In 1938, there were 220 midwives practising in the County. In the year under consideration there were 234 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire, all of whom were trained women.

Training of Midwives.—By an arrangement with the County Council, the Shropshire Nursing Federation sends suitable candidates for training as midwives.

During 1939, there were no candidates. One hundred and thirty midwives have been trained by the County Council under this arrangement since 1921.

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—The number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts sent in by medical practitioners was 884, and payments amounting to £1,431 were made during 1939. During the previous year the claims numbered 782, and payments totalled £1,400.

Compensation to Midwives.—Twelve midwives voluntarily surrendered their certificates, and compensation amounting to £3,000 3s. 7d. was paid in accordance with section 5 of the Midwives Act, 1936.

Statistics relating to Work under Midwives Acts.

Year	Midwives practising in December.	Visits of Inspection.	Notifications received from Midwives.					
			Medical help.	Still-birth.	Death of mother or Child.	Artificial Feeding.	Liability to be a source of infection.	Having laid out Dead Body.
1937	242	359	1223	40	23	67	140	62
1938	202	458	1190	40	23	57	136	61
1939	233	505	1240	39	21	52	169	31

Maternal Deaths.—In 1939 there were in Shropshire 12 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In two of these a doctor had been engaged prior to the confinement. The Maternal Death-rate in this County according to the official returns of the Registrar-General was 2.9 per thousand live births, as compared with 3.25 per thousand for the previous year.

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths in this County since 1930, and it will be observed that no fewer than 81 deaths out of a total of 181 were the result of a first pregnancy. This fact brings out the great importance of attendance to the health and general well-being of the mother who is approaching her first confinement, and also the need for skilled nursing and skilled medical attendance when it takes place.

Maternal Deaths 1930 to 1939.

Year.	Causes of Death Investigated.					Death-rate per 1,000 live births.		
	All causes.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Other.	Number in first confinement.	Shropshire.		England and Wales.
						Local Statistics.	Official Statistics.	
1930 ..	21	4	4	13	11	5.13	5.37	4.40
1931 ..	21	5	5	11	12	5.31	5.31	4.11
1932 ..	18	9	2	7	6	4.77	3.97	4.24
1933 ..	22	7	1	14	13	6.00	5.57	4.42
1934 ..	24	7	2	15	11	6.52	5.43	4.60
1935 ..	15	8	1	6	4	4.16	4.43	4.10
1936 ..	18	4	..	14	5	4.93	4.39	3.81
1937 ..	14	3	..	10	5	3.97	3.97	3.23
1938 ..	16	0	5	11	7	4.34	3.25	3.08
1939 ..	12	0	4	8	7	3.16	2.9	2.93
	181	47	24	109	81	4.80	4.53	..

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—Arrangements have been made for the admission of these cases to the County Council Hospital; or, if the medical practitioner in attendance so desires, a nurse is provided through the agency of the Shropshire Nursing Federation to look after the patient in her own home.

75 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. In the previous year 61 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, three of whom died.

Pemphigus.—No case of Pemphigus occurred during the year.

During the year a consultant's opinion was secured in 23 confinement cases. Three sterilized maternity outfits were supplied.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Registration.—Any person carrying on a nursing home without having had it duly registered is liable to a penalty. Application for registration must be made to the Local Supervising Authority, namely, the County Council, on a prescribed form accompanied by a fee of 5/-. The Local Supervising Authority has power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases, and registration has not been insisted upon in the case of the following Institutions:—

Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury.
King Edward VII. Memorial Sanatorium, Shirlett.
Lady Forester Hospitals, Broseley and Much Wenlock.
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.
Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.
Cottage Hospital Market Drayton.

Inspection.—Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Inspector and Assistant Inspector of Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each Home once a quarter. During the year 142 inspections were made.

Accommodation provided.—During 1939 one new Nursing Home was registered, and one closed, the keeper voluntarily surrendering her certificate and claiming compensation under the Midwives Act of 1936.

No. of Homes taking <i>general</i> cases only	..	..	..	..	..	9
Patient accommodation—101 beds and 4 cots.						
No. of Homes taking <i>maternity</i> cases only	..	..	..	..	..	5
Patient accommodation:—15 beds.						
No. of Homes taking both <i>maternity</i> and <i>general</i> cases	..	..	..	..	..	14
Patient accommodation:—139 beds and 3 cots.						

In all, therefore, there are 28 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 255 beds and 7 cots.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. Watkin, writes:—

"In the 1938 report some observations were made on the effects on incidence and mortality of Tuberculosis likely to occur if war broke out. After remarking that institutions in more vulnerable parts of the Country might have to close, I suggested that in areas such as Shropshire, where the population would be reinforced by an influx of refugees, it was likely that the facilities for sanatorium treatment, early diagnosis, supervision of infectious cases, pneumothorax clinics, etc., would have to be increased, not diminished.

"As by the end of 1939 the war had been in progress for only a few months no noticeable influence on Tuberculosis was to be expected. Actually, in this County, there was a decrease in incidence, and an increase in mortality. A few tuberculous evacuees, however, commenced to arrive, some of them coming to our clinics for continuation of their artificial pneumothorax refills. People in delicate health would, naturally, be among the first to leave the more vulnerable areas and, consequently, as the war goes on, the proportion of tuberculous persons among the total number of evacuees is likely to be high.

"In the first few weeks of the war, when a large number of evacuee school children arrived in Shropshire, an investigation was made by our health visitors to find out if any children were billeted in houses where there were infectious cases of tuberculosis. In the few instances where this was found to be the case the matter was rectified after representations had been made to the billeting officer for the area. People unconnected with any official evacuation scheme are more difficult to supervise, and war conditions will call for increased vigilance on the part of the anti-tuberculosis services.

"A number of doubtful chest cases are continually being referred to us by the National Service Medical Board. This is useful work in eliminating as far as possible the recruiting of tuberculous persons in H.M. Forces.

"The work of the Clinics has also been increased by the attendance of soldiers and airmen sent by their medical officers for diagnosis and advice and by undertaking X-Ray examinations of doubtful chest cases for the County Council Hospital."

Dr. Elliott, writes :—

"The first three months of the war have shown no appreciable difference in the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the County. These were, however, three months of comparative quiet.

"It is essential in time of war that the two main services rendered by the Tuberculosis Scheme, namely, prevention and treatment, more especially specialised treatment for curable cases, should be continued as far as possible.

"With regard to prevention, voluntary evacuation of chronic cases has increased our difficulties, as many of these cases have left "Danger Areas" without leaving any address and are impossible to trace.

"Unless there is some special reason requiring active treatment, such as pneumothorax, many of these cases will remain hidden, very often to the danger of the general public.

"It should be the duty of the Tuberculosis Authorities in Danger Areas to try and trace their cases and notify the Authorities in the Evacuation Areas so that they can take steps to limit the spread of Infection.

"In September, 1939, many children were evacuated into the County from "Danger Areas." We realised the possibility of some of these children having been sent to homes in which there was an infectious case of Tuberculosis.

"The Health Visitors were instructed to visit all homes of tuberculosis patients, concentrating at first on those with a positive sputum, and report the presence of children evacuees in any of these homes.

"In only two cases in East Shropshire were evacuee children billeted in positive tuberculous households, and these were tactfully removed to other billets.

"In one area the Health Visitor was co-opted on the Billeting Committee. With her extensive and intimate knowledge of home conditions in her area, she was a very valuable member of the Committee. This procedure might be followed with advantage in other areas should further evacuation of children take place.

"**Provision of Specialised Surgical Treatment.**—In small reception areas the provision of specialised surgical treatment such as Thoracoplasty, Extra Pleural Pneumothorax and Cauterisation of adhesions is not an economical proposition in the area, so arrangements were made to provide this treatment at the Brompton Hospital, London.

"These facilities are not now available and it would appear that the most satisfactory way would be for small authorities to link up with the nearest large Sanatorium which could provide this treatment. This, of course, would tax the bed power of the large Sanatorium, but a reciprocal arrangement might be made where the smaller Sanatoria might relieve the pressure by taking from them cases requiring less specialised treatment (such as artificial Pneumothorax)."

Notifications of Death.—The number of notifications of *pulmonary tuberculosis* decreased by 8, and the number of deaths increased by 20. In the case of *other forms of the disease*, the number of notifications decreased by 13, and there was an increase of 10 in the number of deaths.

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis, 1939.

Age periods of cases.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1
1—5	0	0	15	9	0	0	6	3
5—15	5	9	21	18	2	1	1	3
15—25	13	19	7	14	5	8	4	1
25—35	24	19	5	2	9	11	2	4
35—45	21	11	2	2	17	8	0	2
45—55	17	3	1	0	12	5	0	0
55—65	7	5	0	0	7	4	0	1
65 and upwards	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
	88	68	53	48	52	39	15	15
TOTALS FOR 1939	156		101		91		30	
TOTALS FOR 1938	164		114		71		20	

Below are particulars of the visits of the Tuberculosis Medical Officers :—

On Notification	11	On discharge from Sanatorium	6
To Contacts	77	On other occasions	247
To suspicious cases	278		

Examination of Sputum.—The County Council provides facilities for the examination of specimens of sputum, and medical practitioners are urged to take the fullest advantage of them. The total number of sputum examinations made during the year was 577.

Shelters.—There are at present 145 shelters in the County, 134 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 11 new cases, and there are now 33 patients who regularly attend the treatment centres. Arrangements have been made for this form of treatment to be given at the Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary, Wellington Public Assistance Institution and Shirlett Sanatorium, and below are given details of the number of cases treated and the refills they received during the year at these Centres :—

Centre.	No. of cases treated.	No. of refills given.
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary	23	257
Wellington Public Assistance Institution	9	92
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients)	1	2
	33	351

X-Ray Examination.—During 1939, 935 X-Ray films were taken.

Light Therapy.—During the year 16 cases attended, and 605 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic Scheme, for particulars of which see page 14.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—During the year 7 patients were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium, 9 were discharged, and 4 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1939 :—

	ADULTS.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Males	41	34	2	
Females	28	19	3	
	CHILDREN.			
Males	3	6	1	
Females	6	—	1	

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Examination Centres.—Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held twice weekly at Wellington, weekly at Shrewsbury and Oswestry, and once a month at Whitchurch, Ludlow and Bridgnorth. In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, three sessions were held for examination of contacts and 39 attendances were made. Below are particulars of attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries :—

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.	No. of Cases who attended during the year.		SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES.			Total Attend- ances.
	Total.	For the first time.	Notified Cases.	Non-notified Cases.		
				Contacts.	Suspects.	
Shrewsbury	369	263	1136	115	383	1634
Oswestry	189	94	440	77	75	592
Wellington	514	236	1919	156	320	2395
Whitchurch	32	12	21	17	10	48
Ludlow	70	39	67	35	40	142
Bridgnorth	82	39	81	35	36	152
	1256	683	3664	435	864	4963

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

There is a central hospital at Park Hall, Oswestry, and after-care clinics are held weekly at Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wellington; fortnightly at Bridgnorth, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Newport, Oakengates, Wem, and Whitchurch.

Attendances at Clinics.—The following table gives particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1939. It will be observed that the great preponderance of cases are children between the ages of 5 and 16 years, who have been found to be in need of treatment as a result of school medical inspection. The cases over sixteen years of age show an increase upon the figures for 1936, 1937 and 1938, which may be taken as indicating that a large proportion of the school-discovered cases continue to need treatment after leaving school. The tuberculous cases, which are of all ages, are the smallest in number, but their attendances at the clinics as a rule extend over a very prolonged period.

Attendances at Orthopaedic After-Care Clinics, 1939.

Age Groups.	On Books 1/1/39.	Admitted during 1939.	No. treated during 1939.	Discharged during 1939.	On Books 31/12/39.	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/39.	Attendances during 1939.
Under 5 years ..	278	192	470	162	307	1	1,941
5—16 years	769	402	1,171	401	764	6	4,811
Over 16 years ..	699	474	1,173	416	646	111	4,050
T.B. cases, all ages ..	165	34	199	35	142	22	847
Totals ..	1,911	1,102	*3,013	1,014	1,859	140	11,649

* The total number of individual patients was 2,940. Owing to age alterations and changes of diagnosis, 73 patients are included in more than one group.

Cases admitted to Hospital.—Conditions and defects of such a nature that they cannot be adequately dealt with at the After-Care Centres, are admitted for treatment to the Orthopaedic Hospital, particulars of which are given below.

Tuberculous Cases.—The number of tuberculous cases admitted was 61, an increase of 27 on the previous year. Of the cases dealt with under this Scheme, 20 were diagnosed as suffering from affections of the spine, 25 of the hip, and 16 from affections of the other bones and joints.

Cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital during the year and paid for by the Public Health and Education Committees.

Disease.	Under 5 years of age.	5—16 years of age.	Over 16 years of age.	Total.
Tuberculosis	9	30	22	61
Rickets	1	..	..	1
Osteomyelitis and Epiphysitis	..	7	5	12
<i>Congenital Defects and Deformities :—</i>				
(a) Feet	6	10	9	25
(b) Hip	3	1	..	4
(c) Neck	1	3	..	4
(d) Spine	1	..	1	2
(e) Erb's Palsy	..	1	..	1
(f) Hand	2	..	..	2
(g) Leg	1	..	..	1
<i>Acquired Deformities of :—</i>				
(a) Spine	..	2	3	5
(b) Knees	2	4	1	7
(c) Feet	..	7	1	8
(d) Hip	..	2	..	2
(e) Elbow	..	1	..	1
<i>Injuries :—</i>				
(a) Bones	4	8	11	23
(b) Joints	1	6	2	9
<i>Deformities due to nerve lesions :—</i>				
(a) Poliomyelitis (new cases)	5	5	2	12
(a) Poliomyelitis (old cases)	..	2	1	3
(b) Diplegia	2	..	..	2
(c) Polio Encephalitis	1	..	1	2
(d) Neuritis	..	..	1	1
<i>Other diseases :—</i>				
(a) Arthritis	1	1	8	10
(b) Peroneal Tubercle	..	1	..	1
Total for 1939	40	91	68	199
Total for 1938	17	62	68	147

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.—At the end of the year 71 licences to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and 649 licences to produce Accredited milk had been issued by the County Council. The position as compared with previous years is as follows:—

Licensed to produce :—	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	8	9	11	15	20	30	36	57	71
*Accredited Milk	11	12	17	14	390	522	542	595	649

* Previous to 1936 its equivalent was designated "Grade A" Milk.

Sixteen of the seventy-one producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and twenty-one of the six hundred and forty-nine Accredited milk producers have also been granted bottling licences by the County Council.

Milk (Special Designations) Amendment Order, 1938.—Under this Order, which came into force on the 1st April, 1938, a milk producer who applies for a licence to produce designated milk is responsible for making his own arrangements for the initial clinical examinations and tuberculin tests, all subsequent examinations and tests being made by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Below are particulars of pre-licence tuberculin tests and clinical examinations carried out during the year as a result of:—

(a) *Applications for a Tuberculin Tested Milk Licence.*

Number of Herds	13
Number of tests	563
Number of reacting animals	40
Number found to be suffering from non-tuberculous conditions	—

(b) *Applications for an Accredited Milk Licence.*

Number of herds inspected	86
Number of animals clinically examined	2714
Number of animals found to be suffering from—	
Tuberculosis	3
Other pathological conditions	55

The cows found to be suffering from a tuberculous condition were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, and those suffering from other pathological conditions were either removed permanently from the herd or temporarily isolated until a certificate had been received from a Veterinary Surgeon that they could be returned to the herd.

Inspection of Premises.—The County Sanitary Inspector made 1,082 visits to farms during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.—During the year there were 4 notifications that milk from this County was being produced under unclean conditions. The producers were immediately communicated with, and the District Medical Officer of Health and Agricultural (Education) Department were informed with a view to suitable action being taken to bring about an improvement in the conditions and methods of milk production.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sect. 25.—During the year 25 reports were received from Medical Officers of Health that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in this County. The herds involved in these complaints were examined and 18 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. The investigation into seven of the complaints had not been completed at the end of the year.

Examination of Milk.—Routine Sampling.—Of the 161 samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk taken, 21 proved unsatisfactory, and of the 1,336 samples of "Accredited" milk, 261 were found to be unsatisfactory. In addition, 342 "Qualifying" samples of milk were collected, 92 of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

The producers from whom unsatisfactory samples were obtained were referred to the Agricultural Department for instruction in the methods of clean milk production, where this was considered desirable.

MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.—The report of the Shropshire Mental Treatment Act Joint Committee shows that the Medical Officer, Dr. W. Stanley Hughes, held weekly sessions of the Mental Treatment Clinic at the Royal Salop Infirmary and that 49 new cases were seen during the year.

The number of Temporary and Voluntary Patients who have been accommodated and received treatment at the Salop Mental Hospital during the same period was 48, three being "temporary" patients and 45 "voluntary" patients.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938.—*Particulars of Mental Defectives as on 31st December, 1939 :—*

A.—Number of mental defectives ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with" :—

1.	Under "Order" :—	M.	F.	T.
(a)	(1) In Institutions { under 16 years of age	16	10	26
	{ aged 16 years and over	83	106	189
	(2) On Licence from Institutions { under 16 years of age	—	—	—
	{ aged 16 years and over	9	13	22
(b)	(1) Under Guardianship { under 16 years of age	—	—	—
	{ aged 16 years and over	7	17	24
	(2) On Licence from Guardianship—aged 16 years and over	1	2	3
2.	Under Statutory Supervision	128	105	233
3.	In Public Assistance Institutions	34	52	86
4.	In Approved Homes and maintained by M.D. Committee	3	1	4

B.—Number of mental defectives not at present "subject to be dealt with" but for whom the Local Authority may subsequently become liable :—

1.	In Institutions or under Guardianship :—	M.	F.	T.
(a)	In regard to whom the Local Authority contributes under its permissive powers	2	—	2
2.	Reported to the Local Authority from any reliable source and recognised by them as mentally defective but as to whom no action under the Mental Deficiency Acts has been taken :—			
(a)	Children between the ages of 14 and 16 years	42	26	68
(b)	All other cases	28	21	49
3.	Under friendly (annual) supervision	438	292	730

School Cases.—The following are particulars of mentally defective children (educable) under the Education Committee on 31st December, 1939 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Special Schools	10	10	20
Awaiting admission to a Special School	1	1	2
Under supervision of School Nurses	67	28	95
	78	39	117

There are in addition 49 school children, 28 boys and 21 girls, whose mental condition has been called in question, of whom it has been estimated that 50 per cent. will prove to be feeble-minded. It has thus been calculated that there is a total of 142 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1939.

Cases suffering from	At Shrewsbury Clinic.												At Wolverhampton.†			
	Cases.						Attendances.						* Cases.		Attendances.	
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	1939	1938	1939	1938
Syphilis	53	54	64	79	117	133	461	475	689	773	1150	1248	1	..	238	1729
Soft Chancre	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..		
Gonorrhoea	160	155	52	62	212	217	893	1442	290	720	1183	2162	3	4		
Other conditions	48	40	37	30	85	70	132	93	63	38	195	131	5	9		
Totals	262	249	153	171	415	420	1487	2010	1042	1531	2529	3541				
Increase (+) decrease (—) ..	+13	—18	—5	—523	—489	—1012	—4									

* These numbers only refer to cases attending for the first time in the year concerned.

† Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.—This Hostel is available for girls and women suffering from venereal disease who cannot receive proper treatment in their own homes. During the year two cases of gonorrhoea were admitted from this County.

Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Nature of Test.	Shrewsbury.	Birmingham.	Bristol.	Wolverhampton.
For detection of gonococci	142	50	29	63
For detection of spirochetes	..	..	..	3
For Wassermann reactions	..	352	181	59
For gonococcal infection	..	3	10	16

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE.

Under an arrangement with the County Council, Birmingham University undertakes the examination of specimens sent for the purpose of diagnosis of disease.

In addition to the work done in connection with Venereal Disease referred to on page 18, the following examinations were made :—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total.
Tubercle Bacilli (Sputum)	19	293	312
„ „ (Pus from Gland)	2	—	2
„ „ (Pus from Chest)	—	2	2
„ „ (Urine)	—	1	1
„ „ (Urine—animal inoculation test)	—	2	2
„ „ (Pleural Fluid)	—	2	2
Haemolytic Streptococci (Ear, Nose and Throat Swabs) ..	21	39	60
„ „ (Fluid from Chest)	1	—	1
„ „ (Vaginal Swab)	—	1	1
Diphtheria Bacilli (Nose and Throat Swabs)	190	1132	1322
Diphtheria (Virulence Test)	1	1	2
Wassermann Reaction (Cerebro-spinal Fluid)	—	1	1
„ „ and Colloidal Gold Test (Cerebro-spinal Fluid)	3	—	3
Meningococci (Cerebro-spinal Fluid)	3	2	5
Blood for Widal's Reaction	27	30	57
Typhoid-Dysentery Group (Faeces)	2	16	18
„ „ „ (Blood)	—	1	1
„ „ „ (Urine)	1	3	4
Brucella Abortus (Blood)	1	3	4
Hairs for Ringworm	4	3	7
Pathogenic Organisms (Chest Fluid)	—	1	1
Staphylococci (Pus from Arm)	1	—	1
„ „ (Blood)	1	—	1
Zondek-Aschheim Test	3	3	6
	280	1536	1816
Blood Urea Estimation	—	—	16
„ Count	—	—	4
„ Sedimentation	—	—	1
„ Culture	—	—	4
Pathological Examination—Miscellaneous	—	—	5
Examination of Cerebro-spinal Fluid	—	—	6
Bacteriological Examination—Miscellaneous	—	—	10
„ „ Vaginal Swab	—	—	1
Glucose Tolerance Test	—	—	1
Faecal Culture	—	—	1
Total for 1939 ..	280	1536	1865
Total for 1938 ..	363	2704	3067

It will be observed from the above table that the bulk of this work consists of examination of swabs for the presence of diphtheria bacilli. As the outbreaks of diphtheria in schools can only be effectively controlled by extensive swabbing, no considerations should be allowed to set a limit to this work.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The above Act came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, and since that date the administration has been undertaken by the Staff of the County Health Department. Previous to 1st October samples of Food and Drugs were obtained by the County Police.

During the year 169 samples were collected, namely, Arrowroot 7; Butter 4; Brawn 4; Cheese 1; Cinnamon 1; Coffee 1; Compound Fat 1; Demerara Sugar 1; Ground Ginger 3; Jam 2; Lard 7; Margarine 2; Milk 101; Oatmeal 7; Pepper 10; Rice 1; Sausage 7; Tea 1; Vinegar 8.

15 of the 169 samples collected were found, on analysis, to be not genuine and particulars of these unsatisfactory samples and the action taken in each instance are given below:—

Description of Samples.	Adulteration and Remarks.	Action taken.
Milk	(1) Contained 4.7 per cent. of added water ..	Caution.
	(2) Deficiency of 5 per cent. of fat and slightly below standard for solids not fat	Caution.
	(3) 8.3 per cent. deficient in fat	Vendor informed.
	(4) 21.7 per cent. deficient in fat	Caution.
	(5) Slight deficiency of solids not fat	Vendor notified.
	(6) Slight deficiency of solids not fat	Vendor notified.
	(7) Deficiency of 10 per cent. of fat	Caution.
	(8) 4 per cent. of added water	Fined £3 and ordered to pay £4 4s. 0d. costs.
	(9) Deficiency of 3 per cent. of fat and contained 5 per cent. of added water	Fined £1 and ordered to pay £1 8s. 0d. costs.
	(10) Contained 25 per cent. of fat	Nil.
	(11) 5 per cent. deficient in fat	
	(12) Contained 1 per cent. of added water ..	
	(13) Contained 15 per cent. of added water ..	Fined £2 10s. 0d. in each case and ordered to pay £6 6s. 0d. costs.
Pork Sausage ..	(14) Contained 10 per cent. of added water ..	Caution.
	Contained sulphur dioxide in 80 parts per million	

BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

Register of Blind Persons.—On the 31st of March, 1940, there were 433 blind persons on the Register:—338 unemployables, 13 independents, 12 in special schools, 5 adults in training 25 in Institutions and Homes, 9 St. Dunstan's workers, 27 Home Workers and 4 children under five years of age.

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—During the financial year which ended on the 31st March, 1940, £4,709 was paid in domiciliary relief of the blind.

Home Workers.—There are 27 Home Workers and they are supervised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind who visited each Home Worker on an average ten times during the year. The earnings of the Home Workers averaged 12/1, and this was supplemented by an average weekly augmentation of 13/-.

Shropshire Association for the Blind.—This Association which employs two Home Teachers exercises a general supervision over the welfare of all blind persons in the County. The Home Teachers investigate all applications for assistance and case sheets with recommendations are submitted to the Public Health Committee for consideration. When these have been approved grants are paid fortnightly by cheque sent by the County Accountant.

EDUCATION IN HEALTH.

Although education in matters pertaining to health is of the utmost importance, pressure of other duties is the great limiting factor in health propaganda work. During the year, 88 lectures were given in schools at the close of medical inspections by the Assistant School Medical Officers. In the Child Welfare Centres 250 were given by the Medical Officers and Health Visitors in Attendance. The Inspector of Midwives, who also holds the position of County Health Lecturer, gave 13 lectures at various Women's Institutes and other centres; 14 lectures were also given under the auspices of the Shropshire Branch of the Midwives Institute, towards which a grant of £5 was made by the County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Two motor ambulances are owned by the County Council, one stationed at a garage in Shrewsbury and one at the County Council Hospital. The one which is kept in Shrewsbury is generally available for the removal of patients to or from any house or hospital in Shropshire, and is utilised both for infectious and ordinary cases. Whenever the ambulance is used for an infectious case, the Sanitary Inspector of the District is responsible for taking the necessary steps for its disinfection afterwards. The ambulance at the Hospital is used chiefly by this Institution, but is available elsewhere, if required. In addition, there is at the Hospital a converted ambulance used as a staff van, which can be, and sometimes is, used to serve the purposes of an ambulance.

In tabular form details are given below of the Ambulance facilities in the County :—

Provision by Local Authorities (9).

Bridgnorth Borough; Dawley Urban; Wellington Urban; Whitchurch Urban; Shifnal Rural; Market Drayton Urban and Rural (jointly with Newcastle-under-Lyme District). In addition, the three County Council Ambulances are available for the whole County.

Provision by Voluntary Hospitals (2).

Lady Forester Hospital, Much Wenlock; Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

Provision by other Voluntary Bodies (6).

St. John's Ambulance Brigade, *Ludlow*.
Burford Cottage Hospital.
Oakengates Ambulance Committee.
Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee.
St. John's Ambulance Brigade, *Shrewsbury*.
Madeley Ambulance Committee.

Arrangements, if any, in other Areas.

Bishop's Castle Borough—At local garage a van and stretcher are available.
Bridgnorth Rural—Council subscribes to Bridgnorth Borough Ambulance.
Ellesmere Urban—Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee.
Newport Urban—Private enterprise.
Oswestry Urban and Oswestry Rural—Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee.
Wem Rural—Use made of Whitchurch Ambulance within six miles radius of Whitchurch.
Church Stretton Urban; Wem Urban; Chun Rural; Wellington Rural—No formal provision.

HOUSING.

The administration of the various Housing Acts is primarily the responsibility of the District Councils, and the chief responsibility of the County Council is with regard to housing in rural areas. The Act of 1936 makes it a duty of the County Council to keep in touch with housing conditions in Rural Districts and to obtain information regarding housing conditions and housing progress from returns supplied by the Councils of the Districts at least once a year. Furthermore this Act makes it a duty of the County Council to contribute £1 for forty years in respect of houses built to meet the needs of the agricultural population. In this connection 143 houses have been approved for payment of the subsidy by the County Council.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—Under this Act it is the duty of the County Council to contribute £1 per house for a period of 40 years in respect of each new house completed after the beginning of the year 1939, and erected for the purpose of accommodating workers of the Agricultural or similar classes, and in respect of which the Minister of Health has undertaken to make an annual contribution of £10 per house for a like period. Up to and including the 31st December, 1939, 18 houses had been approved for the annual grant mentioned above.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.—The duty of administering these Acts has been delegated in this County to the District Councils. In some Rural Districts, notably in Atcham, Clun and Wellington, a great deal has been done under these Acts, and it is unfortunate that some District Councils have not fully taken advantage of the powers which the Acts give to make (subject to certain conditions) grants and loans to owners willing to re-condition and renovate old houses. Undoubtedly, these Acts provide a means in many areas of making houses which are no longer fit for human habitation into suitable dwellings at an economic cost, and in this way contribute an important part to the solution of the housing problem.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Since the publication of my last annual Report no Grants have been promised by the County Council in connection with Water Supply Schemes in the County, under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Several of the Schemes towards which the County Council had previously agreed to make contributions have been postponed owing to the War.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

In my last Annual Report particulars were given of the Wellington R.D.C.'s Scheme for dealing with the Sewage from the villages of Donnington and Muxton. The estimated cost of the Scheme at that time was £18,460, and the County Council agreed to contribute 20 per cent. of the actual net capital cost, not exceeding £3,692.

Owing to certain works which are being erected at Donnington in close proximity to the Sewage Disposal Works, it has been decided to install a Sludge Digestion Plant at an estimated cost of £9,000, and in view of this the County Council undertook to increase the amount of their maximum contribution towards this Scheme from £3,692 to £5,092.

Apart from this no further grants were promised by the County Council during the year 1939 and, in fact, one or two of the Schemes towards which the County Council had agreed to contribute have been postponed.