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COUNTY COUNCIL OF SALOP.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health.

1940.

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

SHREWSBURY,
June, 1942.



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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 present my Annual Report for the year 1940. It is very much curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health, and the delay in presenting it is due to the multiplicity of matters demanding attention, especially in connection with the various Government Schemes which have been put into operation as a result of the War.

Certain schemes which were contemplated before the War have had to be suspended, but it can be said that existing services have been well maintained.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICES,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY.

June, 1942.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244,156
Estimated Population Mid Year 1940	for Birth and Death rates		..	..	..	..	..	..	257,170
	Urban—for Birth and Death-rates		..	..	..	..	..	..	132,210
	Rural—for Birth and Death-rates		..	..	..	..	..	..	124,960
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census) 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,904
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,186,813
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,009

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

				Male.	Female.	Male and Female.	Rates.
Live Births	Legitimate	..	..	2016	1869	3885	15.69
	Illegitimate	..	..	108	109	217	.84
	Total	..	..	2124	1978	4102	15.95
Still-births: Total	..	..	..	74	67	141	.55
Deaths: Total	..	..	..	1917	1737	3654	14.21

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

Total	..	..	..	..	11 or 2.6 per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	6	
From other Puerperal causes	..	..	..	5	

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	..	..	..	..	..	55
Deaths from Cancer a(11 ages)	..	..	..	..	..	453
„ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	4
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	5

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was—for Birth-rates and Death-rates 257,170.

Marriages.—The number of marriages was 2,722, the highest number since 1920, when it was 2,440, and this was the highest number during the previous 25 years.

Births.—There were 4,102 births in 1940, an increase of 302 as compared with 1939, the birth-rates being 15.95 and 15.52 per thousand of the population respectively. (The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1940 was 14.6 per thousand).

Deaths.—The number of deaths in 1940 was 3,654, or an increase of 428 as compared with the preceding year. The death-rate for 1940 was 14.21, and for 1939, 12.93. The death-rate for England and Wales was 14.3.

Cancer.—The number of deaths from cancer during the year was 453, or 12 more than in the previous year, the death-rates being 1.761 and 1.767 per thousand of the population respectively, or an increase of 0.006 as compared with 1939.

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 195, or 13 more than in 1939. The infant mortality rate was 48 per thousand live births, compared with 48 for 1939, and 7 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 1939, *fewer notifications* were received of cases of scarlet fever (62), acute poliomyelitis (9), acute polio-encephalitis (2), encephalitis lethargica (3), ophthalmia neonatorum (5); *more notifications* of cases of diphtheria (103), pneumonia (119), cerebro-spinal fever (85), dysentery (59), puerperal pyrexia (14), enteric fever (22), erysipelas (18), whooping cough (396), and measles (1,070).

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1940.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Population Census. 1931. 244,156	DISEASES															
		SCARLET FEVER.	WHOOPING COUGH.	DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).	MEASLES. (excluding Rubella).	ACUTE PNEUMONIA.	CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.	ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS.	ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.	ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	DYSENTERY.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PURPURAL PYREXIA.	SMALL-POX.	ENTERIC (Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever).	ERYSIPELAS.	CHICKEN-POX.
RURAL ..	122,491	155	280	96	682	156	41	2	1	1	..	16	36	..	10	33	1
URBAN ..	121,665	180	140	140	860	171	49	1	—	1	59	21	49	..	16	42	..
TOTALS FOR 1940 ..	..	335	420	236	1542	327	90	3	1	2	59	37	85	..	26	75	1
TOTALS FOR 1939 ..	..	397	24	133	472	208	5	12	3	5	0	42	71	..	4	57	0
Increase (+) or ..	..	—62	+396	+103	+1070	+119	+85	—9	—2	—3	+59	—5	+14	..	+22	+18	+1
Decrease (—) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

VACCINATION.

In 1939 there were 3,709 births registered, 1,628 declarations of conscientious objection and 1,417 certificates of successful primary vaccination, the equivalent of 38.20 per cent. of the total births for the year. It is not at present possible to give full details for 1940. In that year, however, there were 4,101 live births and 1,568 declarations of conscientious objection; and the total number of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 years received was 1,554.

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1940 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 1940, with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for 1939 :—

	Adults.				Children.				Total.	
	Men.		Women.		Under 5 yrs.		5—16			
	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939
Cases in Hospital on 1st Jan.	57	37	37	51	18	10	8	2	120	100
Cases in Hospital on 31st Dec.	95	57	53	37	16	18	7	8	171	120
Total Admissions	917	392	674	787	398	477	54	55	2043	1711
Total Discharges	822	290	603	741	379	449	52	50	1856	1530
Deaths	57	82	53	60	21	35	5	3	136	180

							1940	1939	1938	1937
Total number of	..	..	..	{	Admissions	..	2043	1711	1739	1623
					Discharges	..	1856	1530	1578	1436
					Deaths	..	136	180	202	154
Number of beds occupied during year				{	Average	..	148	109	112	126
					Highest	..	203	170	141	155
					Lowest	..	112	75	73	104
Number of surgical operations performed in the Operating Theatre							386	134	110	136
<i>Maternity</i> —Cases admitted							334	494	499	430

Maternal Deaths (of patients confined in Hospital) 2. Cause :—Spontaneous Pneumothorax 1, Eclampsia 1.

Still-births—19.

Puerperal Pyrexia—Nil.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Five (Patients transferred to Eye Hospital, Shrewsbury).

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—The number of live births notified or otherwise ascertained, including those which occurred in the Borough of Shrewsbury, an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, was 4,249, and the number of still-births was 133.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.	To Children.				To expectant mothers.
	under 1 year.		1 to 5 years.	Total.	
Whole-time (14)	2278	9270	16825	26095	812
Part-time	1304	10464	12789	23253	7,741
Totals for 1940	3582	19734	29614	49348	8,553

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1939 and 1940.

CHILDREN.											
Under 1 year.						Between 1 and 5 years.					
New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.		New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.	
1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940
1347	1853	1612	2348	13750	14455	543	821	2527	2683	17624	16737

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Welfare Centres.	New Cases.		Total Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940
Bridgnorth	71	66	74	78	130	149
Church Stretton ..	10	12	11	15	27	50
Dawley	38	41	54	44	157	83
Ellesmere	40	31	105	75	84	47
Highley	4	8	5	8	10	9
Ironbridge	46	30	49	30	118	45
Ludlow	42	45	51	71	109	92
Market Drayton ..	31	53	32	63	196	147
Newport	51	50	62	70	130	128
Oakengates	22	30	31	37	158	123
Oswestry	72	88	84	108	206	247
Wellington	79	87	90	96	281	222
Wem	18	32	21	35	36	52
Whitchurch	53	36	62	44	125	119
	577	609	731	774	1767	1513
Increase + Decrease—	+32		+43		—254	

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, expectant mothers made 15 attendances, and 39 children under five years of age made 86 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare Centre and Ante-natal Clinic.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During the year 37 cases were notified, 12 less 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 67 (which is 25 more than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 116 days (22 more than 1939).

Supply of Free Milk.—Milk was 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 £1,880 was spent on free milk during the first six months of 1940. This scheme was superseded by the National Scheme of the Minister of Food on 1st July, 1940.

Child Life Protection.—The following are the particulars of the cases supervised during the last seven years :—

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Number of cases	on 1st Jan. ..	177	186	168	143	123	112	90
	on 31st Dec. ..	186	168	143	123	112	90	86
	added during the year	44	37	21	22	24	24	26
No. of cases removed from Register	reached 9 years of age	8	22	21	15	11	20	15
	legally adopted ..	4	3	6	4	4	4	3
	left County ..	10	11	10	8	10	5	3
	removed to relatives	11	17	6	13	10	17	9
	died	2	2	1	2	0	0	1
	removed to places of safety	0	0	2	0	0	0	1

Midwifery Services.—In 1939, there were 234 midwives practising in the County. In 1940 there were 221 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire.

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—The number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts sent in by medical practitioners was 843, and payments amounting to £1,584 were made during 1940. During the previous year the claims numbered 884, and payments totalled £1,431.

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
1940	221	597	1390	49	17	60	160	42

Maternal Deaths.—In 1940 there were in Shropshire 14 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In six 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 2.6 per thousand live births, as compared with 2.9 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 85 deaths out of a total of 195 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.

During the year a consultants' opinion was secured in 13 maternity cases.

Three sterilized maternity outfits were supplied.

Maternal Deaths 1930 to 1940.

	Causes of Death Investigated.					Death-rate per 1,000 live births.		
	All causes.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Other.	Number in first confinement.	Shropshire. Local Statistics.	Official Statistics.	England and Wales.
Total ..	195	48	26	121	85	4.70	4.29	..
1940 ..	14	1	1	12	4	3.41	2.6	2.16

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—84 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 6 of whom died, were notified. In the previous year 75 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, four of whom died.

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

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Registration.—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 114 inspections were made.

Accommodation provided.—During 1940 one new Nursing Home was registered.

No. of Homes taking <i>general</i> cases only	..	..	..	..	..	9
Patient accommodation—82 beds and 2 cots.						
No. of Homes taking <i>maternity</i> cases only	..	..	..	..	..	6
Patient accommodation :—18 beds.						
No. of Homes taking both <i>maternity and general</i> cases	..	..	..	..	..	15
Patient accommodation :—182 beds and 2 cots.						

In all, therefore, there are 30 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 282 beds and 4 cots.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications and Deaths.—The number of notifications of *pulmonary tuberculosis* increased by 48, and the number of deaths decreased by 19. In the case of *other forms of the disease*, the number of notifications increased by 15, and there was a decrease of 10 in the number of deaths.

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis, 1940.

Age periods of cases.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
1—5	0	0	12	10	0	0	1	4
5—15	0	4	18	30	0	1	1	2
15—25	21	28	4	10	4	7	2	0
25—35	39	32	6	8	9	8	1	3
35—45	34	10	6	4	14	4	1	2
45—55	13	3	1	2	9	2	0	0
55—65	7	4	2	1	7	3	1	0
65 and upwards	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	0
	116	82	51	65	47	25	8	12
TOTALS FOR 1940	198		116		72		20	
TOTALS FOR 1939	156		101		91		30	

Dr. Watkin writes :—" The increase in notifications, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary is partly though not wholly accounted for by transfers from other counties. During 1940, 81 known cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis transferred their domicile into this county, whereas only 44 were known to leave.

" The influx of tuberculous evacuees into the county has made it more difficult to enforce preventive measures. In some instances they have gone to lodge in houses without disclosing their condition. In other instances, relations from bombed areas have come to live in households where there is an infective case of tuberculosis. Efforts are made to remedy these conditions as soon as they are found out, but, owing to the shortage of housing accommodation, it is not always possible.

"It would seem that opportunities for infection are now greater than in peace time and, from experience in the last war, it seems likely that the strain of long hours of war work and deficient diet will also be factors in increasing tuberculosis."

Dr. Elliott writes :—" In 1940 we had the second lowest death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the number of deaths being 72. This is one more than in 1938, when the record low level of death was reached, the number in that year being 71.

" Whilst there has been an increase in the death-rate over the country as a whole in young females between the ages of 15 and 25 in 1940 as compared with 1939, it is satisfactory to note that in Shropshire there has been a decrease, the number of deaths in this age period being 11 in 1940 as against 13 in 1939.

" It cannot be too forcibly impressed on the public that with modern methods of treatment, Tuberculosis in the early stages is curable, and that every facility for the treatment and early diagnosis of the disease is available and provided free by the Salop County Council."

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

On Notification	27	On discharge from Sanatorium	15
To Contacts	58	On other occasions	249
To suspicious cases	264		

Examination of Sputum.—The total number of sputum examinations made during the year was 777.

Shelters.—There are at present 143 shelters in the County, 134 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 23 new cases, and there are now 52 patients who regularly attend the treatment centres.

Centre.	No. of cases treated.	No. of refills given.
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary	30	334
Wellington Public Assistance Institution	19	261
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients)	3	10
	52	605

X-Ray Examination.—During 1940, 1,066 X-Ray films were taken.

Light Therapy.—During the year 24 cases attended, and 806 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic Scheme, for particulars of which see page 11.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—During the year 8 patients were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium, 5 were discharged, and 4 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1940 :—

ADULTS.			Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Males	..	..	42	40	3
Females	..	..	42	39	0
CHILDREN.					
Males	..	..	0	3	0
Females	..	..	2	5	0

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Examination Centres.—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	529	415	1190	127	611	1928
Oswestry	197	96	710	67	86	863
Wellington	516	285	1968	157	475	2600
Whitchurch	56	33	44	31	33	108
Ludlow	63	45	59	14	73	146
Bridgnorth	71	36	96	14	75	185
	1432	910	4067	410	1353	5830

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, three sessions were held for examination of contacts and 54 attendances made.

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 1940. The cases over sixteen years of age show an increase upon the figures for 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939, 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, 1940.

Age Groups.	On Books 1/1/40.	Admitted during 1940.	No. treated during 1940.	Discharged during 1940.	On Books 31/12/40.	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/40.	Attendances during 1940.
Under 5 years ..	308	241	549	172	377	—	2,006
5—16 years ..	770	440	1,210	300	906	4	4,450
Over 16 years ..	757	483	1,240	427	668	145	3,478
T.B. cases, all ages	164	24	188	25	140	23	810
Totals ..	1,999	1,188	*3,187	924	2,091	172	10,744

* The total number of individual patients was 3,089. Owing to age alterations and changes of diagnosis, 98 patients are included in more than one group.

Cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital by the Public Health and Education Committees.—Persons suffering from 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. The following table gives particulars of such cases:—

Condition or defect.	Number of persons admitted.			
	Under 5 years.	5—16 years.	Over 16 years.	Total.
(a) Tuberculous	3	11	11	25
(b) Non-tuberculous	22	52	20	94

The cost to the County Council of hospital treatment of Orthopaedic cases is shown below. The variations in the cost in the five-yearly periods do not exactly correspond with the number of beds occupied as shown above, the explanation being that the figures for patients and beds occupied refer to calendar years, whereas the cost of treatment represents payments made during the financial year.

Cost of Treatment of Cases in Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

Scheme.	Average 1921—25	Average 1926—30	Average 1931—35	Average 1936—40	Totals for years				
					1935—6	1936—7	1937—8	1938—9	1939—40
Tuberculosis	£ 5,068	£ 4,269	£ 3,122	£ 3,567	£ 3,242	£ 3,242	£ 4,341	£ 4,132	£ 2,880
Med. Inspection	2,198	1,608	1,323	1,626	1,283	1,402	2,066	1,726	1,653
Child Welfare	1,051	778	331	452	369	677	227	480	459
Annual average cost ..	8,317	6,655	4,776	5,645	4,894	5,321	6,634	6,338	4,992

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.—At the end of the year 75 licences to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and 675 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	1940
Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	8	9	11	15	20	30	36	57	71	75
* Accredited Milk	11	12	17	14	390	522	542	595	649	675

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

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

Inspection of Premises.—The County Sanitary Inspector made 1,096 visits to farms during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sect. 25.—During the year 34 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 one of the complaints had not been completed at the end of the year.

Examination of Milk.—*Routine Sampling.*—Of the 100 samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk taken, 32 proved unsatisfactory; and of the 1,120 samples of "Accredited" milk, 467 were found to be unsatisfactory. In addition, 172 "Qualifying" samples of milk were collected, 57 of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

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 26 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 70, six being "temporary" patients and 66 "voluntary" patients.

Twenty-three fewer cases were seen at the Clinic in 1940 than in 1939. This is very disappointing, as an early consultation at such Clinics does without doubt tend to help many people to pursue their normal activities and might often prevent their admission to a mental hospital.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938.—*Particulars of Mental Defectives as on 31st December, 1940:—*

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	..	..	..	15	8	23
		aged 16 years and over	..	..	..	83	113	196
(2) On Licence from Institutions	{	under 16 years of age	..	..	..	—	—	—
		aged 16 years and over	..	..	..	6	15	21
(b) (1) Under Guardianship	{	under 16 years of age	..	..	..	—	—	—
		aged 16 years and over	..	..	..	5	14	19
(2) On Licence from Guardianship—aged 16 years and over	..	..	..	..	..	—	4	4
2. Under Statutory Supervision	..	..	..	..	..	121	106	227
3. In Public Assistance Institutions	..	..	..	..	..	30	43	73
4. In Approved Homes and maintained by M.D. Committee	..	..	..	..	..	3	—	3

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

	M.	F.	T.
1. In Institutions or under Guardianship :—			
(a) In regard to whom the Local Authority contributes under its permissive powers	2	3	5
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	48	14	62
(b) Under friendly (annual) supervision	311	256	567

School Cases.—The following are particulars of mentally defective children (educable) under the Education Committee on 31st December, 1940 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Special Schools	9	16	25
Awaiting admission to a Special School ..	—	2	2
Under supervision of School Nurses ..	61	33	94
	<u>70</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>121</u>

There are in addition 64 school children (42 boys and 22 girls) whose mental condition has been called in question, of whom it has been estimated that about 50 per cent. will probably prove to be feeble-minded. It has thus been calculated that there is a total of 153 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1940.

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	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940
Syphilis	53	46	64	53	117	99	461	428	689	576	1150	1004	1	4
Soft Chancre	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Gonorrhoea	160	106	52	47	212	153	893	395	290	204	1183	599	3	5
Other conditions	48	50	37	30	85	80	132	98	63	74	195	172	5	13
Totals	262	202	153	130	415	332	1487	921	1042	854	2529	1775		
Increase (+) decrease (—) ..	—60		—23		—83		—566		—188		—754		+12	—143

* 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 five cases were admitted from this County. Two of the patients were suffering from gonorrhoea, one from syphilis, and the other two from both forms of venereal disease.

Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Nature of Test.	Shrewsbury.	Birmingham.	Bristol.	Wolverhampton.
For detection of gonococci	11	46	135	146
For detection of spirochetes	..	..	..	3
For Wassermann reactions	..	348	139	76
For gonococcal infection	..	2	6	27

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE.

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

In addition to the work done in connection with the treatment of Venereal Disease referred to on page 13, the following examinations were made :—

							Pos.	Neg.	Total.
Tubercle Bacilli	..	..	..	..	..	..	82	642	724
Haemolytic Streptococci	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	81	127
Diphtheria Bacilli	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	1011	1159
Blood for Widal's Reaction	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	27	37
Typhoid-Dysentery Group	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	16
Other examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	22	56
							321	1798	2119
Blood Urea Estimation	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	26
„ Count	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	33
„ Sedimentation	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	7
„ Culture	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	14
Pathological Examination—Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	27
Chemical Examination—Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	2
Examination of Cerebro-spinal Fluid	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	19
Bacteriological Examination—Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	21
„ Vaginal Swab	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	3
Glucose Tolerance Test	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	18
Faecal Culture	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	2
Preparation of Vaccine	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	1
Total for 1940	..	..	..	..	..	..	321	1798	2291
Total for 1939	..	..	..	..	..	..	280	1536	1865

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.

During the year, 210 samples were collected, namely :—Butter 8, Lard 1, Margarine 3, Milk 191, Oatmeal 2, Vinegar 4, Bread 1.

Fifty-four of the samples were found on analysis not to be genuine, 53 being milk samples and one bread. Appropriate action was taken in each case, and in eleven cases court proceedings were taken and fines ranging from ten shillings to £4 were imposed plus costs.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

Register of Blind Persons.—On the 31st March, 1941, there were 431 blind persons on the Register :—219 unemployables, 11 of independent means, 12 in special schools, 5 adults in training, 25 in Institutions and Homes, 26 Home Workers, 30 otherwise employed, and 3 children under five years of age.

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—During the financial year which ended on the 31st March, 1941, £5,595 was paid in domiciliary relief of the blind.

Home Workers.—There are 26 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 13/8, and this was supplemented by an average weekly augmentation of 13/2.

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.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Three motor ambulances are owned by the County Council, one stationed at a garage in Shrewsbury and two at the County Council Hospital. 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.
Newport Urban—Private enterprise.

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, 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, 1940, 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.

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.

During the year 1940 the County Council received no applications for contributions towards Sewage Disposal Schemes.
