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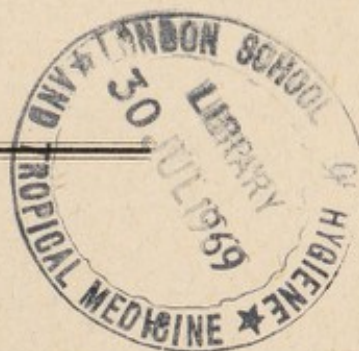
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COUNTY COUNCIL OF SALOP.



ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR 1941 & 1942

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health.

SHREWSBURY,
November, 1943.

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



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

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Reports for 1941 and 1942—war-time products to which the word “utility,” with all its usual implications, may not inappropriately be applied. It is hoped, however, that the statistical information which they contain may help to bridge the gap between the Pre- and Post-War years, and serve for purposes of comparison with information contained in earlier and, ultimately, later Reports.

There is no definite evidence that the health of the inhabitants of the County as a whole has been adversely affected by war-time conditions; and it may even be held, from the increase in the Birth Rate, the fall in the Death Rate, and the reduction in the Infant Mortality Rate—all of which compare favourably with the Returns for England and Wales—that the indications are rather the opposite.

With regard to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, however, it is necessary to speak with caution. Although the notifications and deaths for 1942 are gratifyingly less than in 1941, they are still above the 1939 level; and the higher rate of incidence of this disease, as compared with Pre-War years, may yet be reflected in an upward trend in the number of deaths.

Reviewing the years which have passed since the outbreak of hostilities, the outlook cannot be regarded as unfavourable; and if circumstances attributable to the War have, to some extent and in certain respects, adversely affected Public Health work in the County of Salop, this has been counter-balanced by progress in directions to which it may be possible to refer more fully in subsequent reports.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY,
November, 1943.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 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 1941	for Birth and Death rates			..	..	..	..	..	276,920
	Urban—for Birth and Death-rates			..	..	..	..	..	141,210
	Rural—for Birth and Death-rates			..	..	..	..	..	135,710
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census) 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,904
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1941)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,232,701
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,041

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

			Male.	Female.	Male and Female.	Rates.
Live Births	Legitimate ..	..	2210	2031	4241	15.32
	Illegitimate ..	..	118	130	248	.89
	Total ..	..	2328	2161	4489	16.26
Still-births: Total	..	..	80	80	160	.58
Deaths: Total	..	..	1783	1643	3426	12.37

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

Total	..	..	..	..	16 or 3.4 per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	5
From other Puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	11

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

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	44
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	43
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	50

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	478
„ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	9
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	14
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	9

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was—for Birth-rates and Death-rates 276,920.

Marriages.—The number of marriages was 2,375, a decrease of 347 on last year's figures (2,722), which was the highest number since 1920, when it was 2,440.

Births.—There were 4,489 births in 1941, an increase of 386 as compared with 1940, the birth-rates being 16.26 and 15.95 per thousand of the population respectively. (The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1941 was 14.2 per thousand).

Deaths.—The number of deaths in 1941 was 3,426, or a decrease of 228 as compared with the preceding year. The death-rate for 1941 was 12.37, and for 1940, 14.21. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.9.

Cancer.—The number of deaths from cancer during the year was 478, or 25 more than in the previous year, the death-rates being 1.726 and 1.761 per thousand of the population respectively, or a decrease of 0.035 as compared with 1940.

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 204, or 9 more than in 1940. The infant mortality rate was 44 per thousand live births, compared with 48 for 1940, and 11 less than the rate for England and Wales.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is no change in the position in respect of isolation hospital accommodation since my last report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

It will be noted from the following table that there was a considerable increase in the number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year, as compared with 1940, measles and whooping cough accounting for most of the increase.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1941.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Population Census. 1931. 244,156	Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1941.															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		SCARLET FEVER.	WHOOPING COUGH.	DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).	MEASLES. (excluding Rubella).	ACUTE PNEUMONIA.	CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.	ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	DYSENTERY.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PUERPERAL PYREXIA.	SMALL-POX.	ENTERIC (Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever).	ERYSIPPELAS.	CHICKEN-POX.
RURAL ..	122,491	201	540	149	1765	191	22	1	—	—	47	15	30	—	12	41	—
URBAN ..	121,665	158	446	88	1199	171	25	3	—	—	32	32	37	—	11	41	—
TOTALS FOR 1941 ..		359	986	237	2964	362	47	4	—	—	79	47	67	—	23	82	—
TOTALS FOR 1940 ..		335	420	236	1542	327	90	3	1	2	59	37	85	—	26	75	1
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) ..		+ 24	+ 566	+ 1	+ 1422	+ 35	—43	+ 1	—1	—2	+ 20	+ 10	—18	—	—3	+ 7	—1

VACCINATION.

In 1940 there were 4,103 births registered, 1,601 declarations of conscientious objection and 1,518 certificates of successful primary vaccination, the equivalent of 36.99 per cent. of the total births for the year. During 1941, there were 4,667 live births and 1,445 declarations of conscientious objection; and the total number of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 years received was 1,882.

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1941 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.

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 4,725, and the number of still-births was 151.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.				To Children.				To expectant mothers.
				under 1 year.		1 to 5 years.	Total.	
				First,	Total.			
Whole-time (15)	..	..	2524	10956	16334	27290	804	
Part-time	..	..	1286	7685	12100	19785	8462	
Totals for 1941	..	..	3810	18641	28434	47075	9266	

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1941 and 1940.

CHILDREN.					
Under 1 year.					
CHILDREN.					
Between 1 and 5 years.					
New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.	
New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.	
1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940
1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940
1816	1853	3174	2348	17340	14455
1037	821	3391	2683	16477	16737

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Welfare Centres.	New Cases.		Total Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940
Bridgnorth	85	66	103	78	152	149
Church Stretton ..	16	12	20	15	50	50
Dawley	41	41	46	44	130	83
Ellesmere	21	31	65	75	33	47
Highley	8	8	8	8	28	9
Ironbridge	32	30	35	30	57	45
Ludlow	57	45	57	71	162	92
Market Drayton ..	93	53	98	63	349	147
Newport	89	50	93	70	275	128
Oakengates	41	30	46	37	172	123
Oswestry	87	88	100	106	279	247
Wellington	86	87	106	96	242	222
Wem	40	32	53	35	123	52
Whitchurch	47	36	54	44	133	119
Totals ..	743	609	884	774	2185	1513
Increase + Decrease—	+134		+110		+672	

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, expectant mothers made 19 attendances, and 53 children under five years of age made 137 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare Centre and Ante-natal Clinic.

Donnington Area.—A site has been reserved for the erection after the War of a Public Health Clinic to serve this area.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During the year 45 cases were notified, 8 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 60 (which is 7 less than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 78 days (38 less than 1940).

Emergency Maternity Home Accommodation.—In order to meet any demands which might be made for maternity beds by homeless or evacuated persons, arrangements were made for the use of beds at certain of the Public Assistance Institutions, viz., Wellington (12), Oswestry (3), and Ludlow (3). Private Nursing Homes were also communicated with and arrangements were made with some for the admission of such cases should the accommodation at the Institutions referred to not meet the demands.

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

		1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Number of cases	on 1st Jan. ..	186	168	143	123	112	90	86
	on 31st Dec. ..	168	143	123	112	90	86	105
	added during the year	37	21	22	24	24	26	66
No. of cases removed from Register	reached 9 years of age	22	21	15	11	20	15	14
	legally adopted ..	3	6	4	4	4	3	4
	left County ..	11	10	8	10	5	3	11
	removed to relatives	17	6	13	10	17	9	16
	died	2	1	2	0	0	1	..
	removed to places of safety	0	2	0	0	0	1	2

Midwifery Services.—In 1940, there were 221 midwives practising in the County. In 1941 there were 185 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 955, and payments amounting to £1,916 were made during 1941. During the previous year the claims numbered 843, and payments totalled £1,584.

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
1941	185	271	1479	60	30	110	144	35

Maternal Deaths.—In 1941 there were in Shropshire 10 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In five 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 3.43 per thousand live births, as compared with 2.6 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 89 deaths out of a total of 209 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 consultant's opinion was secured in 27 maternity cases.

Four sterilised maternity outfits were supplied.

Maternal Deaths 1930 to 1941.

		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.	
Total	..	209	49	27	133	89	4.05	3.44	..
1941	..	10	2	..	8	..	2.14	3.43	2.23

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—68 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 2 of whom died, were notified. In the previous year 84 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, six of whom died.

Pemphigus.—Two cases 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 Supervisor of Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each Home once a quarter. During the year 57 inspections were made.

Accommodation provided.—During 1941 no new Nursing Homes were registered.

No. of Homes taking <i>general</i> cases only	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Patient accommodation—94 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	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Patient accommodation—175 beds and 2 cots.							

In all, therefore, there are 27 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 287 beds and 4 cots.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

Below are given particulars of the cases treated at the Hospital during 1941, with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for 1940:—

	Adults.				Children.				Total.	
	Men.		Women.		Under 5 yrs.		5—16		1940	1941
	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941		
Cases in Hospital on 1st Jan.	57	95	37	53	18	16	8	7	120	171
Cases in Hospital on 31st Dec.	95	60	53	66	16	32	7	3	171	161
Total Admissions	917	575	674	870	398	475	54	52	2043	1972
Total Discharges	822	549	603	798	379	433	52	52	1856	1832
Deaths	57	61	53	59	21	26	5	4	136	150

Total number of	{	Admissions	1941	1940	1939	1938
		Discharges	1972	2043	1711	1739
		Deaths	150	136	180	202
Number of beds occupied during year	{	Average	137	148	109	112
		Highest	197	203	170	141
		Lowest	109	112	75	73

Number of surgical operations performed in the Operating

Theatre 290 386 134 110

Maternity—Cases admitted 410 334 494 499

Maternal Deaths (of patients confined in Hospital) 3. Cause—(1) Carcinoma Stomach (2) Atonic Uterus
Still-births—19. (3) Chronic Nephritis and Albuminuria.

Puerperal Pyrexia—One.

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

Pemphigus Neonatorum—Two.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications and Deaths.—The number of notifications of *pulmonary tuberculosis* increased by 48, and the number of deaths increased by 37. In the case of *other forms of the disease*, the number of notifications increased by 32, and there was an increase of 3 in the number of deaths.

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis, 1941.

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	1	3	0	0	0	1
1—5	0	1	15	11	1	1	1	2
5—15	4	3	44	27	0	0	8	2
15—25	26	30	10	11	8	9	1	2
25—35	30	38	9	3	14	17	1	0
35—45	28	24	2	5	15	9	3	0
45—55	22	10	1	3	15	4	0	0
55—65	15	8	0	1	10	1	0	1
65 and upwards	5	2	0	2	5	0	0	1
	130	116	82	66	68	41	14	9
TOTALS FOR 1941 ..	246		148		109		23	
TOTALS FOR 1940 ..	198		116		72		20	

Dr. Watkin writes :—" The anticipated rise in incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis due to war conditions is beginning to show itself.

" The notifications of all forms of Tuberculosis rose from 314 in 1940 to 394 in 1941, while the mortality rose from 92 to 132. If experience in the last world war is to be our guide, we must prepare ourselves for a continued increase while the war lasts, and it is likely that additional accommodation in sanatoria and other institutions will have to be provided.

" Tuberculosis is one of the by-products of ' all out ' modern war and, while maintaining our anti-tuberculosis services to the best of our ability, we must recognise that the quickest way to bring about once again a fall in the disease, is to win the war."

Dr. Elliott writes :—" It will be seen that there has been an increase in the number of notifications and deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1941. The notifications have increased by 48, and the deaths by 37.

" An increase in the number of deaths was to be expected, due to the strain of war conditions. The increase in the number of notifications is not a true index of the increase in Pulmonary Tuberculosis, owing to war conditions. Many more young men and women of the age of greatest incidence for Pulmonary Tuberculosis are being examined for military service, and all doubtful cases are referred to the Tuberculosis Officers by the National Service Medical Boards. This has led to the detection of more cases who, under peace conditions, would not have sought medical advice, and has thus increased the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Whilst this has been responsible for some of the increase in notifications, war conditions have been responsible for the majority. It has been pointed out in previous annual reports that two of the main difficulties in dealing with the Tuberculosis problem are :—

- 1.—The advanced stage which the disease had reached in many cases before the patient sought medical advice.
- 2.—The danger of spreading infection by the undiagnosed chronic case who was able to carry on with his work, with occasional attacks of so-called Bronchitis—which was really Tuberculosis, and was thus unintentionally a danger to those in contact with him.

"The improvement in X-ray photography in recent years has been a great factor in the discovery of early cases, even before there were definite symptoms. The discovery of these early cases means, in most, with modern treatment an almost certain cure and, as well, early treatment renders them non-infectious, thus reducing the number of sources of infection for the future."

"Mass Miniature Radiography has had a lot of publicity in the press and on the B.B.C. recently, and it is only right that Shropshire people should know that, in spite of this publicity, it will be some time before a set is available for Shropshire. In the meantime, a great deal can be done if people will only realise that a cough which lasts longer than an ordinary cold requires investigation; that Pleurisy—often called 'a stitch in the side'—is often a symptom of early Tuberculosis, as is also blood spitting or a feeling of being run down. If people would only consult their doctor about these things in time, many cases would be discovered in an early and more curable stage of the disease."

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

On Notification	15	On discharge from Sanatorium	7
To Contacts	54	On other occasions	230
To suspicious cases	240		

Examination of Sputum.—The total number of sputum examinations made during the year was 715.

Shelters.—There are at present 140 shelters in the County, 131 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 25 new cases, and there are now 69 patients who regularly attend the treatment centres.

Centre.	No. of cases treated.	No. of refills given.
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary	40	476
Wellington Public Assistance Institution	24	452
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients)	5	53
	69	981

X-Ray Examination.—During 1941, 1,351 X-Ray films were taken.

Light Therapy.—During the year 26 cases attended, and 750 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 11 patients were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium, 5 were discharged, and 3 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1941 :—

ADULTS.			Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Males	..	..	40	37	2
Females	..	..	37	34	0
CHILDREN.					
Males	..	..	2	0	0
Females	..	..	4	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	670	496	1331	163	610	2104
Oswestry	162	78	613	35	63	711
Wellington	592	330	2022	158	478	2658
Whitchurch	63	31	80	20	38	138
Ludlow	60	46	60	8	80	148
Bridgnorth	88	47	95	28	79	202
	1635	1028	4201	412	1348	5961

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, four sessions were held for examination of contacts and 65 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 1941. The cases over sixteen years of age show an increase upon figures for 1938, 1939 and 1940, 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, 1941.

Age Groups.	On Books 1/1/41.	Admitted during 1941.	No. treated during 1941.	Discharged during 1941.	On Books 31/12/41.	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/41.	Attendances during 1941.
Under 5 years ..	377	252	629	221	408	—	2,174
5—16 years	910	397	1,307	486	821	2	3,827
Over 16 years ..	813	493	1,306	496	810	159	2,740
T.B. cases, all ages	163	29	192	42	150	27	653
Totals ..	2,263	1,171	*3,434	1,245	2,189	188	9,394

* The total number of individual patients was 3,331. Owing to age alterations and changes of diagnosis, 103 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	1	8	14	23
(b) Non-tuberculous	25	70	19	114

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	1940—41
	£	£	£	£	£
Tuberculosis	5,068	4,269	3,122	3,567	2,857
Med. Inspection	2,198	1,608	1,323	1,626	1,415
Child Welfare	1,051	778	331	452	833
Annual average cost	8,317	6,655	4,776	5,645	5,105

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.—At the end of the year 77 licences to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and 666 licences to produce Accredited Milk had been issued by the County Council. The position as compared with previous years is as follows :—

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Tuberculin Tested	8	9	11	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77
* Accredited	11	12	17	14	390	522	542	595	649	675	666

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

During the year 14 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 20 producers of Accredited Milk were granted bottling licences by the County Council.

Inspection of Premises.—The County Sanitary Inspectors made 931 visits to farms during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sec. 25.—During the year 10 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 15 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Examination of Milk.—Routine Sampling.—Of the 99 samples of “Tuberculin Tested” milk taken, 24 per cent. proved unsatisfactory; and of the 1,038 samples of “Accredited” milk, 32 per cent. were found to be unsatisfactory. In addition, 143 “Qualifying” samples of milk were collected, 36 per cent. of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

Sampling under Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Milk (Special Designations) Orders.—In order to deal expeditiously with representations made by the Ministry of Health and others as to the inadequacy of the sampling of milk from licensed herds and the insufficiency of inspection of licensed farm premises, an Assistant Sanitary Inspector has been appointed and also an additional Temporary Milk Sampler.

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 33 new cases were seen during the year.

The number of Temporary and Voluntary Patients who have been accommodated and have received treatment at the Salop Mental Hospital during the same period was 70, three being “temporary” patients and 67 “voluntary” patients.

Seven more cases were seen at the Clinic in 1941 than in 1940. This is still 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, 1941:—*

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

		M.	F.	T.
1.	<i>Under “Order” :—</i>			
(a)	(1) In Institutions			
	under 16 years of age	12	5	17
	aged 16 years and over	88	120	208
	(2) On Licence from Institutions			
	under 16 years of age	—	—	—
	aged 16 years and over	5	18	23
(b)	(1) Under Guardianship			
	under 16 years of age	—	—	—
	aged 16 years and over	6	15	21
	(2) On Licence from Guardianship—aged 16 years and over	1	3	4
2.	<i>Under Statutory Supervision</i>	126	119	245
3.	<i>In Public Assistance Institutions</i>	27	38	65
4.	<i>In Approved Homes and maintained by M.D. Committee</i>	4	—	4

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.	<i>In Institutions or under Guardianship :—</i>			
(a)	<i>In regard to whom the Local Authority contributes under its permissive powers</i>	3	5	8
2.	<i>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 :—</i>			
(a)	<i>Children between the ages of 14 and 16 years</i>	39	20	59
(b)	<i>Under friendly (annual) supervision</i>	361	255	616

School Cases.—The following are particulars of mentally defective children (educable) under the Education Committee on 31st December, 1941 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Special Schools	15	15	30
Awaiting admission to a Special School ..	8	8	16
Under supervision of School Nurses ..	72	42	114
	95	65	160

There are in addition 34 school children (16 boys and 18 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 177 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Shrewsbury Clinic.—On account of the increased attendance of women at the Clinic, an additional session has been started, making two sessions for women and two for men each week.

Additional Clinic.—On October 1st, 1941, additional facilities for the treatment of Venereal Diseases were provided by the opening of a Clinic at The Dispensary, Oswestry, and men and women are seen between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday afternoon each week.

Propaganda.—During the winter of 1941—2, meetings were held at Women's Institutes in various parts of the County, which were addressed by representatives of the British Social Hygiene Council, and at which the film "How to Tell" was shown. Despite the severe weather conditions, the average attendance at the meetings was 37.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1941.

Cases suffering from	At Shrewsbury Clinic.												At Wolverhampton.†			
	Cases.						Attendances.						* Cases.		Attendances.	
	M.		F.		Total.		M.		F.		Total.					
	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940
Syphilis	36	46	57	53	93	99	405	428	755	576	1160	1004	1	4	720	95
Soft Chancre	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Gonorrhoea	88	106	58	47	146	153	272	395	326	204	598	599	4	5		
Other conditions	45	50	33	30	78	80	46	98	49	74	95	172	9	13		
Totals	169	202	148	130	317	332	723	921	1130	854	1853	1775	14	22		
Increase (+) decrease (—) ..	—33		+18		—15		—198		+276		+78		—8		+625	

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

† Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

At the Oswestry Clinic, 15 patients were treated, 5 men and 6 women. Of the men, 3 were treated for gonorrhoea and 2 for non-venereal or undiagnosed conditions; and 4 women were treated for syphilis and 3 for gonorrhoea. The total attendances was 31.

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 8 cases were admitted from this County. Three of the patients were suffering from gonorrhoea, two from syphilis, and the other 3 from other forms of the disease.

Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Nature of Test.	Shrewsbury.	Birmingham.	Bristol.	Wolverhampton.
For detection of gonococci	139	23	156	114
For detection of spirochetes	..	..	..	1
For Wassermann reactions	257	226	100	59
For gonococcal infection	..	13	16	27

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE.

Donaldson-Hudson Pathological Laboratories, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, were opened during the year and the arrangements for the examination of specimens for the purpose of diagnosis of disease, etc., which were previously made with Birmingham and Bristol Universities have been terminated, and the work handed over to the new Laboratories.

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

	Pos.	Neg.	Total.
Tubercle Bacilli	97	637	734
Haemolytic Streptococci	18	23	41
Diphtheria Bacilli	267	1661	1928
Blood for Widal's Reaction	8	30	38
Typhoid-Dysentery Group	51	128	179
Other examinations	24	36	60
	465	2515	2980
Blood Urea Estimation	—	—	18
„ Count	—	—	9
„ Sugar Content	—	—	15
„ Culture	—	—	7
Pathological Examination—Miscellaneous	—	—	6
Examination of Cerebro-spinal Fluid	—	—	13
Bacteriological Examination—Miscellaneous	—	—	13
„ „ Vaginal Swab	—	—	14
Glucose Tolerance Test	—	—	2
Faecal Culture	—	—	7
Total for 1941	465	2515	3084
Total for 1940	321	1798	2291

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year, 291 samples were collected (all milk), of which 120 were found on analysis not to be genuine. Appropriate action was taken in each case, and in 17 cases Court proceedings were instituted, and fines ranging from 10/- to £7, plus costs, were imposed.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

Register of Blind Persons.—On the 31st March, 1942, there were 430 blind persons on the Register :—337 unemployables, 7 of independent means, 12 in special schools, 3 adults in training, 25 in Institutions and Homes, 25 Home Workers, 20 otherwise employed, and 1 child under five years of age.

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—During the financial year which ended on the 31st March, 1942, £7,330 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 7 times during the year. The earnings of the Home Workers averaged 16/5, and this was supplemented by an average weekly augmentation of 13/3.

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.

The British American Ambulance Corps presented to the County Council an ambulance which had been donated to them by Miss Helen Rice Roebling of New York. This ambulance is of great use, and the gift is much appreciated.

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 234 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, 1941, 32 houses have 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 1941 the County Council received no applications for contributions towards Sewage Disposal Schemes.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 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 1942	for Birth and Death rates Urban—for Birth and Death rates Rural—for Birth and Death rates	268,900 137,200 131,700
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census) 1931	.. .. .	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census) 1931	.. .. .	60,904
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1942)	.. .. .	£1,269,125
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£5,276

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

		Male.	Female.	Male and Female.	Rates.
Live Births	Legitimate	2339	2215	4554	16.93
	Illegitimate	138	148	286	1.06
	Total	2477	2363	4840	18.0
Still-births: Total	.. .. .	82	82	164	.61
Deaths: Total	.. .. .	1515	1458	2973	11.05

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

Total	.. .. .	6 or 1.2 per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	.. .. .	3
From other Puerperal causes	.. .. .	3

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

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..	.. .. .	41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	105

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	452
„ Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	2
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	6
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.. .. .	11

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was, for Birth-rates and Death-rates, 268,900.

Marriages.—The number of marriages was 2,430, an increase of 55 on last year's figures (2,375).

Births.—There were 4,840 births in 1942, an increase of 352 as compared with 1941, the birth-rates being 18.0 and 16.26 per thousand of the population respectively. (The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1942 was 15.8 per thousand.

Deaths.—The number of deaths in 1942 was 2,973, or a decrease of 443 as compared with the preceding year. The death-rate for 1942 was 11.05, and for 1941, 12.37. The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

Cancer.—The number of deaths from cancer during the year was 452, or 26 less than in the previous year, the death-rates being 1.680 and 1.726 per thousand of the population respectively, or a decrease of 0.046 as compared with 1941.

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 218, or 14 more than in 1941. The infant mortality rate was 45 per thousand live births, compared with 44 for 1941, and 4 less than the rate for England and Wales.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is no change in the position in respect of isolation hospital accommodation since my last report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

With the exception of an addition of twelve in the number of notifications of puerperal pyrexia, and one of acute encephalitis lethargica, there is a decrease under each heading in the following table, the chief decreases being measles 2,173, whooping cough 635, acute pneumonia 167, and diphtheria 116.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1942.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Population Census. 244,156	SCARLET FEVER.	WHOOPING COUGH.	DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).	MEASLES (excluding Rubella).	ACUTE PNEUMONIA.	CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.	ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	DYSENTERY.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PUERPERAL PYREXIA.	SMALL-POX.	ENTERIC (Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever).	ERYSIPELAS.	CHICKEN-POX.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
RURAL ..	..	122,491	170	192	67	553	96	15	—	—	27	9	33	—	6	32	—
URBAN ..	..	121,665	165	159	54	238	99	13	1	1	20	26	46	—	4	28	—
TOTALS FOR 1942 ..	..	335	351	121	791	195	28	1	—	1	47	35	79	—	10	60	—
TOTALS FOR 1941 ..	..	359	986	237	2964	362	47	4	—	—	79	47	67	—	23	82	—
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) ..	..	—14	—635	—116	—2173	—167	—19	—3	—	+1	—32	—12	+12	—	—13	—22	—

VACCINATION.

In 1941 there were 4,575 births registered, 1,439 declarations of conscientious objection and 1,723 certificates of successful primary vaccination, the equivalent of 37.66 per cent. of the total births for the year. During 1942, there were 4,840 live births and 1,217 declarations of conscientious objection; and the total number of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 years received was 2,302. This figure may not be absolutely final but it gives a percentage of consents of 48.

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1942 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.

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 4,841, and the number of still-births was 169.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.	To Children.				To expectant mothers.
	under 1 year.		1 to 5 years.	Total.	
	First.	Total.			
Whole-time (15)	2820	11787	19538	31325	807
Part-time	1421	11310	15520	26830	8762
Totals for 1942	4241	23097	35058	58155	9569

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1941 and 1942.

CHILDREN.											
Under 1 year.						Between 1 and 5 years.					
New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.		New cases.		Total cases.		Total attendances.	
1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942
1816	1820	3174	3212	17340	17973	1037	1148	3391	3540	16477	17897

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Welfare Centres.	New Cases.		Total Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941
Bridgnorth	82	85	85	103	202	152
<i>a</i> Bishop's Castle ..	21	—	21	—	51	—
Church Stretton ..	14	16	14	20	26	50
Dawley	44	41	51	46	122	130
<i>b</i> Donnington	7	—	7	—	8	—
Ellesmere	15	21	20	65	40	33
Highley	9	8	10	8	19	28
Ironbridge	55	32	91	35	135	57
Ludlow	73	57	98	57	147	162
Market Drayton ..	120	93	142	98	330	349
Newport	91	89	108	93	332	275
Oakengates	33	41	39	46	105	172
Oswestry	50	87	60	100	161	279
Wellington	75	86	107	106	218	242
Wem	44	40	55	53	129	123
Whitchurch	41	47	46	54	152	133
Totals	774	743	954	884	2177	2185
Increase —	+31		+70		—8	
Decrease —						

(a) Opened on May 15th : (b) opened on May 26th.

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, 16 expectant mothers made 23 attendances, and 33 children under five years of age made 90 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare Centre and Ante-natal Clinic.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During the year 37 cases were notified, 8 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 52 (which is 8 less than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 110 days (32 more than 1941).

War-time Nurseries.—War-time Nurseries have been opened at Donnington, Oakengates, Wellington and Madeley.

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

		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Number of cases	on 1st Jan. ..	168	143	123	112	90	86	105
	on 31st Dec. ..	143	123	112	90	86	105	94
	added during the year	21	22	24	24	26	66	32
No. of cases removed from Register	reached 9 years of age	21	15	11	20	15	14	10
	legally adopted ..	6	4	4	4	3	4	6
	left County ..	10	8	10	5	3	11	9
	removed to relatives	6	13	10	17	9	16	18
	died	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
	removed to places of safety	2	0	0	0	1	2	0

Midwifery Services.—In 1941, there were 185 midwives practising in the County. In 1942 there were 173 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire.

Housing Accommodation for District Nurses.—The Councils of Districts where accommodation is needed for Nurse-Midwives were communicated with and asked to reserve at the first opportunity for the local Nurse-Midwife, any Council House that falls vacant, on the ground that she is engaged on a service essential to the life of the community.

Complicated Maternity Cases.—An arrangement was made with the Kidderminster and District Hospital for the reception of complicated maternity cases from the Highley and Cleobury Mortimer Districts only, in circumstances where there is acute emergency prohibiting admission to one of the Council's own Hospitals.

Recruitment of Midwives.—The arrangement adopted in May, 1939, whereby the Council contributed towards the training of not exceeding six qualified Midwives per annum as Health Visitors, on condition that they undertake to serve not less than two years as Midwives in the County, was increased to nine for the year 1942—43.

Shrewsbury Borough.—The number of whole-time Midwives engaged by the County Council for the Domiciliary Midwifery Service in the Borough has been increased from five to six.

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—The number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts sent in by medical practitioners was 801, and payments amounting to £1,141 were made during 1942. During the previous year the claims numbered 955, and payments totalled £1,916.

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
1941	185	271	1479	60	30	110	144	35
1942	173	344	1466	59	29	39	130	49

Maternal Deaths.—In 1942, there were in Shropshire 6 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In four 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 1.2 per thousand live births, as compared with 3.43 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 90 deaths out of a total of 215 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.

Maternal Deaths 1930 to 1942.

	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.	Shropshire. Official Statistics.	England and Wales.
Total (1930-1942) ..	215	49	27	139	90	4.21	4.02	—
1942 ..	6	—	—	6	1	1.24	1.2	2.01

During the year a consultant's opinion was secured in 44 maternity cases.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—82 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 2 of whom died, were notified. In the previous year 68 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, two of whom died.

Pemphigus.—Eight cases 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 109 inspections were made.

Accommodation provided.—During 1942 no new Nursing Homes were registered.

No. of Homes taking <i>general</i> cases only	10
Patient accommodation—98 beds and 2 cots.	
No. of Homes taking <i>maternity</i> cases only	6
Patient accommodation—19 beds.	
No. of Homes taking both <i>maternity and general cases</i>	13
Patient accommodation—177 beds and 2 cots.	

In all, therefore, there are 29 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 294 beds and 4 cots.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

Below are given particulars of the cases treated at the Hospital during 1942, with for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for 1941 :—

		ADULTS.				CHILDREN.				Total.	
		Men.		Women.		Under 5 yrs.		5—16			
		1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941
*Cases in Hospital, Jan. 1st ..	..	51	95	61	53	29	16	4	7	145	171
*Cases in Hospital, Dec. 31st ..	..	31	51	63	61	30	29	2	4	126	161
*Total Admissions	..	345	575	910	870	605	475	82	52	1942	1972
*Total Discharges	..	318	549	873	798	571	433	83	52	1845	1832
*Total Deaths	..	47	61	35	59	33	26	1	4	116	150

* As in former years, these figures include children born in hospital.

		1942	1941	1940	1939	1938
Number of beds occupied during year	Average	115	137	148	109	112
	Highest	172	197	203	170	141
	Lowest	94	109	112	75	73
Number of surgical operations performed in the Operating Theatre		267	290	386	134	110
Maternity Cases admitted		541	410	334	494	499

Maternal Deaths (of patients confined in Hospital) 2. Cause :—Ruptured Uterus 1, Burns 1.

Stillbirths, 24 ; Puerperal Pyrexia (a) confined in hospital, nil ; (b) other cases, 17.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—One (patient transferred to Eye Hospital, Shrewsbury).

Pemphigus Neonatorum—One.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications and Deaths.—The number of notifications of *pulmonary tuberculosis* decreased by 38, and the number of deaths decreased by 18. In the case of *other forms of the disease*, the number of notifications decreased by 2, and there was an increase of 5 in the number of deaths.

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis, 1942.

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	5	0	0	0	3	0
1—5	0	1	19	15	0	1	5	5
5—15	5	1	24	33	1	2	2	2
15—25	24	33	10	12	5	7	2	2
25—35	30	21	2	10	11	10	0	1
35—45	31	13	5	2	11	7	0	0
45—55	24	4	2	3	14	2	2	0
55—65	9	6	1	1	11	5	1	0
65 and upwards	6	0	1	1	3	1	2	1
	129	79	69	77	56	35	17	11
TOTALS FOR 1942	208		146		91		28	
TOTALS FOR 1941	246		148		109		23	

Dr. Watkins writes :—" The total number of notifications, though less than in 1941, was 38 per cent. higher than in 1939. It should be borne in mind that in 1941 there was an influx of evacuees into the county and among them was a number of tubercular persons. The death-rate for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis has fallen to a level almost identical with that of 1939, but it will be surprising if the higher notification rate does not lead to a higher death-rate later on.

" There has been a considerable increase in attendances at the Dispensaries since the onset of the war. The total attendances in 1939 were 4,963, and in 1942 they were 6,436. This would appear to indicate that both medical practitioners and the general public are taking more advantage of the facilities available."

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

On Notification	11	On discharge from Sanatorium	10
To Contacts	25	On other occasions	193
To suspicious cases	260		

Examination of Sputum.—The total number of sputum examinations made during the year was 813.

Shelters.—There are at present 140 shelters in the County, 131 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 31 new cases, and there are now 76 patients who regularly attend the treatment centres.

Centre.	No. of cases treated.	No. of refills given.
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary	41	542
Wellington Public Assistance Institution	28	624
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients)	7	64
	76	1230

X-Ray Examination.—During 1942, 1,621 X-Ray films were taken, an increase of 270 over the previous year.

Light Therapy.—During the year 29 cases attended, and 799 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic Scheme, for particulars of which see page 27.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—During the year 9 patients were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium, 6 were discharged, and 4 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1942 :—

ADULTS.				Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Males	..	..	..	48	46	1
Females	..	..	..	36	40	0
CHILDREN.						
Males	..	..	..	3	3	0
Females	..	..	..	2	2	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	805	501	1537	183	725	2445
Oswestry	148	57	661	26	63	750
Wellington	571	299	2142	157	399	2698
Whitchurch	78	46	114	48	52	214
Ludlow	59	34	67	7	42	116
Bridgnorth	98	55	118	32	63	213
	1759	992	4639	453	1344	6436

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, 3 sessions were held for examination of contacts and 57 attendances made.

Arrangements were made this year for a Clinic to be held at Market Drayton at intervals, to encourage the attendance of persons who find that travelling difficulties prevent their coming to Shrewsbury or Wellington. Two sessions were held and 38 patients attended.

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, Craven Arms, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Wem, and Whitchurch; monthly at Newport and Oakengates.

Attendances at Clinics.—The following table gives particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1942. The cases over sixteen years of age show an increase upon the figures for 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941, 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, 1942.

Age Groups.	On Books 1/1/42.	Admitted during 1942.	No. treated. during 1942.	Discharged during 1942.	On Books 31/12/42.	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/42.	Attendances during 1942.
Under 5 years ..	408	288	696	215	480	1	1,594
5—16 years ..	821	427	1,248	320	925	3	3,669
Over 16 years ..	810	556	1,366	461	714	191	3,074
T.B. cases, all ages	150	21	171	21	118	32	623
Totals ..	2,189	1,292	3,481	1,017	2,237	227	8,960

* The total number of individual patients was 3,391. Owing to age alterations and changes of diagnosis, 90 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	6	10	14	30
(b) Non-tuberculous	18	86	19	123

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	Year 1940—41	Year 1941—42
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tuberculosis	5,068	4,269	3,122	3,567	2,857	2,582
Med. Inspection	2,198	1,608	1,323	1,626	1,415	1,574
Child Welfare	1,051	778	331	452	833	716
Annual average cost	8,317	6,655	4,776	5,645	5,105	4,872

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.—At the end of the year, 84 licences to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and 677 licences to produce Accredited milk had been issued by the County Council. The position as compared with previous years is as follows :—

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Tuberculin Tested Milk	8	9	11	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84
* Accredited Milk ..	11	12	17	14	390	522	542	595	649	675	666	677

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

Fourteen of the eighty-four producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and seventeen of the six hundred and seventy-seven Accredited milk producers have also been granted bottling licences by the County Council.

Inspection of Premises.—The County Sanitary Inspectors made 1,350 visits to farms during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sec. 25.—During the year, 9 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 11 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Examination of Milk.—Routine Sampling.—Of the 177 samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk taken, 54 proved unsatisfactory ; and of the 1,838 samples of "Accredited" milk, 704 were found to be unsatisfactory. In addition, 171 "Qualifying" samples of milk were collected, 77 of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year, 800 samples were collected, namely :—Milk 711, Butter 5, Lard 5, Margarine 5, Tea 5, Chocolate 4, Cheese 3, Sausage 3, Coffee 3, Vinegar 1, Pudding Mixtures 7, Jam 1, Sugar 1, Egg Substitute 2, Lemonade Powder 2, Flour 2, Forcemeat 1, Ginger 1, Pepper 2, Soup Mixture 1, Pressed Beef 1, Fish Paste 2, Rice 2, Table Cream 1, Flavouring Essences 7, Carbonate of Soda 2, Camphorated Oil 2, Castor Oil 2, Boracic Powder 1, Seidlitz Powder 1, Ointments 7, Cream of Tartar 1, Syrup of Squills 1, Iodine 1, Magnesia 1, Cod Liver Oil 2, Saccharine 1.

One hundred and ninety-two of the samples were found on analysis not to be genuine, 183 being milk samples, and 2 sausage, 1 Egg Substitute, 1 Forcemeat, 2 Ointments, 1 Iodine, 1 Syrup of Squills, and 1 Flavouring Essence. Appropriate action was taken in each case, and in 18 cases court proceedings were taken and fines ranging from ten shillings to £15 were imposed, plus costs.

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 per house for forty years in respect of houses built to meet the needs of the agricultural population. In this connection 234 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, 1942, 45 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 1942, the County Council received no applications for contributions towards Sewage Disposal Schemes.

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 68 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 79, four being "temporary" patients and 75 "voluntary" patients.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938.—*Particulars of Mental Defectives as on 31st December, 1942 :—*

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

					M.	F.	T.
1. Under "Order" :—							
(a) (1) In Institutions	{ under 16 years of age				12	5	17
	{ aged 16 years and over				82	116	198
(2) On Licence from Institutions	{ aged 16 years and over				—	—	—
	{ under 16 years of age				15	20	35
(b) (1) Under Guardianship	{ aged 16 years and over				—	—	—
	{ under 16 years of age				6	17	23
(2) On Licence from Guardianship—aged 16 years and over					—	3	3
2. In "Places of Safety"	{ under 16 years of age				—	1	1
	{ aged 16 years and over				—	1	1
3. Under Statutory Supervision					111	103	214
4. In Public Assistance Institutions					27	34	61
5. In Approved Homes and maintained by M.D. Committee ..					4	—	4

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					3	5	8
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					32	16	48
(b) Under friendly (annual) supervision					410	276	686

School Cases.—The following are particulars of mentally defective children (educable) under the Education Committee on 31st December, 1942 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Special Schools	16	16	32
Awaiting admission to a Special School ..	—	3	3
Under supervision of School Nurses ..	68	47	115
	84	66	150

There are in addition 49 school children (35 boys and 14 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 175 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1942.

Cases suffering from	At Shrewsbury Clinic.												At Wolverhampton.*			
	Cases.						Attendances.						* Cases		Attendances.	
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	1941	1942	1941	1942
Syphilis	36	46	82	57	58	115	405	354	759	819	1160	1173	1	2	720	245
Soft Chancre	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Gonorrhoea	88	76	164	58	62	120	272	228	500	326	205	531	4	4		
Other conditions	45	73	118	33	47	80	46	125	171	49	174	223	9	11		
Totals	169	195	364	148	167	315	723	707	1430	1198	1853	1905	14	17		
Increase (+) decrease (—) ..	+26	+19	+45				—16	+68	+52				—3			—475

*At Oswestry Clinic.											
Syphilis	3	4	7	19	43	62					
Soft Chancre	..	..	..	..	..	..					
Gonorrhoea	11	10	21	26	41	67					
Other conditions	3	5	8	4	17	21					
Totals	17	19	36	49	101	150					

* Opened October 1st, 1941.

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 no cases were admitted from this County.

Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Nature of Test.					Shrewsbury.	Wolverhampton.
For detection of gonococci	..	..	..	..	212	95
For detection of spirochetes	..	..	..	..	..	1
For Wassermann reactions	..	..	..	..	173	41
For gonococcal infection	..	..	..	..	18	13

Propaganda.—From the 1st April, 1942, a contribution at the rate of 5/- per thousand of the population of the County according to the last census (£61) is to be made to the Central Council for Health Education in respect of their education work in combating Venereal Disease. This takes the place of the £36 12s. 0d. which represented the Council's proportion of the discontinued grant made by the Minister of Health to the predecessors of the Central Council.

The Central Council for Health Education carried out in Oakengates and Whitchurch on behalf of the County Council, a series of four lectures, two being to young men and women, one to young women only, and one to young men only. The lectures, at each of which films were shown, dealt with "Sex in Life," "Human Reproduction," "A Doctor Talks," and "Love on Leave." An average of 131 persons attended the lectures at Oakengates and 225 at Whitchurch. In addition, an average of 120 men attended lectures and films shown at a number of factory meetings in the same districts.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE.

Under an arrangement with the County Council, the Donaldson-Hudson Pathological Laboratories, Shrewsbury, undertake 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 31, the following examinations were made :—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total.
Tubercle Bacilli	113	720	833
Haemolytic Streptococci	38	60	98
Diphtheria Bacilli	84	977	1061
Blood for Widal's Reaction	12	21	33
Typhoid-Dysentery Group	100	481	581
Other examinations	56	92	148
	403	2351	2754
Blood Urea Estimation	—	—	1
„ Count	—	—	7
„ Culture	—	—	16
Pathological Examination—Miscellaneous	—	—	16
Examination of Cerebro-spinal Fluid	—	—	47
Bacteriological Examination—Miscellaneous	—	—	18
„ „ Vaginal Swab	—	—	4
Paecal Culture	—	—	2
Total for 1942 ..	403	2351	2865
Total for 1941 ..	465	2515	3084

BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

Register of Blind Persons.—On the 31st March, 1943, there were 461 blind persons on the Register :—353 unemployables, 8 of independent means, 11 in special schools, 6 adults in training, 33 in Institutions and Homes, 19 Home Workers, 31 and otherwise employed.

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—During the financial year which ended on the 31st March, 1943, £8,171 was paid in domiciliary relief of the blind.

Home Workers.—The average number of Home Workers supervised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind was 23, and the average number of visits paid to each during the year was 7. The earnings of Home Workers averaged 21/6, and this was supplemented by an average weekly augmentation of 14/8.

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.

Four motor ambulances are owned by the County Council, one stationed at a garage in Shrewsbury, and three 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.

Details are given below of the Ambulance facilities in the County :—

Provision by Local Authorities (10).

Bridgnorth Borough ; Dawley Urban ; Wellington Urban ; Whitchurch Urban ; Shifnal Rural ; Market Drayton Urban and Rural (jointly with Newcastle-under-Lyme District). In addition, the four 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 (7).

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.
Albrighton 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.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The County Council, being concerned about the low percentage of children under five years of age immunised against diphtheria in the various districts of the County, undertook the immunisation of this age group and also the school entrants. Later in the year this was extended to all children up to school leaving age, but where, owing to distance, it was unreasonable to expect the children to be brought to a Clinic or School, or in other exceptional circumstances, the Councils of the County Districts were to arrange for the children to be immunised under their own arrangements. Up to the 31st December the Assistant Medical Officers had given the necessary injections to some 4,800 children, of whom 3,100 were under 5 years of age.

Scabies Order, 1942.—The expense of providing Institutional Treatment for cases of Scabies has been undertaken by the Council for the whole County.

Diabetic Clinic.—A Diabetic Clinic has been established at the Royal Salop Infirmary, towards the expenses of which the County Council has decided to make an annual contribution of £250.

Whole-time Medical Officers of Health Scheme.—The appointment of Dr. Wilson Evans as Medical Officer for the Wem Rural District gives effect to the County of Salop (Medical Officers of Health) Scheme, 1935, for the North Western District of the County.

By the appointment of Dr. J. L. Gregory, Medical Officer for the South-Western District, as Temporary Medical Officer of Health for the Ludlow Borough and Rural Districts, Bridgnorth Urban and Rural Districts are the only districts in the County not covered by a whole-time Medical Officer of Health.

