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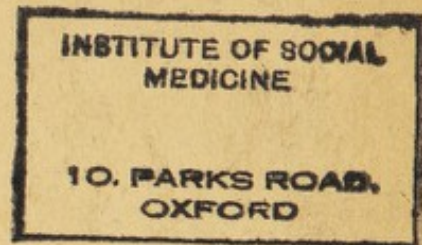
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THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE,  
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# COUNTY COUNCIL OF SALOP.



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## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1944

OF THE

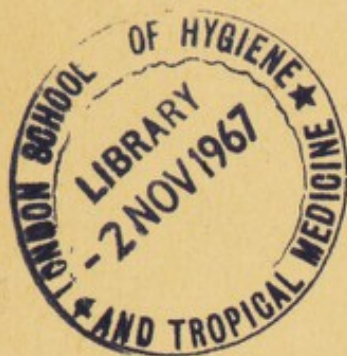
County Medical Officer of Health.

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

SHREWSBURY,  
*February, 1946.*

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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 Report for 1944, which has been curtailed in accordance with official requirements. It is considered, however, that the statistical information which it contains is sufficiently indicative of the scope of the health services within the County.

Special reference has been made to the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which is one of the health services which it has been possible to develop, notwithstanding war-time conditions. The result of the work under this scheme is reflected in the steady fall in the number of deaths from diphtheria during the last seven years.

The vital statistics disclose an increase in the birth-rate, a decline in the death-rate, and a fall in the number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. T. R. Blythe, Chief Clerk in the Public Health Office, for the interest which he has taken, and the assistance which he has given, in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,  
COLLEGE HILL,  
SHREWSBURY.

*February, 1946.*

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|                                                         |                                 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|
| Area (in acres) of Administrative County                | ..                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 861,800    |
| Population (Census 1931)                                | ..                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 244,156    |
| Estimated Population<br>Mid Year 1944                   | for Birth and Death rates       |    |    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 259,830    |
|                                                         | Urban—for Birth and Death rates |    |    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 131,680    |
|                                                         | Rural—for Birth and Death rates |    |    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 128,150    |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (Census) 1931                | ..                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 59,553     |
| Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census) 1931  | ..                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 60,904     |
| Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1944)                  | ..                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £1,325,556 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate (as at 1st April, 1944) | ..                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £5,369     |

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

|                     |              |    | Male. | Female. | Male and<br>Female. | Rates.                                       |
|---------------------|--------------|----|-------|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Live Births         | Legitimate   | .. | 2506  | 2250    | 4756                | 18.30                                        |
|                     | Illegitimate | .. | 237   | 210     | 447                 | 1.72                                         |
|                     | Total        | .. | 2743  | 2460    | 5203                | 20.02—(Per 1,000 of the<br>Population.)      |
| Still-births: Total | ..           | .. | 69    | 52      | 121                 | 31.93—(Per 1,000<br>(live and still-births.) |
| Deaths: Total       | ..           | .. | 1561  | 1408    | 2969                | 11.4                                         |

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

|                                         |    |    |    |    |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| Total                                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 (or 1.7 per 1,000 live births.) |
| From Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3                                 |
| From other Maternal causes              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6                                 |

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

|                                                         |    |    |    |    |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 34.2 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | .. | .. | .. | .. | 31.9 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | .. | .. | .. | .. | 58.1 |

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. . 455

|                                  |    |    |    |    |   |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
| Measles (all ages)               | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Whooping Cough (all ages)        | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| Diphtheria (all ages)            | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**Population.**—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was, for Birth-rates and Death-rates, 259,830.

**Marriages.**—The number of marriages was 1,845—an increase of 40 on last year's figures (1,805).

**Births.**—There were 5,203 births in 1944—an increase of 288 as compared with the previous year.

The birth-rate was 20.0 per thousand of the population, or an increase of 1.2 as compared with 1943.

The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 17.6 per thousand.

**Deaths.**—There were 2,969 deaths in 1944—a decrease of 217 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate was 11.4 per thousand of the population, or a decrease of 0.8 as compared with 1943.

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 11.6 per thousand.

**Cancer.**—There were 455 deaths from Cancer in 1944—a decrease of 39 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate was 1.751 per thousand of the population—a decrease of 0.142 as compared with 1943.

**Infant Mortality.**—The infant mortality rate in 1944 was 34 per thousand live births, as compared with 36 per thousand in 1943, and is the lowest which has yet been recorded in this County.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 46 per thousand live births.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Infectious Disease, as will be noted on reference to the statistical table on page 4, the chief decreases being in Measles, Acute Pneumonia, and Whooping Cough. Notifications of Diphtheria were again fewer for the fourth consecutive year.

There has been no change during the year in the position in respect of the Isolation Hospital accommodation.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1944.

| SANITARY DISTRICTS.                | Population<br>(Census.<br>1931)<br>244,156 | SCARLET FEVER. | WHOOPING COUGH. | DIPHTHERIA<br>(including Membranous<br>Croup). | MEASLES<br>(excluding Rubella). | ACUTE PNEUMONIA. | CEREBRO-SPINAL<br>FEVER. | ACUTE<br>POLIOMYELITIS. | ACUTE POLIO-<br>ENCEPHALITIS. | ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS<br>LETHARGICA. | DYSENTERY. | OPHTHALMIA<br>NEONATORUM. | PURPURAL PYREXIA. | SMALL-POX. | ENTERIC<br>(Typhoid and Para-<br>typhoid) Fever. | ERYSIPELAS. | CHICKEN-POX. |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                    |                                            | 1              | 2               | 3                                              | 4                               | 5                | 6                        | 7                       | 8                             | 9                                 | 10         | 11                        | 12                | 13         | 14                                               | 15          | 16           |
| RURAL ..                           | 122,491                                    | 241            | 341             | 14                                             | 409                             | 101              | 1                        | 8                       | —                             | —                                 | 43         | 17                        | 28                | —          | 5                                                | 23          | —            |
| URBAN ..                           | 121,665                                    | 179            | 268             | 11                                             | 392                             | 94               | —                        | 2                       | —                             | —                                 | 48         | 21                        | 33                | —          | 1                                                | 28          | —            |
| TOTALS FOR 1944 ..                 |                                            | 420            | 609             | 25                                             | 801                             | 195              | 1                        | 10                      | —                             | —                                 | 91         | 38                        | 61                | —          | 6                                                | 51          | —            |
| TOTALS FOR 1943 ..                 |                                            | 410            | 705             | 53                                             | 3202                            | 350              | 9                        | 5                       | —                             | 1                                 | 31         | 48                        | 63                | —          | 5                                                | 34          | —            |
| Increase (+) or<br>Decrease (—) .. |                                            | +10            | —96             | —28                                            | —2401                           | —155             | —8                       | +5                      | —                             | —1                                | +60        | —10                       | —2                | —          | +1                                               | +17         | —            |

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**—The primary responsibility for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria rests with the Local Sanitary Authorities. Since 1942, however, the County Council has assumed concurrent responsibility with the District Councils for this work, and except in the Borough of Shrewsbury, which has a very complete scheme of its own, much the greater part of the diphtheria immunisation work in the County is now carried out under the County Council Scheme by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Indeed, during 1944, out of a total of 3,778 children under 15 years of age who were immunised, 2,654 were dealt with under the County Council Scheme, 586 were immunised under the Scheme for the Borough of Shrewsbury, and 538 were dealt with under arrangements made by the other District Councils.

The following table gives particulars of the children under five years of age, and of those between the ages of 5 and 15, who were immunised under the various arrangements in the County :—

Children immunised in the County of Salop during 1944.

| Arrangement.                     | Aged under 5 years. | 5—15 years. | Total. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|
| County Council .. .. .           | 2,169               | 485         | 2,654  |
| Borough of Shrewsbury .. ..      | 483                 | 103         | 586    |
| Other Districts in the County .. | 431                 | 107         | 538    |
|                                  | 3,083               | 695         | 3,778  |

The position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation in the County of Salop can be summarised as follows :—

On 31st December, 1944, 58.9 per cent. of children under five years of age had been immunised, and 85.9 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen, giving a total for all children under fifteen years of age of 76.9 per cent.

The following table sets out in detail the numbers dealt with in the individual Districts in the County during 1944, and the percentages of those under five and between five and fifteen years of age in each District who have been rendered immune to Diphtheria—bearing in mind that immunity is a relative term.

**Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics for Individual Districts in the County.**

| Local Authority.              | Number immunised from<br>1st Jan., to 31st Dec., 1944. |                      |        | Percentage immunised at<br>31st December, 1944. |                      |                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                               | Under 5<br>yrs. of age.                                | 5—15<br>yrs. of age. | Total. | Under 5<br>yrs. of age.                         | 5—15<br>yrs. of age. | 0—15<br>yrs. of age. |
| Shrewsbury Borough .. ..      | 483                                                    | 103                  | 586    | 58                                              | 83                   | 74                   |
| Ellesmere Urban .. ..         | 33                                                     | 12                   | 45     | 56                                              | 95                   | 81                   |
| Ellesmere Rural .. ..         | 70                                                     | 8                    | 78     | 42                                              | 94                   | 80                   |
| Oswestry Borough .. ..        | 105                                                    | 41                   | 146    | 62                                              | 90                   | 81                   |
| Oswestry Rural .. ..          | 210                                                    | 45                   | 255    | 45                                              | 93                   | 78                   |
| Wem Urban .. ..               | 53                                                     | 4                    | 57     | 56                                              | 96                   | 82                   |
| Wem Rural .. ..               | 142                                                    | 53                   | 195    | 40                                              | 66                   | 58                   |
| Whitchurch Urban .. ..        | 61                                                     | 13                   | 74     | 34                                              | 84                   | 67                   |
| Dawley Urban .. ..            | 93                                                     | 10                   | 103    | 76                                              | 88                   | 84                   |
| Market Drayton Urban .. ..    | 64                                                     | 24                   | 88     | 76                                              | 92                   | 86                   |
| Drayton Rural .. ..           | 84                                                     | 12                   | 96     | 37                                              | 90                   | 72                   |
| Newport Urban .. ..           | 52                                                     | 4                    | 56     | 55                                              | 64                   | 61                   |
| Oakengates Urban .. ..        | 93                                                     | 14                   | 107    | 40                                              | 76                   | 64                   |
| Shifnal Rural .. ..           | 99                                                     | 11                   | 110    | 47                                              | 70                   | 63                   |
| Wellington Urban .. ..        | 133                                                    | 15                   | 148    | 51                                              | 91                   | 80                   |
| Wellington Rural .. ..        | 228                                                    | 39                   | 267    | 78                                              | 85                   | 82                   |
| Bridgnorth Borough .. ..      | 75                                                     | 57                   | 132    | 42                                              | 73                   | 63                   |
| Bridgnorth Rural .. ..        | 136                                                    | 33                   | 169    | 51                                              | 92                   | 78                   |
| Atcham Rural .. ..            | 251                                                    | 71                   | 322    | 80                                              | 92                   | 84                   |
| Bishop's Castle Borough .. .. | 21                                                     | —                    | 21     | 85                                              | 95                   | 90                   |
| Church Stretton Urban .. ..   | 23                                                     | 1                    | 24     | 80                                              | 90                   | 85                   |
| Clun Rural .. ..              | 140                                                    | 22                   | 162    | 80                                              | 85                   | 78                   |
| Ludlow Borough .. ..          | 95                                                     | 12                   | 107    | 80                                              | 92                   | 87                   |
| Ludlow Rural .. ..            | 154                                                    | 51                   | 205    | 80                                              | 90                   | 85                   |
| Wenlock Borough .. ..         | 185                                                    | 40                   | 225    | 77                                              | 90                   | 81                   |
|                               | 3,083                                                  | 695                  | 3,778  | 58.9%                                           | 85.9%                | 76.9%                |

The effects of the Immunisation Campaign are demonstrated by statistics showing the incidence of diphtheria and the number of deaths from this disease in the County during the past ten years. These figures, which include those of the Borough of Shrewsbury, are as follows:—

**Notifications of and Deaths from Diphtheria since 1934.**

| Year .. .. .          | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Notifications .. .. . | 191  | 223  | 301  | 206  | 185  | 133  | 236  | 237  | 121  | 53   | 25   |
| Deaths .. .. .        | 9    | 20   | 20   | 7    | 19   | 13   | 11   | 9    | 6    | 6    | 1    |

The following table gives the number of immunisations carried out under the County Council Scheme in each year since it came into operation in 1942, and shows that a total of 13,016 children have been immunised by the Assistant Medical Officers. It will be seen that the number of children immunised during 1944 fell to 2,654, as compared with 5,888 in the previous year. The success of the immunisation campaign in previous years provides a partial, if not complete, explanation of this fall, as the number of susceptible children under the age of 15 has now been so

much reduced that the number to be immunised each year falls correspondingly. Provided that there is increasing acceptance of immunisation by the public the number of children to be dealt with each year will tend eventually to approximate more and more closely to the number of births; and it should be noted that, for this reason, it is amongst the children of school age, 85.6 per cent. of whom have been immunised, that the greatest disparity in the figures arises.

**Children immunised under County Council Scheme since, and inclusive of, 1942.**

| Year.              | Under 5 years of age. | 5—15 years of age. | Total. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 1942 .. ..         | 2,949                 | 1,525              | 4,474  |
| 1943 .. ..         | 3,159                 | 2,729              | 5,888  |
| 1944 .. ..         | 2,169                 | 485                | 2,654  |
| Total (3 years) .. | 8,277                 | 4,739              | 13,016 |

**Propaganda.**—No local press publicity campaign in regard to this matter was conducted during the year, one such campaign having taken place in November, 1943, while another was held in January, 1945; but other efforts to encourage parents to agree to the protection of their children against this disease were continued.

A child during the first year of its life is relatively insusceptible to Diphtheria, but thereafter is more liable to contract the disease. Arrangements have therefore been made for the parents of every child (outside the Borough of Shrewsbury) on attaining the age of one year to receive a card through the County Health Department emphasising the desirability of immunisation, and to this card is attached a stamped consent form which the parent is invited to sign and return to the County Medical Officer. In addition, the Health Visitors, during their routine visits, encourage parents to have their children immunised, and propaganda is consistently carried out through the Child Welfare Centres. Letters are also sent to Heads of Schools encouraging them to bring to the attention of parents of school children the value of immunisation and the protection which it affords against Diphtheria.

### VACCINATION.

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Vaccination Acts in the whole of the Administrative County of Salop.

With a view to the correlation of the duties under the Vaccination Acts with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and in order to secure by centralisation of the work eventual simplification of administrative procedure, the Public Health Committee decided to appoint the Chief Clerk in the County Health Office to fill any vacancy caused by resignations of existing Vaccination Officers. The Chief Clerk now acts as Vaccination Officer for the following eight Vaccination Districts, namely, Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Ellesmere, Ludlow, Madeley, Oakengates, Wellington and Wem.

The table on page 8 gives full information regarding the work under the Vaccination Acts for the year 1943, together with that for the year 1944, in so far as it is at present available. From this table it will be observed that in 1943 there were 4,536 births registered, 1,270 declarations of conscientious objection and 2,037 certificates of successful primary vaccination—the equivalent of 44.90 per cent. of the total births for the year. In 1944, when the number of births registered was 5,203, there were 1,275 declarations of conscientious objection, and the total number of certificates of primary vaccination was 2,835—the equivalent of 54.49 per cent. of the total births for the year.

The following table shows the vaccination districts with the highest and lowest percentages of vaccinations in the County:—

| <i>Highest Percentages.</i> |    |    |       | <i>Lowest Percentages.</i> |    |    |       |
|-----------------------------|----|----|-------|----------------------------|----|----|-------|
| Clun                        | .. | .. | 68.54 | Ellesmere                  | .. | .. | 10.83 |
| Whitchurch                  | .. | .. | 67.85 | Oswestry                   | .. | .. | 19.38 |
| Church Stretton             | .. | .. | 66.66 | Madeley                    | .. | .. | 23.84 |
| Drayton                     | .. | .. | 66.50 | Wellington                 | .. | .. | 29.64 |

| Vaccination of Infants in 1943.                        |                    |                          |       | Vaccination of Children in 1943 and 1944. |                                           |                    |                        |                          |                  |                                                                       |       |                                                                   |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| VACCINATION DISTRICTS.                                 | Births Registered. | Successfully Vaccinated. |       | Insusceptible of Vaccination.             | Declarations of Conscientious Objections. | Died Unvaccinated. | Vaccination postponed. | Removed out of District. | Unaccounted for. | Total No. of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination received. |       | No. of Declarations of Conscientious Objection actually received. |       |
|                                                        |                    | No.                      | %     |                                           |                                           |                    |                        |                          |                  | 1943                                                                  | 1944  |                                                                   |       |
| Bridgnorth ..                                          | 289                | 148                      | 51.21 | —                                         | 97                                        | 9                  | —                      | 11                       | 24               | 182                                                                   | 211   | 94                                                                | 102   |
| Church Stretton ..                                     | 30                 | 20                       | 66.66 | —                                         | 9                                         | 1                  | —                      | —                        | —                | 27                                                                    | 79    | 23                                                                | 14    |
| Cleobury Mortimer ..                                   | 80                 | 41                       | 51.25 | —                                         | 33                                        | 2                  | 1                      | 1                        | 2                | 67                                                                    | 84    | 28                                                                | 36    |
| Clun ..                                                | 124                | 85                       | 68.54 | —                                         | 32                                        | 2                  | —                      | 2                        | 3                | 123                                                                   | 105   | 56                                                                | 24    |
| Drayton ..                                             | 212                | 141                      | 66.50 | —                                         | 45                                        | 5                  | —                      | 3                        | 17               | 172                                                                   | 204   | 38                                                                | 33    |
| Ellesmere ..                                           | 120                | 13                       | 10.83 | —                                         | 16                                        | 5                  | —                      | 6                        | 80               | 11                                                                    | 21    | 17                                                                | 23    |
| Ludlow ..                                              | 163                | 75                       | 46.01 | —                                         | 57                                        | 8                  | —                      | 3                        | 20               | 84                                                                    | 137   | 65                                                                | 59    |
| Madeley ..                                             | 369                | 88                       | 23.84 | —                                         | 147                                       | 10                 | —                      | 52                       | 72               | 88                                                                    | 110   | 144                                                               | 130   |
| Newport ..                                             | 210                | 78                       | 37.14 | —                                         | 82                                        | 6                  | 2                      | 27                       | 15               | 60                                                                    | 81    | 34                                                                | 44    |
| Oswestry ..                                            | 392                | 76                       | 19.38 | —                                         | 110                                       | 11                 | 1                      | 29                       | 165              | 105                                                                   | 134   | 105                                                               | 106   |
| Shifnal ..                                             | 246                | 75                       | 30.48 | 2                                         | 59                                        | 3                  | 1                      | 12                       | 94               | 81                                                                    | 117   | 65                                                                | 59    |
| Shrewsbury ..                                          | 1,415              | 837                      | 59.15 | 3                                         | 274                                       | 41                 | 4                      | 133                      | 123              | 630                                                                   | 1,059 | 273                                                               | 323   |
| Wellington ..                                          | 570                | 169                      | 29.64 | 2                                         | 217                                       | 11                 | —                      | 79                       | 92               | 188                                                                   | 240   | 335                                                               | 228   |
| Wem ..                                                 | 120                | 58                       | 48.33 | 1                                         | 44                                        | 2                  | —                      | 6                        | 14               | 90                                                                    | 123   | 46                                                                | 51    |
| Whitchurch ..                                          | 196                | 133                      | 67.85 | 1                                         | 48                                        | 4                  | —                      | 5                        | 5                | 123                                                                   | 130   | 56                                                                | 43    |
| TOTALS ..                                              | 4,536              | 2,037                    | 44.90 | 9                                         | 1,270                                     | 120                | 9                      | 369                      | 726              | 2,031                                                                 | 2,835 | 1,379                                                             | 1,275 |
| Percentage of total number of births for the year 1943 |                    |                          |       |                                           |                                           |                    |                        |                          |                  |                                                                       |       |                                                                   |       |
| .. .. 1942                                             |                    | 42.08                    |       | 0.22                                      | 27.36                                     | 2.94               | 0.46                   | 14.69                    | 12.22            |                                                                       |       |                                                                   |       |

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1944 in the arrangements for the administration of the Institutional Medical Services transferred from the late Boards of Guardians or in the matter of Public Assistance Medical Out-Relief.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**Notification of Births.**—In the County as a whole, inclusive of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, the number of live births notified or otherwise ascertained, was 5,255, and the number of still-births was 101.

In the Borough of Shrewsbury, the number of live births was 833, and the number of still-births was 21.

In the remainder of the County (for which the County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority), the number of births was 4,422, and the number of still-births was 80.

#### 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) .. ..  | 2783          | 15232  | 16826         | 32058  | 694                   |
| Part-time (54) .. ..   | 1615          | 16114  | 16213         | 32327  | 10139                 |
| Totals for 1944 .. ..  | 4398          | 31346  | 33039         | 64385  | 10833                 |

#### Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1943 and 1944.

| CHILDREN.     |       |                    |        |                        |      |                    |        |
|---------------|-------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|
| Under 1 year. |       |                    |        | Between 1 and 5 years. |      |                    |        |
| New Cases.    |       | Total Attendances. |        | New Cases.             |      | Total Attendances. |        |
| 1943          | 1944  | 1943               | 1944   | 1943                   | 1944 | 1943               | 1944   |
| 1,889         | 2,238 | 21,592             | 24,305 | 1,067                  | 968  | 16,758             | 17,767 |

## EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

| Welfare Centres.         | New Cases. |      | Total Cases. |      | Total Attendances. |      |
|--------------------------|------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------|------|
|                          | 1943       | 1944 | 1943         | 1944 | 1943               | 1944 |
| Bridgnorth .. ..         | 60         | 50   | 70           | 54   | 142                | 99   |
| Bishop's Castle ..       | 10         | 8    | 14           | 8    | 43                 | 22   |
| Church Stretton ..       | 32         | 19   | 36           | 22   | 90                 | 45   |
| Dawley .. ..             | 44         | 12   | 50           | 12   | 106                | 18   |
| Donnington .. ..         | 19         | 9    | 20           | 9    | 43                 | 14   |
| Ellesmere .. ..          | 15         | 13   | 18           | 15   | 49                 | 34   |
| Highley .. ..            | 4          | 11   | 7            | 11   | 7                  | 19   |
| Ironbridge .. ..         | 18         | 22   | 20           | 41   | 63                 | 48   |
| Ludlow .. ..             | 67         | 48   | 69           | 82   | 139                | 126  |
| Market Drayton ..        | 83         | 59   | 127          | 67   | 395                | 142  |
| Newport .. ..            | 55         | 51   | 63           | 55   | 176                | 96   |
| Oakengates .. ..         | 31         | 21   | 32           | 29   | 142                | 117  |
| Oswestry .. ..           | 47         | 42   | 51           | 45   | 91                 | 89   |
| Wellington .. ..         | 64         | 93   | 70           | 100  | 229                | 268  |
| Wem .. ..                | 42         | 39   | 51           | 54   | 142                | 143  |
| Whitchurch .. ..         | 28         | 30   | 35           | 37   | 135                | 85   |
| Totals .. ..             | 619        | 527  | 733          | 641  | 1992               | 1365 |
| Increase +<br>Decrease — | —92        |      | —92          |      | —627               |      |

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, 31 expectant mothers made 70 attendances, and 51 children under five years of age made 131 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—During the year 34 cases were notified, 16 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 51 (which is two less than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 71 days. The average number of occupied beds was therefore 9.

**Provision of Artificial Limbs.**—The Child Welfare Scheme has been extended by providing, in addition to surgical treatment, artificial limbs for children under five, subject to each case being considered by the Public Health Committee on its merits.

**Infestation with Head Lice.**—In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health special efforts have been made with a view to the eradication, as far as possible, of head lice. It was felt, or feared, by the Ministry that, as a result of the migration into reception areas of large numbers of evacuees from the towns, the incidence of infestation with head lice among the rural population might have increased considerably. The regular surveys which have been made of the school population by the School Nurses in this County do not, however, support the view that evacuation has produced any such result. There has, throughout the War period, up to and inclusive of 1943, been a gradual diminution in the percentage of children found to be infested with these vermin, but in the year under review the percentage rose somewhat. Thus, in 1943, the percentage of children found verminous was 8.4, this being the lowest rate recorded during the War, and it is a matter for regret that during 1944 the percentage rose to 9.1.

The most likely cause of this increase in infestation amongst school children, and probably of a parallel increase among younger children, (for which accurate figures are not, however, available), is possibly the increased employment outside the home of mothers, who consequently have less time available to devote to the care of their children. It is also possible that difficulty in procuring such articles as fine toothed combs has been partly responsible; and it is regrettable that modern fashions in hair dressing, particularly the "permanent wave," should tend to perpetuate lousiness among adults and adolescents by discouraging the washing, combing and brushing of the hair.

Instructions were issued to the Health Visitors that they should, as far as possible, try to inculcate a cleanliness conscience in all the members of the families in their districts. They were asked to inform the mothers of families not only of the necessity for keeping clean the heads of their young children, but also of the need for looking after their adolescent children in the same manner. It is recommended that among children under five years of age the hair should be cut short, and the value of regular weekly washing and daily brushing and combing of the hair is emphasised. The Health Visitors were also asked to give talks on this subject to the mothers and expectant mothers at the Centres, as well as in the homes.

**Dental Treatment.**—Five mothers and 9 children under five years of age received treatment from the School Dental Officers.

**War-time Nurseries.**—In order to facilitate the employment in industry of women with children, War-time Nurseries were opened in the County at each of the following places:—

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Donnington .. .. | 15th February, 1943. |
| Madeley .. ..    | 1st March, 1943.     |
| Oakengates .. .. | } 22nd March, 1943.  |
| Wellington .. .. |                      |

At the end of 1943, owing to the limited use which was at that time being made of these War-time Nurseries, the question of closure was considered by the Public Health Committee, and, as a result, the Nursery at Madeley was closed in February, 1944.

The table set out below shows the attendances during the year 1944 at the War-time Nurseries at Donnington, Oakengates and Wellington.

**Attendances at War-time Nurseries.**

| Location.        | Accommodation.    | Average daily attendance of Children. |          |          |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|
|                  |                   | Ages 0—5 yrs.                         | 0—2 yrs. | 2—5 yrs. |
| Donnington .. .. | 60 Children .. .. | 37.5                                  | 26.2     | 11.3     |
| Oakengates .. .. | 50 .. ..          | 16.3                                  | 5.3      | 11.0     |
| Wellington .. .. | 50 .. ..          | 32.0                                  | 9.8      | 22.2     |

(In July, 1945, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, and after consideration by the Public Health Committee, it was decided to close the War-time Nurseries at Wellington and Oakengates, but to continue for a further period the Nursery at Donnington).

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

|                                    |                                   | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of cases                    | —on 1st Jan. .. ..                | 123  | 112  | 90   | 84   | 103  | 92   | 93   |
| Number of new cases                | —during the year .. ..            | 24   | 24   | 26   | 66   | 32   | 31   | 23   |
|                                    | reached 9 years of age .. ..      | 11   | 20   | 15   | 14   | 10   | 8    | 10   |
| No. of cases removed from Register | legally adopted .. ..             | 4    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 6    | 6    | 9    |
|                                    | left County .. ..                 | 10   | 5    | 3    | 11   | 9    | 4    | 14   |
|                                    | removed to relatives .. ..        | 10   | 17   | 9    | 16   | 18   | 10   | 7    |
|                                    | died .. ..                        | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
|                                    | removed to places of safety .. .. | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 2    | 0    |
| Number of cases                    | —on 31st Dec. .. ..               | 112  | 90   | 84   | 103  | 92   | 93   | 76   |

The following is information relating to the 76 children on the Register on the 31st December, 1944 :—

|                                                         | <i>Aged under five years.</i> | <i>Aged 5 to nine years.</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Children notified by intending foster mothers .. ..     | 10                            | 11                           |
| Children otherwise ascertained .. ..                    | 13                            | 23                           |
| Children supervised on behalf of Voluntary Societies .. | 4                             | 15                           |

The number of Child Life Protection cases in the Borough of Shrewsbury on the 31st December, 1944, was 14, of whom 8 were under five years of age, and 6 between the ages of 5 and 9 years.

**Midwifery Services.**—In 1944 there were 176 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire as compared with 181 in 1943.

#### Statistics relating to Work under Midwives Acts.

| Year | Midwives practising in December | Visits of Inspection. | Notifications received from Midwives. |              |                           |                     |                                        | Having laid out a Dead Body. |
|------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|      |                                 |                       | Medical help.                         | Still-birth. | Death of mother or Child. | Artificial Feeding. | Liability to be a source of infection. |                              |
| 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                           |
| 1943 | 181                             | 335                   | 1402                                  | 56           | 35                        | 137                 | 200                                    | 35                           |
| 1944 | 176                             | 336                   | 1484                                  | 70           | 44                        | 138                 | 203                                    | 31                           |

**Maternal Deaths.**—In 1944 there were in Shropshire 7 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In 4 of these cases 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 1.7 per thousand live births, as compared with 2.2 per thousand for the previous year.

The Maternal Death-rate for England and Wales for 1944 was 1.93 per thousand live births, and 2.29 for 1943.

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths in this County since 1930, and it will be observed that 99 deaths out of a total of 248 were the result of a first pregnancy. This fact brings out the importance of attendance to the health and general well-being of the mother who is approaching her first confinement.

**Maternal Deaths 1930 to 1944.**

|                    | Causes of Death Investigated. |                    |        |                              | Death-rate per 1,000 live births. |                      |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                    | All causes.                   | Puerperal Pyrexia. | Other. | Number in first confinement. | Shropshire.                       |                      | England and Wales. |
|                    |                               |                    |        |                              | Local Statistics.                 | Official Statistics. |                    |
| Total (1930—42) .. | 228                           | 77                 | 151    | 93                           | 4.21                              | 4.02                 | ..                 |
| 1943 .. ..         | 13                            | 1                  | 12     | 3                            | 2.6                               | 2.2                  | 2.29               |
| 1944 .. ..         | 7                             | 2                  | 5      | 3                            | 1.3                               | 1.7                  | 1.93               |

**Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.**—The number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts sent in by medical practitioners was 629, and payments amounting to £1,200 were made during 1944. During the previous year the claims numbered 630, and payments totalled £1,229.

**Obstetrical Consultant.**—During the year the opinion of the County Council Obstetrical Consultant was sought in 20 confinement cases.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—During the year 70 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, three of whom died. In the previous year 81 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, one of whom died.

**Pemphigus.**—Eleven cases of Pemphigus occurred during the year. There were no deaths.

### **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 of Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each Home once a quarter. During the year 117 inspections were made.

**Accommodation Provided.**—During the year 1944 one new Nursing Home was registered and two certificates were cancelled.

|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Homes taking general cases only .. .. .               | 9  |
| Patient accommodation—91 beds and 2 cots.                       |    |
| Number of Homes taking maternity cases only .. .. .             | 4  |
| Patient accommodation—16 beds.                                  |    |
| Number of Homes taking both maternity and general cases .. .. . | 14 |
| Patient accommodation—188 beds and 2 cots.                      |    |

In all, therefore, there are 27 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 295 beds and 4 cots.

### COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

The table below summarises the work carried out at the County Council Hospital during 1944. The figures for 1943 are given for purposes of comparison.

**Cases treated in the County Council Hospital during 1943 and 1944.**

|                          | Men. |      | Women. |      | Maternity. |      | Children |    |          |     | Totals. |      |
|--------------------------|------|------|--------|------|------------|------|----------|----|----------|-----|---------|------|
|                          | 1943 | 1944 | 1943   | 1944 | 1943       | 1944 | 5—16     |    | Under 5. |     | 1943    | 1944 |
| Cases (1st January) ..   | 31   | 24   | 34     | 41   | 29         | 37   | 2        | 5  | 7        | 7   | 103     | 114  |
| Admissions .. .. .       | 259  | 443  | 452    | 495  | 519        | 656  | 44       | 79 | 91       | 102 | 1365    | 1775 |
| Discharges .. .. .       | 188  | 371  | 403    | 470  | 509        | 650  | 38       | 80 | 83       | 87  | 1221    | 1658 |
| Deaths .. .. .           | 78   | 63   | 42     | 46   | 2          | 2    | 3        | 1  | 8        | 10  | 133     | 122  |
| Cases (31st December) .. | 24   | 33   | 41     | 20   | 37         | 41   | 5        | 3  | 7        | 12  | 114     | 109  |

The average number of occupied beds for 1944 was 123, as compared with 105 for the previous year. In order to give some indication of the nature of the work carried out at the County Council Hospital, these have been broadly categorised in the table below. There is an increasing demand on the accommodation for maternity patients, and admissions have now been restricted to abnormal cases and to women who, owing to home circumstances, cannot properly be confined in their own homes.

|            | Beds occupied in 1944. |        |            |          |       |            | 1943.      |
|------------|------------------------|--------|------------|----------|-------|------------|------------|
|            | Men.                   | Women. | Maternity. | Children |       | All cases. | All cases. |
|            |                        |        |            | Under 5. | 5—16. |            |            |
| Average .. | 43                     | 36     | 32         | 8        | 4     | 123        | 105        |
| Highest .. | 114                    | 50     | 46         | 15       | 14    | 191        | 130        |
| Lowest ..  | 18                     | 21     | 18         | 4        | 1     | 91         | 80         |

**Midwifery.**—The number of women confined in the County Council Hospital in 1944 was 656, as compared with 519 in the previous year. There were two maternal deaths—one due to Puerperal Pyrexia and the other to Haemorrhage following Caesarean section.

The number of babies born was 644 (24 twins), amongst whom there were 12 deaths due to the following causes :—Prematurity 8 ; Asphyxia 1 ; Cerebral Haemorrhage 1 ; Broncho-Pneumonia 1 ; Icterus Neonatorum 1.

The number of still-births was 24.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Saturday morning in Shrewsbury, where all booked cases attend periodically for examination and advice. The average number in attendance was 25 per session.

**Other Work.**—The number of surgical operations (major and minor) was 332.

Twelve beds are provided in shelters for patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, who, because they are either highly infectious or in an advanced stage of the disease, cannot properly be looked after at home. Particulars of these cases are as follows :—

|                       | In Hospital,<br>1st Jan. | Admitted. | Discharged. | Died. | In Hospital,<br>31st Dec. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Pulmonary—Males .. .. | 6                        | 15        | 10          | 8     | 3                         |
| Females .. ..         | 1                        | 10        | 6           | 2     | 3                         |
| Children .. ..        | 1                        | 1         | —           | 2     | —                         |

### TUBERCULOSIS.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**—During the year, 155 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, which is 58 less than in the previous year, and the number of deaths from this form of the disease decreased by 18.

**Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**—In the case of other forms of the disease, the number of notifications for 1944 was 95, or 39 less than in the previous year ; and there was also a decrease of 5 in the number of deaths.

Particulars of Notifications of, and Deaths from, both forms of the disease are as follows :—

#### Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary). 1944.

| Age periods of cases. | New Cases.   |    |                  |    | Deaths.      |    |                  |    |
|-----------------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
|                       | Respiratory. |    | Non-Respiratory. |    | Respiratory. |    | Non-Respiratory. |    |
|                       | M.           | F. | M.               | F. | M.           | F. | M.               | F. |
| 0—1 .. ..             | 1            | 0  | 0                | 1  | 1            | 0  | 1                | 0  |
| 1—5 .. ..             | 2            | 1  | 9                | 8  | 1            | 1  | 1                | 0  |
| 5—15 .. ..            | 0            | 1  | 19               | 16 | 0            | 3  | 1                | 1  |
| 15—25 .. ..           | 16           | 25 | 12               | 10 | 7            | 8  | 0                | 1  |
| 25—35 .. ..           | 28           | 15 | 4                | 3  | 11           | 9  | 3                | 0  |
| 35—45 .. ..           | 23           | 12 | 5                | 4  | 20           | 9  | 0                | 0  |
| 45—55 .. ..           | 10           | 2  | 0                | 0  | 10           | 5  | 0                | 1  |
| 55—65 .. ..           | 8            | 6  | 2                | 2  | 10           | 4  | 1                | 3  |
| 65 and upwards .. ..  | 4            | 1  | 0                | 0  | 5            | 4  | 0                | 1  |
|                       | 92           | 63 | 51               | 44 | 65           | 43 | 7                | 7  |
| TOTALS FOR 1944 ..    | 155          |    | 95               |    | 108          |    | 14               |    |
| TOTALS FOR 1943 ..    | 213          |    | 134              |    | 126          |    | 19               |    |

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Notifications and Death Rates since 1938.**

| Year.        | Notifications. | Deaths. | Population. | Rates per 1,000. |         |
|--------------|----------------|---------|-------------|------------------|---------|
|              |                |         |             | Notifications.   | Deaths. |
| 1938 .. .. . | 164            | 71      | 241,400     | .68              | .29     |
| 1939 .. .. . | 156            | 91      | *244,900    | .63              | .36     |
|              |                |         | †249,500    |                  |         |
| 1940 .. .. . | 198            | 72      | 257,170     | .76              | .27     |
| 1941 .. .. . | 246            | 109     | 276,920     | .88              | .39     |
| 1942 .. .. . | 208            | 91      | 268,900     | .77              | .33     |
| 1943 .. .. . | 213            | 126     | 260,900     | .81              | .48     |
| 1944 .. .. . | 155            | 108     | 259,830     | .59              | .41     |

\*Estimated population for Birth-rate purposes.

†Estimated population for Death-rate purposes.

**Allowances to Patients (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).**—During the year ended 31st December, 1944, allowances were granted to 61 patients for the first time, and of these, 42 received Maintenance Allowances only, 10 received both Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances, and 9 received Special Payments.

Discretionary Allowances are awarded to enable patients to meet standing charges such as high rent, insurance and educational fees.

Special Payments include allowances in respect of pocket money made to single persons while in the Sanatorium; allowances to married women to assist them to provide domestic help in their homes while they themselves are receiving treatment in the Sanatorium; and grants to patients' relatives to enable them to visit the Sanatorium.

Below are particulars of payments being made on the 31st December, 1943, and 31st December, 1944.

|                                                            | 31st December,<br>1943. | 31st December,<br>1944. |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Number receiving Maintenance Allowances .. .. .            | 30                      | 38                      |
| Number of above also receiving Discretionary Allowances .. | 3                       | 9                       |
| Number receiving Special Payments—                         |                         |                         |
| (a) pocket money .. .. .                                   | 6                       | 8                       |
| (b) provision of domestic help .. .. .                     | 6                       | 1                       |

**Visits of Tuberculosis Officers.**

|                                      | 1943      | 1944      |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| On notification .. .. .              | 19        | 110       |
| To contacts .. .. .                  | 33        | 30        |
| To suspicious cases .. .. .          | 233       | 204       |
| On discharge from Sanatorium .. .. . | 11        | 7         |
| Other occasions .. .. .              | 188       | 100       |
|                                      | <hr/> 484 | <hr/> 451 |

**Examination of Sputum.**—The total number of sputum examinations during the year was 991, as compared with 870 in the previous year.

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

**Artificial Pneumothorax.**—Artificial pneumothorax was induced in 20 new cases, and there are now 109 patients who regularly attend the Treatment Centres.

**Particulars of Patients receiving Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.**

| Centre.                                        | No. of cases treated. | No. of refills given. |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary .. ..       | 62                    | 826                   |
| Wellington Public Assistance Institution .. .. | 42                    | 861                   |
| Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients) .. ..       | 5                     | 72                    |
|                                                | 109                   | 1759                  |

**X-Ray Examination.**—During 1944, two thousand and sixty-six X-Ray Films were taken, an increase of two hundred and thirty over the previous year.

**Light Therapy.**—During the year 22 cases attended, and 650 treatments were given.

**Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.**—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic scheme.

**Tubercular Peritonitis.**—An arrangement has been made with the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital for the treatment of patients suffering from tubercular peritonitis. The number of cases sent for treatment during the year was 2.

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

**Shirlett Sanatorium.**—The following are the particulars of admissions, discharges and deaths during 1944 :—

|                 | Admitted. | Discharged. | Died. |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Adults—         |           |             |       |
| Males .. .. .   | 44        | 46          | 2     |
| Females .. .. . | 31        | 25          | 5     |
| Children—       |           |             |       |
| Boys .. .. .    | 1         | —           | —     |
| Girls .. .. .   | 1         | 2           | —     |
|                 | 77        | 73          | 7     |

**Tuberculosis Dispensaries.**—There continues to be a steady increase in the number of attendances at the various Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Examination Centres, the total for 1944 being 7,984, as compared with 7,655 in the previous year.

**Attendances at Tuberculosis Dispensaries in 1944.**

| TUBERCULOSIS<br>DISPENSARIES. | No. of Cases who<br>attended during the year. |                           | SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES. |                     |           | Total<br>Attend-<br>ances. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
|                               | Total.                                        | For the<br>first<br>time. | Notified<br>Cases.      | Non-notified Cases. |           |                            |
|                               |                                               |                           |                         | Contacts.           | Suspects. |                            |
| Shrewsbury .. ..              | 986                                           | 612                       | 1776                    | 242                 | 865       | 2883                       |
| Oswestry .. ..                | 218                                           | 99                        | 708                     | 32                  | 146       | 886                        |
| Wellington .. ..              | 838                                           | 522                       | 2813                    | 220                 | 640       | 3673                       |
| Whitchurch .. ..              | 89                                            | 46                        | 34                      | 54                  | 117       | 205                        |
| Ludlow .. ..                  | 64                                            | 41                        | 54                      | 26                  | 38        | 118                        |
| Bridgnorth .. ..              | 120                                           | 60                        | 122                     | 45                  | 52        | 219                        |
|                               | 2315                                          | 1380                      | 5507                    | 619                 | 1858      | 7984                       |

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, 3 sessions were held for examination of contacts and 36 attendances made.

Arrangements are also made 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. Three sessions were held and 47 attendances made.

**Dr. Watkin** writes :—"From year to year there continues to be a remarkable increase in the work done at the County Tuberculosis Clinics. Comparing 1944 with 1935 (the first complete year in which our X-Ray apparatus was functioning) one finds as follows :—

|         | X-Ray Examinations. | Artificial Pneumothorax Refills. | New Cases Examined. |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1935 .. | 582                 | 252                              | 590                 |
| 1944 .. | 2066                | 1687                             | 1380                |

"The larger attendances for examination are evidence, not of an increase in Tuberculosis, but of a greater realisation on the part of Medical Practitioners and public of the importance of early diagnosis and of the facilities available at the Tuberculosis Clinics.

"The next big forward step in the campaign against Tuberculosis is likely to be Mass Miniature Radiography. This has been introduced on a limited scale by the Ministry of Health during the present war, but a set of the special apparatus has not up to the present been available for Shropshire. When the present difficulties relax it would seem desirable to make plans either for the provision of a set, and a team of operators in Shropshire, or for seeking a working arrangement between this and some neighbouring County. In Lancashire, of the first 19,240 persons examined by mass radiography, 3.5 per thousand were found to have active Tuberculosis, 1.6 per thousand having Tubercle Bacilli in the sputum. The investigation dealt mainly with employees in industrial establishments, a high proportion of whom would probably belong to age groups in which Tuberculosis is most prevalent, and the percentage of Tuberculosis in the population as a whole would not be so large, but the figures give some idea of the number of undiscovered cases there are likely to be in Shropshire. A fully working mass radiography scheme would almost certainly necessitate some increase in the number of Sanatorium beds for treatment."

**Dr. Elliott** writes :—"The year 1944 shows a decrease in both the incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis. The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a decrease of 58, with 18 fewer deaths than in 1943, whilst in other forms of the disease there was a decrease of 39 new cases, with 5 fewer deaths.

"When one considers the worry, strain, and long hours of work of the people after five years of war conditions, with the lack of open air exercise and the lack of proper ventilation in many houses and workplaces owing to black-out conditions, one cannot help feeling that these decreases in the incidence and mortality of Tuberculosis in Shropshire are very satisfactory.

"If one compares the figures for the incidence and mortality in the last four years of the 1914—1918 War, *i.e.*, 1915—1918 inclusive, with the figures of the present war, 1941—1944 inclusive, one gets an even happier picture. In the years 1915—1918 there were 1,574 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, with 790 deaths. In the years 1941—1944 there were 822 new cases, with 434 deaths. This shows a decrease of 48 per cent. in the number of new cases, and a decrease of 45 per cent. in the deaths.

"These figures are perhaps even more satisfactory than they appear if one takes into account the increase in the population of the County during the War years by evacuees. One has, however, to bear in mind that more accurate modern methods of diagnosis, such as X-Ray, may have had some small effect on the decrease in the number of notifications.

"Although these figures show that thirty years anti-Tuberculosis work has given good results, these could have been better, and one of our main difficulties lies with the people themselves. In far too many cases people, fail to seek medical advice until the disease has advanced to an incurable stage. The general public, thanks to propaganda work by the Press and the B.B.C., are however, now seeking advice at an earlier stage.

"To-day, early Tuberculosis, with the advance in new methods of treatment, is definitely curable, and again early treatment means that a patient is rendered non-infectious, and thus is no longer a danger to his family; so, early diagnosis and treatment is one of the greatest factors in the prevention and cure of Tuberculosis.

"Mass Miniature Radiography of the population will prove a great help in the detection of these early cases, but X-Ray plants for this purpose are not available, nor the personnel to work them, until things become more normal.

"In the annual report for 1941, writing on Mass Radiography, I said : "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 symptoms in time, many cases would be discovered in an early and more curable stage of the disease."

### 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; and monthly at Newport and Oakengates.

**Attendances at Clinics.**—The following table gives particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1944. The tuberculous cases, which are of all ages, are the smallest in number, but their attendances at the Clinics extend as a rule over a very prolonged period.

Attendances at Orthopaedic After-Care Clinics, 1944.

| Age Groups.            | On Books<br>1/1/44. | Admitted<br>during<br>1944. | No. treated.<br>during<br>1944. | Discharged<br>during<br>1944. | On Books<br>31/12/44. | On<br>Appliance<br>Supervision<br>31/12/44. | Attendances<br>during<br>1944. |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Under 5 years ..       | 541                 | 316                         | 857                             | 289                           | 568                   | 0                                           | 1,573                          |
| 5—16 years ..          | 971                 | 515                         | 1,486                           | 421                           | 1,059                 | 6                                           | 3,271                          |
| Over 16 years ..       | 1,028               | 544                         | 1,572                           | 462                           | 873                   | 237                                         | 2,839                          |
| T.B. cases, (all ages) | 145                 | 27                          | 172                             | 31                            | 109                   | 32                                          | 654                            |
| Totals ..              | 2,685               | 1,402                       | 4,087                           | 1,203                         | 2,609                 | 275                                         | 8,337                          |

It will be observed that 4,087 patients are stated to have been treated during 1944, but as 126 of these have been included in more than one group, the actual figure should be regarded as 3,961. In addition, 171 cases for whom treatment was not found to be necessary were examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon, and these have not been included amongst the attendances at the After-Care Centres.

**Hospital Patients.**—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 Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. Particulars of cases, both Public Health and Education, admitted to Hospital for treatment in 1944 are given in the table below.

**Cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital in 1944.**

| Disease.                                   | Under 5 years<br>of age. | 5—16 years<br>of age. | Over 16 years<br>of age. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Tuberculosis .. .. .                       | 1                        | 5                     | 16                       | 22     |
| Osteomyelitis .. .. .                      | —                        | 8                     | —                        | 8      |
| Congenital Defects and Deformities .. .. . | 8                        | 8                     | —                        | 16     |
| Acquired Deformities .. .. .               | 2                        | 20                    | 3                        | 25     |
| Injuries (Bones and Joints) .. .. .        | 4                        | 12                    | 5                        | 21     |
| Arthritis .. .. .                          | 1                        | 1                     | 2                        | 4      |
| Poliomyelitis .. .. .                      | —                        | 4                     | 2                        | 6      |
| Other Nerve Lesions .. .. .                | —                        | 1                     | —                        | 1      |
| Total for 1944 .. .. .                     | 16                       | 59                    | 28                       | 103    |
| Total for 1943 .. .. .                     | 21                       | 75                    | 23                       | 119    |

During the first five years of the operation of the Orthopaedic Scheme in this County, the average number of beds occupied by patients for whom the Public Health Committee had accepted responsibility was 62, but as a result principally of the After-Care Scheme, this has fallen to an average of 38 for the four years 1941—1944.

Particulars of the numbers of beds occupied are given in the table below. It should be noted, however, that as the Public Assistance Committee was responsible for the treatment of non-tuberculous patients above the age of 16 until May, 1942, when the Public Health Committee accepted responsibility for them, the average number of beds occupied by this particular group has been given separately under the heading "Non-Tuberculous Adults," as, otherwise, they would vitiate the comparative value of the figures in the Table.

**Beds occupied by Shropshire Patients during the period 1921—1944.**

|                            | Averages. |         |         |         |         | Totals for the years |      |      |      |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|------|------|------|
|                            | 1921—25   | 1926—30 | 1931—35 | 1936—40 | 1941—44 | 1941                 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
| Tuberculosis (all ages) .. | 40        | 33      | 27      | 27      | 21      | 19                   | 17   | 25   | 24   |
| Medical Inspection ..      | 14        | 13      | 11      | 17      | 12      | 11                   | 13   | 15   | 10   |
| Child Welfare .. .. .      | 8         | 5       | 3       | 5       | 5       | 4                    | 7    | 6    | 4    |
| Totals .. .. .             | 62        | 51      | 41      | 49      | 38      | 34                   | 37   | 46   | 38   |
| Non-tuberculous Adults ..  | —         | —       | —       | 7       | 5       | 6                    | 4    | 5    | 4    |

The cost to the County Council of Hospital treatment of Orthopaedic cases is as shown below, but again, in order to make the figures comparable, the cost of non-tuberculous patients above the age of 16 has been given separately.

**Cost of Treatment in Orthopaedic Hospital.**

| Scheme.                   | Averages. |         |         |         | Years |      |      |      |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------|------|------|------|
|                           | 1926—30   | 1931—35 | 1936—40 | 1941—44 | 1941  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|                           | £         | £       | £       | £       | £     | £    | £    | £    |
| Tuberculosis .. ..        | 4269      | 3122    | 3567    | 2840    | 2857  | 2582 | 2850 | 3073 |
| Medical Inspection ..     | 1608      | 1323    | 1626    | 1668    | 1415  | 1574 | 1753 | 1931 |
| Child Welfare .. ..       | 778       | 331     | 452     | 870     | 833   | 716  | 912  | 1022 |
| Annual Average Cost ..    | 6655      | 4776    | 5645    | 5378    | 5105  | 4872 | 5515 | 6026 |
| Non-tuberculous Adults .. | —         | —       | *856    | 503     | 324   | 606  | 370  | 713  |

\*This amount represents the average annual cost of treatment for the period 1938—40. Non-tuberculous adult cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital were, until 1st May, 1938, the responsibility of the Public Assistance Committee.

**MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1936—1943.**

**Licences.**—At the end of the year 177 licences to produce Tuberculin-Tested Milk and 620 licences to produce Accredited Milk had been issued by the County Council—an increase of 66 in the number of Tuberculin-Tested Licences and a fall of 68 in the number of Accredited Licences.

In addition, Bottling Licences were also granted by the County Council to 16 producers of Tuberculin-Tested Milk and to 20 producers of Accredited Milk.

The Licensing position, as compared with previous years, is as given below. The variation in the figures for 1944 is largely accounted for by the graduation of producers of Accredited Milk to the production of milk of Tuberculin-Tested standard.

|                      | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Tuberculin Tested .. | 15   | 20   | 20   | 36   | 57   | 71   | 75   | 77   | 84   | 111  | 177  |
| *Accredited .. ..    | 14   | 390  | 533  | 542  | 595  | 689  | 675  | 666  | 677  | 652  | 620  |

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

**Dairy Herds in the County.**—It may be of interest to compare the number of designated and undesignated herds in the County, and to this end the following information has been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The figures relate to the year ending 31st March, 1945, and so are not completely identical with the licensing figures given for 31st December, 1944.

|                                                   |       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of Tuberculin-Tested and Attested Herds .. | 180   |
| „ „ Accredited Herds .. ..                        | 620   |
| Total Number of Designated Herds .. ..            | 800   |
| Number of Undesignated Herds .. ..                | 4,869 |
|                                                   | 5,669 |

**Examination of Milk—Routine Sampling.**—Of 267 samples of Tuberculin-Tested milk, 82 proved unsatisfactory, and of 1,824 samples of Accredited milk, 580 were unsatisfactory. In addition, 160 "Qualifying" samples of milk were collected, 44 of which were unsatisfactory.

The following is a summary of the numbers of samples taken and the results of examination of these samples :—

| Designation.                   | Total Samples. | Satisfactory. | Unsatisfactory. |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Tuberculin-Tested Milk .. .. . | 267            | 185           | 82              |
| Accredited Milk .. .. .        | 1824           | 1244          | 580             |

**Disciplinary Action.**—The Milk (Special Designations) Committee considered the milk sampling records of 38 designated milk producers from whose premises three consecutive unsatisfactory samples had been collected ; and of these, 18 Accredited producers and 2 Tuberculin-Tested producers were warned. In addition, 14 Accredited Licences and 4 Tuberculin-Tested Licences were suspended.

**Tuberculous Milk.**—During the year, 19 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 21 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

**Inspection of Premises.**—The County Sanitary Inspectors made 1,567 visits to farms during the year.

**School Milk.**—Out of a total of 320 schools in the County (representing 22,617 children), 298 schools (*i.e.*, 15,889 children) are supplied daily with fresh milk under the Milk in Schools scheme. That is, 93.1 per cent. of the schools and 70.2 per cent. of the children in the County are included in the scheme.

The milk supplied is obtained, wherever possible, from designated producers, *viz.* : Tuberculin-Tested (80 schools), Accredited (112 schools), and Pasteurised (71 schools).

Undesignated milk is supplied to 35 schools by approved producers whose farms have been inspected by the County Sanitary Inspectors and whose herds are regularly examined by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

During the year, 9 new suppliers were approved and 6 schools were incorporated in the Milk in Schools scheme for the first time.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year, 348 samples were collected, 319 being samples of milk and the remainder being samples of foods other than milk.

Of these, 119 samples were found on analysis to be not genuine (117 being milk samples, 1 being a sample of Whisky and 1 a sample of Lime Fruit Flavour Cordial). Appropriate action was taken in each case, and in 17 instances Court proceedings followed, resulting in fines ranging from £1 10s. 0d. to £20, exclusive of costs.

Details of all samples are given below :—

| Description of Samples.                  | Number of Samples taken. |          |          |           |          |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                                          | Total.                   | Formal.  |          | Informal. |          |
|                                          |                          | Genuine. | Non-Gen. | Genuine.  | Non-Gen. |
| Milk .. .. .                             | 323                      | 189      | 116      | 18        | —        |
| Powdered Gelatine .. .. .                | 2                        | —        | —        | 2         | —        |
| Flowers of Sulphur .. .. .               | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Glauber Salts .. .. .                    | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Sal Volatile .. .. .                     | 1                        | —        | —        | —         | 1        |
| Eucalyptus Oil .. .. .                   | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Dry Gin .. .. .                          | 1                        | 1        | —        | —         | —        |
| Whiskey .. .. .                          | 4                        | 3        | 1        | —         | —        |
| Lime Fruit Flavour Cordial .. .. .       | 1                        | —        | 1        | —         | —        |
| Cider, Sweet .. .. .                     | 2                        | 2        | —        | —         | —        |
| Sardine and Tomato Paste .. .. .         | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Salmon and Shrimp Paste .. .. .          | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Soda Bicarbonate .. .. .                 | 2                        | —        | —        | 2         | —        |
| Sage and Onion Stuffing .. .. .          | 2                        | —        | —        | 2         | —        |
| Sponge Cake and Pudding Mixture .. .. .  | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Chocolate and Blancmange Mixture .. .. . | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Lemon Essence .. .. .                    | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Lemon Flavouring .. .. .                 | 1                        | —        | —        | 1         | —        |
| Totals .. .. .                           | 347                      | 195      | 118      | 33        | 1        |

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY.

Following the decision of the Public Health Committee that fuller information concerning the sanitary circumstances in the individual Districts, and in the County as a whole, should be available to them, the following letter was sent to the District Medical Officers of Health in August, 1944 :—

"I have been instructed by my Council to issue an Annual Questionnaire to Medical Officers of Health of the County Districts, in order to be in a position to keep the County Council informed of the sanitary circumstances in the various districts in the County, and I enclose herewith Questionnaires relating to Water, Sewage and Housing, as it is anticipated that you will now be able to supply the information which will represent the position relative to these matters at the end of 1943.

"In order not to place unnecessary demands on the labour and time of the officials who may be concerned, these Questionnaires have been made as simple and short as possible; and I should be very much obliged if you could kindly see your way to supply the information asked for at an early date.

"If up-to-date information is not available regarding certain of the items—I have in mind the Questionnaire relating to Housing particularly—would you please give the latest information which is available, the year being given in brackets."

**Questionnaires :—**The Questionnaires which accompanied the above letter were as given below, and the information supplied by the District Medical Officers of Health in regard to Water, Sewage and Housing has been summarised in tabular form on pages 24 and 25.

|        |    |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|--------|----|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| WATER. | 1. | Total number of houses (1943)        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... |
|        | 2. | Number of houses with piped supply   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... |
|        | 3. | Nature of supply to remaining houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..... |

|         |    |                                                                        |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| SEWAGE. | 1. | Number of houses in district (1943)                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|         | 2. | Number of houses connected to Sewer                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|         | 3. | Number of other houses connected to satisfactory Sewage Disposal Works | .. | .. | .. | .. |

|          |    |                                                                    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| HOUSING. | 1. | Number of houses in district (1943)                                | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|          | 2. | " " fit for human habitation                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|          | 3. | " " requiring minor repairs                                        | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|          | 4. | " " requiring reconditioning                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|          | 5. | " " which should be demolished                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. |
|          | 6. | " " needed to replace those demolished and to relieve overcrowding | .. | .. | .. | .. |

### Summary of Answers to Questionnaire on Water and Sewage.

| Medical Officer and District. | Houses in District. | SEWAGE DISPOSAL.    |                                    | WATER SUPPLIES. |                             |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
|                               |                     | Connected to sewer. | Other satisfactory sewage disposal | Piped Supply.   | Supply to remaining houses. |
| <b>Dr. Dickson.</b>           |                     |                     |                                    |                 |                             |
| Bridgnorth Borough            | 1,685               | 1,530               | Nil                                | 1,630           | Wells and Springs.          |
| " Rural ..                    | 3,438               | 2,575               | 100†                               | 762             | " "                         |
| <b>Dr. Evans.</b>             |                     |                     |                                    |                 |                             |
| Oswestry Borough ..           | 2,931               | 2,900               | 10                                 | 2,901           | Wells.                      |
| Ellesmere Urban ..            | 590                 | 581                 | 5                                  | 590             | "                           |
| Wem ..                        | 658                 | 624                 | 34                                 | 656             | "                           |
| Whitchurch ..                 | 1,899               | 1,724†              | 24                                 | 1,849           | "                           |
| Ellesmere Rural ..            | 1,713               | Nil                 | —                                  | 362             | " and Springs.              |
| Oswestry ..                   | 4,229               | 1,165               | 28                                 | 2,153           | "                           |
| Wem ..                        | 3,004               | Nil                 | 260                                | 474             | "                           |
| <b>Dr. Gregory.</b>           |                     |                     |                                    |                 |                             |
| Bishop's Castle Borough       | 396                 | 353                 | 12                                 | 374             | "                           |
| Ludlow ..                     | 1,553               | 1,350†              | —                                  | 1,553†          | " —very few.                |
| Wenlock ..                    | 4,329               | 3,000               | —                                  | 3,360†          | " and Springs.              |
| Church Stretton Urban         | 684                 | 475                 | Nil                                | 628             | "                           |
| Atcham Rural ..               | 5,285               | 530                 | —                                  | 2,600           | "                           |
| Clun ..                       | 2,871               | —                   | —                                  | 1,400†          | " Springs, Streams          |
| Ludlow ..                     | 3,850               | 450†                | —                                  | 1,246           | "                           |
| <b>Dr. Stewart.</b>           |                     |                     |                                    |                 |                             |
| Dawley Urban ..               | 2,179               | 1,265               | Nil                                | 1,894           | Standpipes from mains.      |
| Market Drayton Urban          | 1,470               | 1,372               | 88                                 | 1,460           | Wells.                      |
| Newport ..                    | 976                 | 967                 | Nil                                | 974             | "                           |
| Oakengates ..                 | 3,000               | 2,500               | 6                                  | 3,000           | "                           |
| Wellington ..                 | 2,769               | 2,733               | 12                                 | 2,757           | "                           |
| Drayton Rural ..              | 2,319               | 138                 | 79                                 | 881             | "                           |
| Shifnal ..                    | 2,586               | 1,500               | 56                                 | 1,980           | " and Springs.              |
| Wellington ..                 | 5,400               | 2,426               | 8                                  | 4,194           | " Springs, Boreholes.       |
| <b>Dr. Symons.</b>            |                     |                     |                                    |                 |                             |
| Shrewsbury Borough            | 11,400              | 10,967              | 254                                | 11,188          | "                           |

† Approximate.

— Figures not available.

## Summary of Answers to Questionnaire on Housing.

| Medical Officer and District. |         |       |  | Population (1931 Census). | Houses in District. | Fit.  | Minor Repairs. | Reconditioning. | Demolition. | Replacement. |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Dr. Dickson.</b>           |         |       |  |                           |                     |       |                |                 |             |              |
| Bridgnorth                    | Borough | † ..  |  | 5,295                     | 1,685               | 750   | 400            | 150             | 400         | 500          |
| "                             | Rural   | .. †  |  | 12,616                    | 3,438               | 2,000 | 850            | 300             | 300         | 400          |
| <b>Dr. Evans.</b>             |         |       |  |                           |                     |       |                |                 |             |              |
| Oswestry                      | Borough | .. .. |  | 9,961                     | 2,931               | 2,300 | 700            | 350             | 250         | 300          |
| Ellesmere                     | Urban   | .. .. |  | 1,872                     | 590                 | 563   | 35             | 15              | 12          | 100          |
| Wem                           | "       | .. .. |  | 2,255                     | 658                 | 638   | 20             | 50              | 20          | 25           |
| Whitchurch                    | "       | .. †  |  | 6,174                     | 1,899               | 1,319 | 100            | 50              | 200         | 230          |
| Ellesmere                     | Rural   | .. †  |  | 6,684                     | 1,713               | 1,500 | —              | 100             | 50          | 80           |
| Oswestry                      | "       | .. †  |  | 16,569                    | 4,229               | 4,119 | —              | 200             | 110         | 130          |
| Wem                           | "       | .. †  |  | 10,273                    | 3,004               | 2,060 | 27             | 30              | 69          | 80           |
| <b>Dr. Gregory.</b>           |         |       |  |                           |                     |       |                |                 |             |              |
| Bishop's Castle               | Borough | † ..  |  | 1,352                     | 396                 | 301*  | 95*            | Nil             | Nil         | —            |
| Ludlow                        | Borough | † ..  |  | 5,823                     | 1,553               | 1,343 | 100            | 50              | 60*         | 83*          |
| Wenlock                       | "       | .. †  |  | 14,149                    | 4,329               | 3,900 | —              | —               | 150         | 150          |
| Church Stretton               | Urban   | .. .. |  | 2,398                     | 684                 | 678   | 6              | Nil             | Nil         | Nil          |
| Atcham                        | Rural   | .. .. |  | 19,576                    | 5,285               | —     | —              | —               | —           | —            |
| Chun                          | "       | .. .. |  | 10,673                    | 2,871               | —     | —              | —               | —           | —            |
| Ludlow                        | "       | .. .. |  | 14,511                    | 3,850               | —     | —              | —               | —           | —            |
| <b>Dr. Stewart.</b>           |         |       |  |                           |                     |       |                |                 |             |              |
| Dawley                        | Urban   | .. .. |  | 7,669                     | 2,179               | 1,269 | 307            | 108             | 495         | 543          |
| Market Drayton                | Urban   | .. .. |  | 4,749                     | 1,470               | 1,337 | 53*            | 45*             | 88*         | 200          |
| Newport                       | "       | .. †  |  | 3,437                     | 976*                | 674*  | 72*            | 90*             | 140*        | 150*         |
| Oakengates                    | "       | .. .. |  | 11,249                    | 3,000               | 1,475 | 275            | 550             | 700         | 1,200        |
| Wellington                    | "       | .. †  |  | 8,550                     | 2,769               | 1,816 | 340            | 418             | 195         | 275          |
| Drayton                       | Rural   | .. †  |  | 7,888                     | 2,319               | 463   | 1,392          | 232             | 232         | 250          |
| Shifnal                       | "       | .. .. |  | 7,583                     | 2,586               | —     | —              | —               | —           | —            |
| Wellington                    | "       | .. .. |  | 16,118                    | 5,400               | —     | —              | —               | 126         | —            |
| <b>Dr. Symons.</b>            |         |       |  |                           |                     |       |                |                 |             |              |
| Shrewsbury                    | Borough | .. .. |  | 36,732                    | 11,400              | —     | —              | —               | 943         | —            |

† Medical Officer of Health indicated that figures were approximate.

\* 1939 figures. — Figures not available.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

No new grants towards the capital cost of schemes of water supply have been sanctioned during the year by the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and several schemes previously approved for grant under this Section have been postponed as a result of the War.

The table on page 27 gives particulars of the grants which have been paid or promised by the County Council in respect of schemes of water supply, from which it will be seen that the County Council has approved the payment of grants up to a possible total of £48,123, towards the capital cost of new schemes, the actual or estimated cost of which amounts to a total of £155,839.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

One application for a County Council contribution towards the cost of a sewage scheme was received during the year 1944. This was made by the Shifnal Rural District Council in respect of the Albrighton Scheme, and the County Council agreed to contribute 25 per cent. of the estimated nett capital cost of £11,628, up to a maximum of £2,907.

As in the case of water supplies, the majority of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, which were approved for purposes of grant, have been postponed as a result of the War, and the particulars of the grants paid or promised by the County Council in respect of approved schemes are given in the table on page 28. From this table it will be seen that the County Council has approved the payment of grants amounting to a possible total of £31,851, towards the actual or estimated capital cost of new schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, the total cost of which amounts to £157,423.

### HOUSING.

The administration of the various Housing Acts is the responsibility of the District Councils, the County Council's functions being mainly supervisory.

**Housing Act, 1936.**—Under Section 88 of the Act, it is a special duty of the County Council to have constant regard to the housing conditions of persons of the working classes within the Rural Districts, and to obtain information regarding conditions of, and progress in, housing through the medium of returns to be supplied at least annually by the Councils of the Districts.

Under Section 115, it was the duty of the County Council, prior to 1st January, 1939, to contribute to a Rural District Council £1 per house for a period of 40 years in respect of each new house built to meet the needs of the agricultural population; but since that date the payments to be made by the County Council are as required by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, under which this section of the Act of 1936 has been repealed.

**Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.**—This Act amends the law with respect to the making of contributions by the Minister of Health and County Councils, and may be cited together with the Housing Act, 1936, as the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1938.

In respect of each new house completed after 31st December, 1939, by any Council of a County District, the Minister may pay an annual contribution for 40 years of either £5 10s. 0d. or £6 10s. 0d. under Section 1, or £10 for the same period under Section 2; and in such case the County Council are obliged, by Section 7 of the Act, to make a contribution of £1 for 40 years to the Local Authority. (In exceptional circumstances the Minister may increase the contribution under Section 2 to £12 per annum, in which case the annual payment by the County Council will be proportionately increased.)

#### Grants under Housing Acts, 1936—1938.

| District Council.  | No. of Houses. | County Council Grant. |               |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                    |                | Period (Yrs.)         | Paid to date. |
| Wenlock Borough .. | 6              | 40                    | £ 36          |
| Atcham Rural .. .. | 36             | 40                    | 169           |
| Clun .. ..         | 37             | 40                    | 164           |
| Drayton .. ..      | 42             | 40                    | 239           |
| Ellesmere .. ..    | 54             | 40                    | 304           |
| Oswestry .. ..     | 12             | 40                    | 124           |
| Wellington .. ..   | 34             | 40                    | 167           |
|                    | 221            |                       | £1,203        |

# WATER SCHEMES—COUNTY COUNCIL GRANTS.

| District.     | Scheme.                         | Approved<br>by C.C. | Scope of Scheme   |                   | Esti-<br>mated<br>Cost. | Ministry<br>Grant. | Loan.            |                  | Annual Charges. |                  | County Council Grant.  |               |                  |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
|               |                                 |                     | No. of<br>Houses. | Inhab-<br>itants. |                         |                    | Author-<br>ised. | Period<br>(Yrs.) | Loan.           | Main-<br>tenance | Basis.                 | Max-<br>imum. | Paid to<br>date. |
| Atcham R.     | Pimhill                         | 4/5/35              | 288               | 1,152             | £ 16,300                | £ 2,500            | £ 14,820         | 30               | £ —             | £ —              | 50% annual<br>deficit  | £ 6,675       | £ 1,522          |
|               | West Atcham                     | 2/5/36              | 1,876             | 7,596             | 75,100                  | 15,000             | 57,297           | 30               | 4,285           | 700              | „                      | 24,000        | 4,287            |
| Bridgnorth R. | Stottesdon                      | 6/11/37             | 28                | 100               | 2,660                   | 250                | 3,100            | 30               | 153             | 50               | Block Grant            | 250           | 250              |
|               | Kinlet                          | 6/11/37             | 27                | 100               | 1,350                   | 150                | —                | —                | 48              | 30               | „                      | 150           | 150              |
| Clun R.       | Bucknell                        | 27/7/35             | 72                | 280               | 2,915                   | 200                | —                | 25               | 169             | 20               | 50% annual<br>deficit  | 885           | 81               |
|               | Worthen and<br>Brockton         | 1/5/37              | 88                | 350               | 4,500                   | 400                | 4,100            | 30               | —               | —                | „                      | 1,245         | 291              |
| Drayton R.    | Kempton                         | 1/2/36              | 31                | 110               | 2,200                   | 250                | 1,650            | 30               | —               | —                | Block Grant            | 300           | 300              |
|               | *Wentnor<br>Norbury<br>Myndtown | 4/2/39              | 50                | 190               | 3,500                   | 75                 | —                | 30               | 188             | 15               | 15% annual<br>deficit  | —             | *                |
| Ludlow R.     | Woore                           | 3/11/34             | 137               | 524               | 4,080                   | —                  | 3,655            | 30               | 189             | 378              | 50% annual<br>deficit  | 885           | 275              |
|               | Hodnet                          | 4/5/35              | 118               | 400               | 3,887<br>(Actual)       | 450                | —                | 25               | —               | —                | —                      | 900           | 900              |
| Oswestry R.   | Ightfield                       | 7/11/36             | 119               | 468               | 6,550                   | 75                 | 6,475            | 30               | —               | —                | 50% annual<br>deficit  | 3,179         | 652              |
|               | Norton-in-Hales                 | 24/7/37             | 67                | 200               | 1,970                   | —                  | 1,505            | 30               | 106             | 127              | „                      | 1,656         | 278              |
| Llanymynech   | Clee Hill                       | 6/11/37             | 511               | 1,930             | 5,516                   | —                  | 5,516            | 30               | 317             | 108              | 33½% annual<br>deficit | 1,837         | 309              |
|               | Weston Rhyn                     | 2/2/35              | —                 | —                 | 900                     | 150                | 750              | 30               | 58              | —                | Block Grant            | 150           | 150              |
| Nantmawr      | Llanymynech                     | 2/11/35             | 93                | 372               | 8,500                   | 1,850              | —                | —                | —               | —                | „                      | 1,850         | 1,850            |
|               | Nantmawr                        | 7/11/36             | 27                | 108               | 1,268                   | —                  | 1,160            | 30               | 68              | 5                | 50% annual<br>deficit  | 639           | 106              |
| Llynclys      | Gronwen                         | 7/11/36             | 10                | 40                | 437                     | —                  | 373              | 30               | 23              | 2                | „                      | 225           | 21               |
|               | Llynclys                        | 7/11/36             | 24                | 96                | 783                     | —                  | 746              | 30               | 14              | 5                | „                      | 415           | 69               |
| *Pentre       | Selattyn (Ext'n)                | 7/11/36             | 1,186             | 4,744             | 1,748                   | —                  | 1,748            | 30               | 92              | 277              | „                      | 2,032         | 203              |
|               | *Pentre                         | 7/11/36             | 28                | 112               | 1,469                   | 75                 | —                | —                | 69              | 27               | „                      | —             | *                |
| Wellington R. | *Ruyton-xi-Towns                | 7/11/36             | 114               | 456               | 4,556                   | 175                | —                | —                | 230             | 68               | „                      | —             | *                |
|               | Edgmond                         | 2/11/35             | 200               | 800               | 5,350                   | 850                | —                | —                | —               | —                | Block Grant            | 850           | 850              |
|               |                                 |                     |                   |                   | £155,839                |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                        |               |                  |
|               |                                 |                     |                   |                   |                         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  | £48,123                | £12,544       |                  |

## SEWERAGE SCHEMES COUNTY COUNCIL GRANTS.

| District      | Scheme.                     | Approved<br>by C.C. | Scope of Scheme.  |                   | Esti-<br>mated<br>Cost. | Loan.                |                | Annual Charges. |                   | County Council Grant. |               |                  |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
|               |                             |                     | No. of<br>Houses. | Inhab-<br>itants. |                         | Author-<br>ised.     | Period.        | Loan.           | Main-<br>tenance. | Basis.                | Maxi-<br>mum. | Paid to<br>date. |
| Wenlock B.    | Broseley ..                 | 4/2/39              | 540               | 2,200             | £ 8,800                 | £ 8,800              | 30             | £ 485           | £ 200             | 15% Cost              | £ 1,320       | £ 1,320          |
| Dawley U.     | Dawley ..                   | 4/2/39              | 1,535             | 5,117             | 40,960                  | 38,600<br>2,360      | 30<br>15       | 2,340           | 300               | 20% ..                | 8,200         | —                |
| Ludlow R.     | Cleobury<br>Mortimer ..     | 4/2/39              | 242               | 968               | 6,250                   | 6,250                | 30             | 327             | 65                | 15% ..                | 937           | —                |
| Oswestry R.   | Weston Rhyn ..              | 4/2/39              | 314               | 1,256             | 13,500                  | 13,500               | 30             | 741             | 223               | 15% ..                | 2,025         | —                |
| Shifnal R.    | Albrighton ..               | 4/11/44             | 783               | 2,800             | 11,628                  | 10,805<br>669<br>154 | 30<br>15<br>10 | 641             | 120               | 25% ..                | 2,907         | —                |
| Wellington R. | Ketley and<br>Lawley ..     | 2/5/36              | 796               | 650               | 31,975                  | 22,398               | 30             | 659             | 300               | 25% ..                | 8,000         | 8,000            |
|               | Donnington and<br>Muxton .. | 4/2/39              | 388               | 1,552             | 18,460                  | 600<br>17,204<br>666 | 60<br>30<br>15 | 1,028           | 100               | 20% ..                | 3,692         | 3,692            |
|               | (Extension) ..              | 28/10/39            | —                 | —                 | 9,000                   | —                    | —              | —               | —                 | 20% ..                | 1,400         | 1,400            |
|               | ..                          | 29/5/43             | —                 | —                 | 16,850                  | 14,625<br>2,225      | 30<br>20       | 919             | 100               | 20% ..                | 3,370         | —                |
|               |                             |                     |                   |                   | £157,423                |                      |                |                 |                   |                       | £31,851       | £14,412          |

### VENEREAL DISEASE.

There is no evidence of any material increase in the prevalence of Venereal Disease in this County as a result of war-time conditions. Particulars of the cases dealt with under the various arrangements made by the County Council are given below.

**Clinics.**—The main treatment centre for Shropshire cases is, of course, the Shrewsbury Clinic, but the Oswestry Clinic, which was opened in 1941, seems to have justified its existence. Although the number of cases dealt with at Oswestry is not large, the measure of its success must not be judged by the number of patients in attendance, as it is conceivable that a great deal of harm could be done even by a small number of cases for whom treatment facilities were not locally available. It would have been very difficult to secure the attendance at Shrewsbury of certain of the cases who were dealt with at Oswestry; and the number of cases, if not the number of attendances, at this Clinic is comparable with those who attended the Wolverhampton Clinic from the east of the County.

**Treatment by General Medical Practitioners.**—General Medical Practitioners with the necessary qualifications, who are willing to undertake at the expense of the County Council, the treatment in their own Surgeries of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, dealt with eleven male and eight female cases during the year.

**Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.**—This hostel is available for girls and women suffering from Venereal Disease who are unsuitable for treatment at clinics. During the year one case was admitted from this County.

#### Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1943 and 1944.

|                           | SHREWSBURY CLINIC. |      |         |      |        |      |              |      |         |      |        |      |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------|---------|------|--------|------|--------------|------|---------|------|--------|------|
|                           | Cases.             |      |         |      |        |      | Attendances. |      |         |      |        |      |
|                           | Male.              |      | Female. |      | Total. |      | Male.        |      | Female. |      | Total. |      |
|                           | 1943               | 1944 | 1943    | 1944 | 1943   | 1944 | 1943         | 1944 | 1943    | 1944 | 1943   | 1944 |
| Syphilis .. ..            | 54                 | 60   | 72      | 70   | 126    | 130  | 439          | 394  | 864     | 725  | 1303   | 1119 |
| Soft Chancre .. ..        | —                  | —    | —       | —    | —      | —    | —            | —    | —       | —    | —      | —    |
| Gonorrhoea .. ..          | 75                 | 45   | 50      | 40   | 125    | 85   | 183          | 110  | 135     | 171  | 318    | 281  |
| Other conditions ..       | 68                 | 65   | 97      | 130  | 165    | 195  | 130          | 125  | 318     | 362  | 448    | 487  |
| Totals .. ..              | 197                | 170  | 219     | 240  | 416    | 410  | 752          | 629  | 1317    | 1258 | 2069   | 1887 |
| Increase (+) Decrease (—) | —27                |      | +21     |      | —6     |      | —123         |      | —59     |      | —182   |      |

|                           | OSWESTRY CLINIC. |      |         |      |        |      |              |      |         |      |        |      |
|---------------------------|------------------|------|---------|------|--------|------|--------------|------|---------|------|--------|------|
|                           | Cases.           |      |         |      |        |      | Attendances. |      |         |      |        |      |
|                           | Male.            |      | Female. |      | Total. |      | Male.        |      | Female. |      | Total. |      |
|                           | 1943             | 1944 | 1943    | 1944 | 1943   | 1944 | 1943         | 1944 | 1943    | 1944 | 1943   | 1944 |
| Syphilis .. ..            | 6                | 11   | 5       | 5    | 11     | 16   | 55           | 51   | 63      | 56   | 118    | 107  |
| Soft Chancre .. ..        | —                | —    | —       | —    | —      | —    | —            | —    | —       | —    | —      | —    |
| Gonorrhoea .. ..          | 15               | 9    | 8       | 6    | 23     | 15   | 23           | 32   | 28      | 11   | 51     | 43   |
| Other conditions ..       | 9                | 2    | 10      | 22   | 19     | 24   | 54           | 5    | 34      | 43   | 88     | 48   |
| Totals .. ..              | 30               | 22   | 23      | 33   | 53     | 55   | 132          | 88   | 125     | 110  | 257    | 198  |
| Increase (+) Decrease (—) | —8               |      | +10     |      | +2     |      | —44          |      | —15     |      | —59    |      |

|                          | WOLVERHAMPTON CLINIC. |      |              |      | General Medical Practitioners. |      |         |      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------------------|------|---------|------|
|                          | Cases.                |      | Attendances. |      | Cases                          |      | Female. |      |
|                          | 1943                  | 1944 | 1943         | 1944 | 1943                           | 1944 | 1943    | 1944 |
| Syphilis .. .. .         | 3                     | 4    | 190          | 264  | 1                              | 4    | —       | —    |
| Soft Chancre .. .. .     | —                     | —    |              |      | —                              | —    | —       | —    |
| Gonorrhoea .. .. .       | 3                     | 8    |              |      | —                              | 2    | 1       | 1    |
| Other conditions .. .. . | 13                    | 14   |              |      | 1                              | 5    | 1       | 7    |
| Totals .. .. .           | 19                    | 26   | 190          | 264  | 2                              | 11   | 2       | 8    |
| Increase (+) .. .. .     |                       |      |              |      |                                |      |         |      |
| Decrease (—) .. .. .     | +7                    |      | +74          |      | +7                             |      | +6      |      |

#### Examination of Pathological Specimens from Treatment Centres.

|                         | Culture. | Serum. | Microscopic. |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Salop Clinics .. .. .   | 85       | 244    | 269          |
| Wolverhampton Clinic .. | 4        | 77     | 98           |

**Regulation 33.B.**—In January, 1943, Regulation 33.B. was added to the Defence (General) Regulations, and provides for the compulsory treatment of Venereal Disease in certain circumstances. The object of the Regulation is to bring under medical care those infected persons who have shown themselves unresponsive to educational propaganda, or to methods of persuasion, and who remain a constant source of danger to the health of the community. The following is a brief outline of the scheme.

When a Medical Officer, specially approved by the Ministry of Health for the purposes of the treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, and therefore referred to in the Regulation as a "Special Practitioner," is informed by one of his patients of the source of infection, and the person named has been reported in this way on more than one occasion, that person, described in the Regulation as the "contact," comes within the category of those liable to be dealt with under this Regulation.

Notification of such cases is sent by the Special Practitioner to the Medical Officer of Health of the County or County Borough in which the contact resides, and the Medical Officer of Health is required on receipt of the second notification to serve a notice requiring the attendance of the contact for examination and treatment by a Special Practitioner. In the event of failure to comply with this notice, the person named is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment or fine, or both; and attendance for treatment is required until a Certificate is received from the Special Practitioner stating that the patient is free from Venereal Disease in a communicable form.

Subsequent to the coming into force of Regulation 33.B., the Ministry of Health issued a Circular stating that there was some misunderstanding of the position, and therefore a difference of opinion regarding the action which could be taken when *only one notification* had been received in respect of an alleged contact. The Ministry suggested that, by the paying of an informal visit

before the receipt of a second notification, much might be done to prevent the spread of infection; and the Public Health Committee, after considering this Circular, decided that the County Medical Officer of Health should not of necessity await a second notification, but should, at his discretion, take such informal action as seemed desirable on receipt of the first notification.

It may be pointed out that, notwithstanding the power which Regulation 33.B. gives to the Venereal Diseases Authority to serve notice on the contact requiring his compulsory attendance for treatment on receipt of a second notification, the recommendation of the Ministry of Health is that, before serving such a notice, a second informal visit should be paid, and that the notice should only be served when failure to attend shows that the second informal visit has not achieved its object.

All contacts are therefore visited immediately and informally on receipt of the first notification, but of course no other action can be taken to secure attendance in any particular case pending the receipt of a second notification from a Special Practitioner. When this is received in the case of a contact who has not responded to the first informal visit, a second such visit is paid; and if the contact does not then attend for treatment a formal notice is served. As there is often some delay in securing attendance for treatment while awaiting the result of the second informal visit, the desirability of serving a notice on receipt of the second notification without any further informality is worthy of consideration.

During 1944, the number of contacts notified (all of whom were females) was 23, and the necessary visits, formal and informal, were carried out with the following results:—

|                                                                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Number who attended for treatment on one informal visit .. .. .                   | 4        |
| “ “ “ “ “ “ two “ visits .. .. .                                                  | 0        |
| “ “ “ “ “ “ notice being served .. .. .                                           | 2        |
| Number who did not attend:—                                                       |          |
| (a) Promised but failed to attend after one notification .. .. .                  | 7        |
| (b) Could not be traced .. .. .                                                   | 6        |
| (c) Not visited—at first no visits were paid in absence of second notification .. | 4        |
|                                                                                   | <hr/> 23 |

### BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following examinations have been carried out on behalf of the County Council at the Donaldson-Hudson Pathological Laboratories, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury:—

|                                                       |                                   |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs                            | For Diphtheria bacilli .. .. .    | 1190 |
|                                                       | “ Haemolytic Streptococci .. .. . | 1815 |
|                                                       | “ Vincents Angina .. .. .         | 938  |
|                                                       | Other Examinations .. .. .        | 236  |
| Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli                     | Microscopic .. .. .               | 1260 |
|                                                       | Culture .. .. .                   | 912  |
|                                                       | Other examinations .. .. .        | 74   |
| General Cultural Examinations of Sputum .. .. .       |                                   | 52   |
| Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms .. .. .               |                                   | 482  |
| Widals Tests .. .. .                                  |                                   | 81   |
| Venereal Diseases Examinations:—Serological .. .. .   |                                   | 1257 |
|                                                       | Bacteriological .. .. .           | 919  |
| Bacteriological Examinations of Water samples .. .. . |                                   | 1106 |
| Bacteriological Examinations of Milk samples .. .. .  |                                   | 196  |
| Other Bacteriological Examinations .. .. .            |                                   | 1652 |
| Haematology—Blood counts, etc. .. .. .                |                                   | 449  |
| Biochemical Examinations .. .. .                      |                                   | 334  |

### BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

**Register of Blind Persons.**—On the 31st March, 1945, there were 438 blind persons on the Register. Particulars of these persons are as follows :—

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Persons of independent means .. .. .              | 10  |
| Home Workers .. .. .                              | 20  |
| Workshop Employees .. .. .                        | 1   |
| Members of St. Dunstan's .. .. .                  | 14  |
| Persons otherwise employed .. .. .                | 23  |
| Unemployable persons living at home .. .. .       | 319 |
| Persons in Homes for the Blind .. .. .            | 8   |
| Persons in Public Assistance Institutions .. .. . | 25  |
| Inmates of Asylums .. .. .                        | 5   |
| Adults undergoing training .. .. .                | 2   |
| Children in Special Schools for the Blind .. .. . | 10  |
| Children under 5 years of age .. .. .             | 1   |

**Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.**—During the Financial Year which ended on the 31st March, 1945, £10,758 was paid in Domiciliary Relief of the Blind. This figure includes amounts subsequently reclaimed from other Counties, the amount reclaimed being £695.

**Home Workers.**—The average number of Home Workers supervised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind was 21 ; and the average number of visits paid to each during the year was 4. The earnings of Home Workers average 32/-, and this was supplemented by an average weekly augmentation of 28/10d.

**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, as well as a "Utilicon" which at times undertakes ambulance duties).

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

|                                                   |   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---|
| County Council .. .. .                            | 4 |
| Local Authorities .. .. .                         | 7 |
| Voluntary Hospitals .. .. .                       | 2 |
| Lady Forester Hospital, Much Wenlock.             |   |
| Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. |   |
| Other Voluntary Bodies .. .. .                    | 5 |
| St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Shrewsbury ;        |   |
| Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee ;       |   |
| Ludlow Joint Ambulance Committee ;                |   |
| Madeley Ambulance Committee ;                     |   |
| Albrighton Ambulance Committee.                   |   |
| Private Enterprise.                               |   |
| Newport .. .. .                                   | 1 |

### MENTAL HEALTH.

**Mental Treatment Act, 1930.**—The Mental Treatment Clinic held weekly sessions at the Royal Salop Infirmary during the year ended the 31st March, 1945. Sixty-eight new patients were seen at the Clinic by the Medical Officer, Dr. Stanley Hughes, during the year, and re-visits were made by 38 of these patients.

Forty-nine "voluntary" and two "temporary" patients were admitted to the Salop Mental Hospital during the same period.

### Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

**Statistics.**—The following are particulars of the numbers of defectives dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts on the 31st December, 1944, and the 31st December, 1943 :—

|                                          | MALES.    |      |          |      | FEMALES.  |      |          |      | Total. |      |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|------|----------|------|-----------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
|                                          | Under 16. |      | Over 16. |      | Under 16. |      | Over 16. |      |        |      |
|                                          | 1943      | 1944 | 1943     | 1944 | 1943      | 1944 | 1943     | 1944 | 1943   | 1944 |
| Cases in State Institutions .. ..        | —         | —    | 6        | 6    | —         | —    | 6        | 7    | 12     | 13   |
| Cases in Certified Institutions .. ..    | 13        | 12   | 85       | 88   | 7         | 6    | 120      | 121  | 225    | 227  |
| Cases on Licence from Institutions .. .. | —         | —    | 13       | 13   | —         | —    | 22       | 23   | 35     | 36   |
| Cases under Guardianship .. ..           | —         | —    | 6        | 6    | —         | —    | 19       | 14   | 25     | 20   |
| Cases on Licence from Guardianship .. .. | —         | —    | 1        | 1    | —         | —    | 2        | 4    | 3      | 5    |
| Cases under Statutory Supervision .. ..  | 20        | 21   | 96       | 97   | 26        | 27   | 92       | 94   | 234    | 239  |
| Grand Totals .. ..                       | 33        | 33   | 207      | 211  | 33        | 33   | 261      | 263  | 534    | 540  |

In addition to the above there were 712 defectives, not formally supervised under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act, who were kept under friendly supervision by the Health Visitors. A further 79 mental defectives were accommodated in Public Assistance Institutions, and 115 in the Mental Hospital.

**School Cases.**—The following are particulars of educable mentally defective children under the Salop Education Committee on 31st December, 1944 :—

|                                              | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| In Special Schools .. ..                     | 6     | 5       | 11     |
| Awaiting admission to a Special School .. .. | 2     | 3       | 5      |
| Under Supervision of School Nurses .. ..     | 76    | 49      | 125    |
|                                              | 84    | 57      | 141    |

There were in addition 111 school-children (69 boys and 42 girls) whose mental condition had been called in question, about fifty per cent. of whom, it has been estimated, will probably prove to be feeble-minded. It has thus been calculated that there were a total of 196 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority, who are eligible for admission to Special Schools.

