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County Council of Salop

REPORT

FOR 1946 and 1947

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health



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

SHREWSBURY
AUGUST, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Health Services and Sanitary Circumstances of the County during the years 1946 and 1947.

It is regretted that this Report has been so long delayed, but covering as it does the two years immediately preceding that in which the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, it may have an interest which it would not otherwise possess; and the statistical information for each of the years in question has been set out separately in order to maintain the annual nature of the Report.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY.

August, 1949.

REPORT FOR THE YEARS 1946 & 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County	.. .. .	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	.. .. .	244,156
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	.. .. .	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	.. .. .	60,904
	1946	1947
Estimated Population Mid-Year	Whole County—for Birth and Death Rates	262,020
	Urban Districts—for Birth and Death Rates	135,000
	Rural Districts—for Birth and Death Rates	127,020
Rateable Value (as at 1st April)	.. .. .	£1,368,461
Estimated Product of a penny rate (as at 1st April)	.. .. .	£5,556
		£1,406,907
		£5,676

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Registrar-General.

		1946	1947
LIVE BIRTHS	Male	2360	2642
	Female	2323	2539
	Total Male and Female	4683	5181
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	17.87	19.57
	Legitimate		
	Male	222	171
	Female	185	186
	Total Male and Female	407	357
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	1.55	1.35
	Illegitimate		
Totals	Male	2582	2813
	Female	2508	2725
	Total Male and Female	5090	5538
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	19.42	20.92
STILL-BIRTHS	Male	67	75
	Female	49	63
	Total Male and Female	116	138
	Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	22.28	24.14
DEATHS	Male	1613	1577
	Female	1564	1674
	Total Male and Female	3177	3251
	Rate per 1,000 of Population	12.1	12.28
Deaths of women in, or in consequence of, child-birth :			
	From Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	1	1
	From other causes	5	10
	Total	6	11
	Rate per 1,000 live births	1.1	1.99
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :			
	All infants per 1,000 live births	43.03	39.73
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	40.15	38.60
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76.17	56.02
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			
	.. .. .	462	473
	Measles (all ages)	0	6
	Whooping Cough (all ages)	4	2
	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	19	12
	Diphtheria (all ages)	2	2

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The mid-year estimated population of the County for Birth-rates and Death-rates was 262,020 in 1946; and 264,800 in 1947.

Marriages.—The number of marriages in 1946 was 2,275.
In 1947 there were 2,425 marriages, an increase of 150 over 1946.

Births.—The number of live births in 1946 was 5,090.
In 1947 there were 5,538 births, an increase of 448 over 1946.
The birth-rates per thousand of the population were :—

1946 : 19.42.

1947 : 20.92, an increase of 1.48 as compared with 1946.

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 19.1 in 1946; and 20.5 in 1947.

Deaths.—The number of deaths in 1946 was 3,177.
In 1947 there were 3,251 deaths, an increase of 74 over 1946.

The death-rates per thousand of the population were :—

1946 : 12.1.

1947 : 12.8, an increase of 0.7 as compared with 1946.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.5 per thousand in 1946, and 12.0 per thousand in 1947.

Infant Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 219 in 1946, and 220 in 1947.

The infant mortality, expressed as a rate per thousand live births, is as follows :—

1946 : 43.03.

1947 : 39.73, a decrease of 3.3 as compared with 1946.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 43 per thousand in 1946, and 41 per thousand in 1947.

Cancer.—In 1946 there were 462 deaths from Cancer, an increase of 23 as compared with the previous year.

In 1947 there were 473 deaths, an increase of 11 over the 1946 deaths from Cancer.

The 1946 death-rate from Cancer of 1.768 per thousand showed an increase of .057 per thousand over the previous year; and the death-rate from this disease rose by .018 to 1.786 per thousand in 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The statistical table on page 5 summarises the notifications of infectious disease which were received during the years 1946 and 1947.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—During the latter half of 1947, Acute Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) assumed almost epidemic significance throughout the whole country. The County of Salop being mainly rural in character was not affected to the same degree as the more densely populated areas, but the incidence of this disease increased, and thirty-two cases were notified.

The following table, which shows the yearly incidence of this disease during the decade up to and including the year 1947, will therefore be of interest.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	15	4	4	1	5	10	13	5	32
Deaths ..	1	2	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	2

Acute Poliomyelitis is a disease of orthopaedic as well as of infectious significance, inasmuch as it is liable to give rise to paralysis of groups of muscles with consequent deformities, and the County Council's scheme for the treatment of orthopaedic conditions prior to 1947 included the hospital treatment of Acute Poliomyelitis from the initially febrile stage, in an endeavour to obviate the deformities which inevitably tend to follow the muscular paralysis to which this disease gives rise. During the latter part of 1947, however, as a result of the publicity which the outbreak obtained, and the general alarm produced throughout the country, any febrile illness became suspect, and the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital became inundated with requests from Medical Practitioners to receive for observation patients suffering from febrile illnesses. The strain put upon the resources of the hospital, and the risk of introducing other forms of infectious disease into the wards led to an early revision of the arrangements for the treatment of early cases.

Accordingly, in August of 1947, at the request of the hospital, it was agreed to limit the County Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, which had previously covered all suspected as well as proved cases, to those showing definite signs of paralysis and, therefore, in need of immediate orthopaedic treatment.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the years 1946 and 1947 :

SANITARY DISTRICTS	Population (Census 1931) 244,156	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Small Pox	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Para-Typhoid)	Erysipelas	Chicken Pox
1946																	
RURAL ..	122,491	61	297	4	94	83	6	3	—	—	7	5	22	—	1	11	—
URBAN ..	121,665	109	294	6	121	82	3	2	—	1	12	8	18	—	5	16	—
Totals for 1946 ..		170	591	10	215	165	9	5	—	1	19	13	40	—	6	27	—
Totals for 1945 ..		345	483	7	2095	159	12	13	—	—	89	54	60	—	—	40	—
Increase or Decrease ..		—175	+108	+3	—1880	+6	—3	—8	—	+1	—70	—41	—20	—	+6	—13	—
1947																	
RURAL ..	122,491	101	220	1	1313	79	3	13	1	1	2	27	11	—	—	19	—
URBAN ..	121,665	82	245	16	1672	65	3	17	1	—	1	19	15	—	1	7	—
Totals for 1947 ..		183	465	17	2985	144	6	30	2	1	3	46	26	—	1	26	—
Totals for 1946 ..		170	591	10	215	165	9	5	—	1	19	13	40	—	6	27	—
Increase or Decrease ..		+13	—126	+7	+2770	—21	—3	+25	+2	—	—16	+33	—14	—	—5	—1	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.—In 1942 the County Council assumed concurrent responsibility with the District Councils for ensuring that immunisation against diphtheria was available to all children below the age of fifteen years whose parents were willing to accept the treatment; and except in the Borough of Shrewsbury, which had a very complete scheme of its own, much the greater part of the Diphtheria Immunisation work in the County was carried out under the County Council scheme by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Since 1st January, 1946, the primary responsibility for ensuring that facilities are available for immunisation against diphtheria of children who have not attained the age of 5 years, and who are not attending a School recognised by the Ministry of Education, has been placed upon Welfare Authorities; and during the years 1946 and 1947 the County Council was therefore primarily responsible for the immunisation of these children in the whole County with the exception of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which, until the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948, was an independent Child Welfare Authority.

The following table gives particulars of 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 during the years 1946 and 1947 :—

Children immunised in the County of Salop during the years 1946 and 1947.

Arrangement made by	Aged under 5 years		5—15 years		Total	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
County Council	2,269	2,087	346	189	2,615	2,276
Borough of Shrewsbury	533	469	62	46	595	515
Other Districts in the County	604	609	138	89	742	698
Totals	3,406	3,165	546	324	3,952	3,489

During the years 1946 and 1947, the percentages of children under five years of age who were actually immunised were 73.6 and 79.3 respectively.

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

On the 31st December, 1946, of children under five years of age, 52 per cent. had been immunised; and 84.5 per cent of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, giving a total for all children under 15 years of age of 73.3 per cent.

On the 31st December, 1947, of children under five years of age, 49.3 per cent. had been immunised; and 87.3 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, giving a total for all children under the age of fifteen years of 73.2 per cent.

The table on page 7 sets out in detail the numbers dealt with in the individual Districts in the County during the years 1946 and 1947, 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 during 1946 and 1947.

Area	Local Sanitary Authority	Number Immunised during 1946			Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1946			Number Immunised during 1947			Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1947		
		Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs.	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs.	0—15 yrs. of age	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs.	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs.	0—15 yrs. of age
North-West Combined Districts	Ellesmere Urban	28	3	31	59	87	79	32	3	35	58	90	79
	Ellesmere Rural	86	6	92	54	92	81	44	4	48	46	93	78
	Oswestry Borough	112	56	168	53	96	82	96	18	114	46	97	79
	Oswestry Rural	207	31	238	53	88	77	208	9	217	52	98	82
	Wem Urban	36	1	37	76	99	91	43	9	52	63	75	70
	Wem Rural	120	37	157	50	65	60	113	4	117	41	73	61
North-East Combined Districts	Whitchurch Urban	40	4	44	34	85	67	61	2	63	33	88	68
	Dawley Urban	121	4	125	56	64	61	139	27	166	60	73	68
	Market Drayton Urban	96	2	98	50	99	80	73	5	78	47	89	73
	Drayton Rural	74	14	88	41	77	65	84	15	99	35	85	65
	Newport Urban	62	—	62	42	54	49	40	1	41	54	79	70
	Oakengates Urban	67	6	73	29	73	57	81	12	93	30	79	60
South-West Combined Districts	Shifnal Rural	224	16	240	51	85	73	79	11	90	37	78	62
	Wellington Urban	87	16	103	40	90	71	110	4	114	35	86	67
	Wellington Rural	320	21	341	54	75	67	293	26	319	51	89	75
	Atcham Rural	308	63	371	58	90	80	327	31	358	65	95	84
	Bishop's Castle Borough	10	—	10	63	92	82	20	1	21	52	95	78
	Church Stretton Urban	24	3	27	67	77	74	40	4	44	73	90	84
Bridgnorth	Clun Rural	153	17	170	66	86	79	140	7	147	62	90	79
	Wenlock Borough	195	42	237	61	95	83	166	27	193	52	95	79
	Ludlow Borough	90	74	164	64	96	84	108	24	132	68	90	82
	Ludlow Rural	202	22	224	51	90	77	172	19	191	57	90	78
Shrewsbury	Bridgnorth Borough	57	31	88	48	64	59	68	5	73	44	58	53
	Bridgnorth Rural	154	15	169	48	70	62	159	10	169	45	73	63
Shrewsbury		533	62	595	54	94	80	469	46	515	51	91	77
WHOLE COUNTY		3,406	546	3,952	52.0	84.5	73.3	3,165	324	3,489	49.3	87.3	73.2

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

Notifications of and Deaths from Diphtheria since 1935.

Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Notifications ..	223	301	206	185	133	236	237	121	53	25	7	5	13
Deaths	20	20	7	19	13	11	9	6	6	1	—	2	2

The children who died during 1946 and 1947 had not been immunised.

The following table gives the number of immunisations carried out each year since 1942, and shows that, under the scheme of the County Council, a total of 20,888 children have been immunised by the Assistant Medical Officers. It will be seen that the number of children immunised during 1946 fell to 2,615 as compared with 2,981 during the previous year, and that during the year 1947 the number of children immunised again fell to 2,276.

Children immunised in the County since, and inclusive of, 1942.

YEAR	Under County Council's Scheme			Under Scheme for Borough of Shrewsbury			Under District Councils' Schemes		
	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total
1942	2,949	1,525	4,474	865	769	1,634	2,126	6,016	8,142
1943	3,159	2,729	5,888	473	353	826	302	1,487	1,789
1944	2,169	485	2,654	483	103	586	431	107	538
1945	2,509	472	2,981	535	55	590	335	6	341
1946	2,269	346	2,615	533	62	595	604	138	742
1947	2,087	189	2,276	469	46	515	609	89	698
Totals for 6 years ..	15,142	5,746	20,888	3,358	1,388	4,746	4,407	7,843	12,250

Propaganda.—A press publicity campaign took place during the months of March and April, 1946, and again during the months of September and October, 1947. In addition propaganda films were shown at thirteen cinemas in the County during the year 1947 and 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 life is relatively insusceptible to Diphtheria, but thereafter becomes more liable to contract the disease. Arrangements have therefore been made for the parents of every child 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 franked

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.

Until 5th July, 1948, the County Council was responsible for the administration of the Vaccination Acts, repealed from that date by the National Health Service Act, 1946, 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 vacancies caused by resignations of existing Vaccination Officers. The Chief Clerk, until 5th July, 1948, when the National Health Service Act came into operation, acted as Vaccination Officer for the following fifteen Vaccination Districts, namely, Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer, Clun, Dawley, Ellesmere, Llanfairwaterdine, Ludlow, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates, Shrewsbury, Wellington and Wem. These Districts included approximately 74.3 per cent. of the population of the County.

The tables on pages 10 and 11 give information regarding the work under the Vaccination Acts for the years 1945, 1946, and 1947. From these tables it will be observed that in 1945 there were 4,621 births registered, 1,155 declarations of conscientious objection, and 2,154 certificates of successful primary vaccination—the equivalent of 46.61 per cent. of the total births for the year.

In 1946, there were 5,101 births registered, 1,240 declarations of conscientious objection, and 2,459 certificates of successful primary vaccination—the equivalent of 48.21 per cent. of the total births for the year.

The following tables show the vaccination sub-districts with the highest and lowest percentages of vaccinations in the County for the years 1945 and 1946 :—

1945							
<i>Highest Percentages</i>				<i>Lowest Percentages</i>			
Chirbury	..	..	76.74	Madeley	..	..	25.75
Melverley	..	..	75.00	Oswestry	..	..	23.45
Craven Arms	..	..	68.75	Shifnal	..	..	22.50
Church Stretton	..	..	68.57	Oakengates	..	..	13.33
1946							
Church Stretton	..	..	77.14	Madeley	..	..	34.77
Craven Arms	..	..	72.34	Shifnal	..	..	28.82
Market Drayton	..	..	67.24	Oswestry	..	..	28.17
Shrewsbury	..	..	64.55	Oakengates	..	..	3.77

Vaccination of Infants in 1945										Vaccination of Children in 1945 and 1946			
VACCINATION DISTRICTS	VACCINATION SUB-DISTRICTS	Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated	Insusceptible of Vaccination	Declarations of Conscientious Objection	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	1945	1946
			No.	%						1945	1946	1945	1946
Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth	280	156	55.71	—	3	1	16	12	173	182	91	101
	Cleobury Mortimer	75	44	58.67	2	1	—	3	—	66	68	30	32
Clun	Bishop's Castle	31	19	61.29	—	3	—	1	1	32	37	8	11
	Chirbury	43	33	76.74	—	2	—	1	—	41	42	6	9
	Clun	69	43	62.32	2	1	—	—	8	41	14	24	5
Ludlow	Church Stretton	35	24	68.57	—	1	1	2	—	61	79	13	9
	Craven Arms	48	33	68.75	—	2	2	8	—	36	56	5	1
	Ludlow	168	92	54.76	—	4	—	15	15	101	95	45	58
Oswestry	Ellesmere	103	29	28.16	—	—	—	—	50	27	50	22	12
	Oswestry	435	102	23.45	—	15	—	38	148	119	61	172	120
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury	1533	941	61.38	—	54	3	219	18	997	1095	305	305
Wellington	Dawley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	46	—
	Newport	202	56	27.72	—	5	—	—	111	76	—*	28	—*
	Oakengates	75	1	1.33	—	2	—	—	22	2	4	57	60
	Wellington	526	179	34.03	1	20	1	35	128	207	207	166	166
Wenlock	Madeley	334	86	25.75	1	15	—	17	105	88	117	114	99
	Shifnal	240	54	22.50	1	6	—	92	37	64	51	53	64
	Market Drayton	132	89	67.43	—	2	—	4	9	180	173	34	24
Whitchurch	Wem	93	48	51.61	—	3	1	4	9	102	116	28	36
	Whitchurch	198	125	63.13	1	4	3	21	—	198	110	44	42
	TOTALS	4,620	2,154	46.63	8	143	12	476	673	2,648	2,557	1,291	1,154
Percentage of total number of births for year 1945			46.63	0.17	24.98	3.10	0.26	10.30	14.57				
Percentage of total number of births for year 1944			45.86	0.13	26.65	2.41	0.39	9.30	15.25				

*Records not available.

Vaccination of Infants in 1946						Vaccination of Children in 1946 and 1947								
VACCINATION DISTRICTS	VACCINATION SUB-DISTRICTS	Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated		Insusceptible of Vaccination	Declara-tions of Consci-entious Objec-tion	Died Unvac-cinated	Vaccin-ation post-poned	Re-moved out of Dis-trict	Unac-counted for	Total No. of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination received		No. of Declarations of Conscientious Objection actually received	
			No.	%							1946	1947	1946	1947
Bridgnorth	..	297	124	41.75	1	96	9	3	16	48	182	117	101	97
Clun	Cleobury Mortimer	90	43	47.78	1	39	3	—	1	3	68	105	32	36
	Bishop's Castle	28	15	53.57	2	6	1	1	3	—	37	38	11	9
	Chirbury	42	25	59.52	2	7	2	—	3	3	42	55	9	8
Ludlow	Clun	138	80	57.97	2	34	3	—	5	14	14	51	5	15
	Church Stretton	36	27	75.00	—	5	2	—	2	—	79	60	9	6
	Craven Arms	47	34	72.34	—	3	1	1	3	5	56	28	1	5
Oswestry	Ludlow	163	79	48.47	2	54	5	2	11	10	95	115	58	40
	Ellesmere	97	42	43.30	—	9	7	—	1	38	50	57	12	17
	Oswestry	472	133	28.18	—	142	12	1	35	149	61	248	120	146
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury	1,654	1,068	64.57	4	294	67	9	177	35	1,095	1,158	305	299
	Dawley	74	33	44.60	—	28	3	—	1	9	—	52	—	52
	Newport	202	71	35.15	—	22	3	2	10	94	—*	104	—*	64
Wenlock	Oakengates	106	4	3.77	1	62	3	—	—	36	4	4	60	56
	Wellington	588	213	36.22	6	168	21	3	34	143	207	299	166	190
	Madeley	417	145	34.77	1	112	25	5	12	117	117	176	99	132
Whitechurch	Shifnal	229	66	28.82	—	73	2	—	69	19	51	76	64	48
	Market Drayton	174	117	67.24	—	27	6	—	8	16	173	155	24	24
	Wem	102	57	55.88	—	32	2	—	3	8	116	117	36	24
	Whitechurch	196	110	56.12	6	42	10	8	20	—	110	231	42	47
	TOTALS	5,152	2,486	48.25	28	1,255	187	35	414	747	2,557	3,246	1,154	1,315
Percentage of total number of births for year 1946		..	..	48.25	0.54	24.36	3.63	0.68	8.04	14.50				
Percentage of total number of births for year 1945		..	..	46.63	0.17	24.98	3.10	0.26	10.30	14.57				

*Records not available.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES.

There were no fundamental changes during 1946 and 1947 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.—The following table gives particulars of the numbers of live and still-births during 1946 and 1947 in the County as a whole, inclusive of the Borough of Shrewsbury which, prior to the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, was an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority :—

Area	1946			1947		
	Live Births	Still-Births	Total	Live Births	Still-Births	Total
County (excluding Borough of Shrewsbury)	4352	96	4448	4682	132	4814
Borough of Shrewsbury	750	25	775	797	19	816
Whole County	5102	121	5223	5479	151	5630

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff					To Children				To Expectant Mothers
					Under 1 year		1 to 5 years	Total	
					First	Total			
1945									
Whole-time	..	..	14	2258	15065	17538	32603	665	
Part-time	..	..	53	1481	16543	17189	33732	2196	
Totals	..	..		3739	31608	34727	66335	2861	
1946									
Whole-time	..	..	12	2672	11507	12527	24034	680	
Part-time	..	..	52	1603	15870	15725	31595	1687	
Totals	..	..		4275	27377	28252	55629	2367	
Increase	..	..		+536					
Decrease	..	..			—4231	—6475	—10706	—494	
1947									
Whole-time	..	..	15	2933	12868	14069	26937	595	
Part-time	..	..	52	1716	15160	13972	29132	1811	
Totals	..	..		4649	28028	28041	56069	2406	
Increase	..	..		+374	+651		+440	+39	
Decrease	..	..				—211			

Attendances (Children) at Welfare Centres in 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Welfare Centres	Under 1 year						Between 1 and 5 years					
	New Cases			Total Attendances of all Cases			New Cases			Total Attendances of all Cases		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Bishop's Castle	18	25	33	91	107	145	33	19	31	206	180	176
Bridgnorth	113	126	153	1773	1595	2222	50	48	40	1863	1946	1797
Broseley	—	—	73	—	—	643	—	—	14	—	—	331
Church Stretton	44	35	62	294	373	521	37	16	25	417	484	505
Dawley	112	116	112	1516	1486	1334	21	4	13	2190	2016	1875
Donnington	77	63	79	374	354	475	112	26	34	412	217	228
Ellesmere	51	23	54	394	268	263	4	9	20	265	265	176
Highley	46	64	55	463	392	455	5	18	5	295	388	336
Ironbridge	155	164	136	1643	1655	1762	76	32	28	1454	1312	1266
Ludlow	165	168	173	1263	1103	1314	174	159	71	1286	1099	858
Market Drayton	110	137	155	1194	1248	1485	42	89	84	1103	891	1102
Newport	60	40	60	243	260	344	115	56	41	310	277	189
Oakengates	159	132	139	2232	1430	1438	14	12	13	1155	563	423
Oswestry	210	261	276	3113	3120	3317	48	25	24	1085	725	444
Wellington	164	183	224	2018	1987	2665	78	48	62	1399	1505	1346
Wem	55	58	64	573	390	590	6	10	10	633	376	314
Whitchurch	112	92	130	1565	1153	1599	41	24	16	1272	864	891
Totals	1651	1687	1978	18749	16921	20572	856	595	531	15345	13108	12257

The Broseley Child Welfare Centre was opened in January, 1947.

Attendances (Expectant Mothers) at Welfare Centres in 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Welfare Centres	New Cases			Total Cases			Total Attendances		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Bishop's Castle	8	2	1	8	3	1	16	12	2
Bridgnorth	46	76	83	51	79	94	128	150	187
Broseley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	12	12	11	15	38	11	27	52	19
Dawley	7	15	37	7	15	37	11	19	58
Donnington	5	5	6	7	5	8	13	9	33
Ellesmere	7	10	7	9	11	7	27	41	49
Highley	18	20	10	20	25	11	31	26	13
Ironbridge	30	14	22	33	41	24	83	72	47
Ludlow	32	22	29	88	65	33	122	121	66
Market Drayton	45	46	31	48	55	33	103	113	114
Newport	34	52	44	38	55	53	119	115	171
Oakengates	18	15	29	19	20	30	53	43	82
Oswestry	26	15	18	29	22	22	40	46	62
Wellington	58	94	82	62	98	87	200	241	208
Wem	17	9	26	24	60	29	71	81	98
Whitchurch	15	19	20	28	41	21	65	51	67
Totals	378	426	456	486	633	501	1114	1192	1276
Increase		+48	+30		+147			+78	+84
Decrease						—132			

Under an arrangement made with the Borough of Shrewsbury, the following attendances were made by County Council cases at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare Centre and Ante-Natal Clinic :—

Shrewsbury Ante-Natal Clinic and Child Welfare Centre.

(County Council cases).

Expectant Mothers				Children under 5 years			
Cases		Attendances		Cases		Attendances	
1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
22	22	30	28	31	34	120	135

In addition, an Ante-Natal Clinic was held each week at No. 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, by Dr. Burke, Medical Superintendent of the County Council Hospital, for women who had made arrangements for admission to that institution for confinement, and particulars of attendances at the Clinic are given below :—

County Council Hospital Ante-Natal Clinic, held at 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury.

Cases		Attendances	
1946	1947	1946	1947
526	978	1443	1710

In addition to the above, the number of women attending the Clinic as post-natal cases was 109 in 1946, and 121 in 1947.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—The following are particulars of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, all of which apparently recovered without injury to the eyesight, notified in the past four years :—

1944	34 cases
1945	54 „
1946	27 „
1947	40 „

Provision of Artificial Limbs.—The Child Welfare Scheme was extended in 1944 by providing, in addition to surgical treatment, artificial limbs for children under five, subject to each case being approved by the Public Health Committee.

No cases necessitating the provision of artificial limbs have occurred since the extension of this scheme.

Dental Treatment.—Under an arrangement with the Education Committee, the services of the School Dental Officers were available for the purposes of the Public Health Committee, and the following table gives particulars of the numbers of cases dealt with and the treatment carried out during the years 1946 and 1947. Compared with those for 1945, these figures are very satisfactory, as during that year only 3 mothers and 11 children under five years of age were dealt with. It is anticipated, now that the work has been organised on a satisfactory basis by Mr. Catchpole, Senior Dental Officer, that these figures will continue to grow year by year.

	Number Treated	Permanent Teeth		Deciduous Teeth		Other Operations		General Anaes- thetics	Dentures supplied
		Ex- tracted	Filled	Ex- tracted	Filled	Perm. Teeth	Decid. Teeth		
1946									
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	23	23	8	—	—	—	—	2	—
Children under 5 years ..	43	—	—	68	7	—	45	15	—
Total	66	23	8	68	7	—	45	17	—
1947									
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	66	101	33	—	—	38	—	2	1
Children under 5 years ..	44	—	—	72	7	—	12	18	—
Total	110	101	33	72	7	38	12	20	1

In May, 1947, a scheme was introduced for the provision by the County Council Dental Service of artificial dentures for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, persons suffering from Tuberculosis and patients in the County Council Hospital. The cost of the dentures was borne by the patients according to their ability to pay, the sum chargeable being determined after an assessment had been made under the Council's scale of fees for the supply of appliances.

This new service is developing slowly, and the statement below gives the number of cases where artificial dentures were authorised and supplied up to the end of 1947 :—

<i>Expectant and Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Number authorised for dentures</i>	<i>Number where dentures were supplied</i>
At full cost to the patient	3	—
At part cost to the patient	2	—
Free of charge to the patient	20	1
Total	25	1

Training of Nursery Nurses.—In 1945, the Ministries of Health and Education introduced, in place of the various schemes of training devised by the National Society of Children's Nurseries and other bodies, a standard two years course of training leading to the award of a National Nursery Certificate—in order not only to secure uniformity in training and examination, but also to meet the continuous and increasing demand for nursery workers in all kinds of Nurseries and Children's Homes.

Under the regulations governing the award of this certificate, students are required to receive practical training in the care of children of *all* ages up to five years, and to attend, concurrently, an approved course of Further Education in vocational as well as general subjects.

While there are ample facilities for practical training in the care of children between two and five years of age in the Nursery Schools of the Local Education Authority, the only Nursery (apart from Cruckton Hall, which was opened in 1948) accommodating children of all ages under two years is the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home. In view of these circumstances, therefore, the Education Committee requested the Public Health Committee to assist by providing training facilities at the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home.

The Home was visited in December, 1946, by Inspectors of the Ministries of Health and Education, who recommended that this Nursery, while continuing to fulfil its function as a Home for illegitimate children under two years of age, should be made a training centre for Nursery Students. The Ministry of Health stated, however, that before the Home could be recognised as a training centre, it would be necessary not only for the staff to be strengthened but also for adaptations to be made and equipment provided.

In order that a comprehensive scheme of training might become operative in this County, the Public Health Committee decided to co-operate with the Education Committee by providing training facilities at the Home, and by the end of 1947 effect had been given to most of the Ministry's requirements, and four Nursery Students had commenced duty at the Home. Approval of the Home as a Training Centre has now been received.

Non-Residential Nursery Provision for Children under five years.—On the 19th January, 1946, the Public Health Committee reviewed the Non-Residential Nursery arrangements in the County with a view to determining future policy regarding matters which were of particular concern to the Council in its capacity as a Welfare Authority.

In a Joint Circular, No. 221/45, the Ministries of Health and Education made reference to the possibility that day-nurseries, established specially to meet war-time needs, would gradually cease to function, and stated that, under normal peace-time conditions, nursery schools and classes should be provided for children between the ages of two and five years—the proper place for a child under two years of age being at home with his mother. It was stated in this circular, however, that during the difficult period of transition from war to peace, it might be necessary, according to local requirements, for Welfare Authorities to provide day nurseries, afternoon creches at Welfare Centres, and the services of daily guardians or evening “sitters-in.”

On 1st January, 1946, nursery classes at Monkmoor and Harlescott were being administered by the Shropshire Education Committee, who had also opened a Nursery School at Hodnet; and of the four war-time nurseries originally established by the Public Health Committee, those at Madeley and Oakengates were being conducted by the Education Committee as Nursery Schools, the one at Wellington had been closed, and the Donnington Nursery alone remained under the control of the Public Health Committee.

In view of the fact that a number of children under two years of age were attending the Donnington Nursery, it was decided to continue this establishment as a Day Nursery until the 31st March, 1947, from which date it became a Nursery School under the control of the Education Committee.

The average daily attendances at the Donnington Nursery during 1945, 1946, and the first quarter of 1947, are shown in the following table :—

Year	Average daily attendance of children aged		
	0—5 yrs.	0—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.
1945	32.0	10.4	21.6
1946	34.1	5.8	28.3
1947 (First quarter)	28.0	0.6	27.4

No steps were taken to establish afternoon creches at Welfare Centres, or to provide daily guardians or "sitters-in," as it was considered that, even if the need for such services could be shown, the lack of workers required to operate such schemes would render them quite impracticable.

Child Life Protection.—Particulars of Child Life Protection cases supervised during the years 1941 to 1947 are as follows :—

		1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases	—on 1st Jan.	84	103	92	93	76	52	30
New cases	—during the year . . .	66	32	31	23	19	12	14
	reached 9 years of age . .	14	10	8	10	11	6	8
Removed from Register	legally adopted	4	6	6	9	1	6	2
	left County	11	9	4	14	20	3	1
	removed to relatives . . .	16	18	10	7	10	17	4
	died	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	removed to "Exempted" Home . . .	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
	removed to places of safety	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cases	—on 31st Dec.	103	92	93	76	52	30	26

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Orphans and other children without suitable homes to which to return.

On the 31st December, 1945, the Ministry of Health issued a circular (No. 225/45) dealing with arrangements for the care of unaccompanied children, still billeted or otherwise accommodated in the reception areas, who had unsuitable homes, or no homes, in the evacuation areas to which to return.

The classes of children for whose future care satisfactory arrangements had to be made were, broadly speaking, as follows :—

- (1) Children both of whose parents were dead ;
- (2) Children whose parents were untraceable ;
- (3) Children one of whose parents was dead, the remaining parent being unable to provide a suitable home or to make other satisfactory arrangements for the child's care ;
- (4) Children whose parents were not living together, or who for some other reason had no suitable home to which to return ;
- (5) Children who could not be returned because the family was inadequately housed.

The Ministry decided that on the 1st April, 1946, District Councils should be relieved of their responsibilities in connection with the care of these children, such responsibilities being transferred to the County Councils and County Borough Councils who, in the ordinary course of their duties, discharge analogous functions with regard to children deprived temporarily or permanently of a normal home life.

Under the terms of the circular, the County Councils and County Borough Councils for the areas from which these children were evacuated assumed ultimate responsibility for the long-term care of the children ; and the duty of ensuring that parents or guardians provided clothing and pocket money was also placed upon them, if the parents or guardians failed to do so.

The impracticability of Councils for evacuation areas directly discharging these responsibilities and duties made it necessary that the County Councils and County Borough Councils for the reception areas should act as their agents in these matters, by arranging for the immediate supervision of the children, by providing clothing and pocket money where necessary, by reclaiming from the evacuation authorities concerned, and by taking any emergency action required in the interests of the children. In Shropshire this work was carried out by the Health Visitors, who visited children officially billeted and those billeted under private arrangements at least once each quarter. Evacuees who had left school, and were in employment, were subject to friendly supervision and were visited at least once every six months.

The following table shows the number of evacuee children in this County on the 1st April, 1946, who were referred to the Health Visitors for supervision, and the number remaining under supervision on the 31st December, 1946, and 31st December, 1947 :—

	EVACUEE CHILDREN			
	Total	Officially billeted	Privately billeted	Over School age
On 1/4/46 ..	58	29	14	15
On 31/12/46 ..	45	22	8	15
On 31/12/47 ..	35	13	7	15

The Government continued to bear the cost of board and lodging by paying billeting allowances in respect of children accommodated in private households.

With regard to children accommodated otherwise—for example, in a hostel for difficult evacuees unsuitable for billeting—the Government paid the billeting allowance in respect of each evacuee so accommodated, the Evacuation Authority being responsible for payment of the balance of the cost of maintenance to the Council responsible for the administration of the hostel.

Sheet House Hostel.—During the war, Sheet House, Ludlow, had been requisitioned to provide accommodation for evacuee children unsuitable for billeting, and was administered by the Ludlow Rural District Council. With the change in administrative responsibility for the welfare of evacuated children, the Ministry of Health requested the County Council to take over Sheet House Hostel from the 1st April, 1946. The Public Health Committee accepted administrative responsibility for the Hostel, and the requisition held by the Ludlow Rural District Council was transferred to the County Council.

As will be seen from the following table, the greater part of the accommodation (24 beds) was at the time of transfer already being utilised for the accommodation of maladjusted children who were not evacuees, but for whom Shropshire and other Local Education Authorities were financially responsible.

Children in Hostel	Total	Evacuees	Maladjusted Children from	
			Other Counties	Shropshire
On 1/4/46 ..	17	3	6	8
On 31/12/46 ..	18	1	3	14
On 31/3/47 ..	19	1	3	15

As the small amount of hostel accommodation required for evacuee children was unlikely to increase, it was considered that the management of Sheet House could more appropriately be undertaken by the Education Committee; and with the concurrence of the Ministries of Health and Education, the transfer of Sheet House to the Education Committee was effected on the 31st March, 1947.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

Special consideration was given by the Ministry of Health to the problems concerning illegitimate children which had arisen under war conditions, and towards the end of 1943 the attention of Welfare Authorities was drawn to this matter.

In Circular No. 2866 the Ministry recommended as the principal course of action co-operation with, and reinforcement of, the work of existing voluntary Moral Welfare Associations, and in outlining the special duties to be carried out, suggested that the appointment of a special worker with one of the recognised social service qualifications might be necessary. Another recommendation was that, where homes could not be found for the babies with their mothers, relatives or foster-parents, a special hostel might be set up, either by a voluntary body or by a Welfare Authority itself.

The Diocesan Moral Welfare Associations of Lichfield and Hereford having been engaged in this work for a number of years, and their workers in this County having had considerable experience in the various problems associated with illegitimacy, e.g., the obtaining of affiliation orders, arrangements for the accommodation of children in homes or institutions, and assistance where adoption is desirable, negotiations were entered into with these two Associations; and the Public Health Committee decided to utilise the services of their workers to carry out the duties set out in the Ministry's Circular, and to make an annual grant of £500 to the Associations. The larger proportion of the population of the County is in the Lichfield Diocese, and the two Associations mutually agreed that £275 per annum should be Lichfield's share of the grant and £225 per annum should be Hereford's share. In November, 1945, however, it was found that an additional Welfare Worker was needed in the Lichfield Diocese, and a grant of a further £100 per annum was made to this Association from the 1st April, 1946, making the total grant to the two Associations £600 per annum. The County Council has two representatives on the Councils of each of these Associations.

Under the County Council scheme, the impending confinements of expectant unmarried mothers, or the births of illegitimate children, are notified to the County Health Office by District Nurse Midwives, Health Visitors and Institutions. This information is forwarded to the appropriate Moral Welfare Worker, who pays an initial visit to the expectant unmarried mother, or unmarried mother and baby, as the case may be, as soon as practicable; and she visits each case subsequently whenever necessary, but at least once during each quarter.

The number of visits made by the three Moral Welfare Workers in connection with this work in 1946 was 2,264, and in 1947 was 2,189.

During 1946, the number of unmarried expectant mothers visited was 67; and in 1947 the corresponding figure was 93.

Children Supervised during 1946 and 1947.

	Totals		Lichfield		Hereford	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
On Register on 1st January	263	281	157	163	106	118
Added to Register	211	263	125	168	86	95
Removed from Register	193	152	119	90	74	62
On Register on 31st December	281	392	163	241	118	151

Flora Dugdale Memorial Home.—With regard to the recommendation of the Ministry of Health that a special "mother and baby" hostel might be provided, accommodation of this kind was already in existence at the two hostels in the County which are affiliated to the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare—the North Shropshire Hostel for Girls at Myford House, Horsehay, and the Shrewsbury Shelter, Refuge and Hostel at "Chaddeslode," Shrewsbury. Representations were, however, made to the Public Health Committee that there was a very real need for a Home for illegitimate children, apart altogether from the question of accommodation for the unmarried mothers, as in the experience of the Moral Welfare Workers, the first two years after the birth of her child are often the most difficult period in the life of an unmarried mother. This is particularly so if she has no home, or if her parents maintain an unrelenting attitude towards her, or if, by reason of ill-health or having large families of their own, they are unable to assist by looking after her child while she is earning her living.

With the object of assisting girls in difficult circumstances, the Public Health Committee decided to re-open Cranbrook House, Wellington (the former County Home for Ailing Babies) as a Home for illegitimate children up to two years of age.

The Home, which was re-designated the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home, was re-opened in July, 1945, with accommodation for 15 babies. It is a matter of regret that during practically the whole of the time up to the end of 1947, the shortage of nursing staff restricted the work of this Home, rendering impracticable the full utilisation of the accommodation available, although the position is now satisfactory.

The following table gives particulars of the number of children provided for in the Home to the end of 1947 :—

Year	Admitted	Discharged	Died	Children in the Home at the end of the year	Average No. of children in the Home	Average age on admission (months)
1945	9	2	—	7	5.7	9
1946	13	7	—	13	9.5	5
1947	15	14	1	13	9.3	6

In the case of the child who died at the Home during 1947, the cause of death was acute capillary bronchitis ; and two other children, shown as having been discharged from the Home during that year, were, in fact, transferred for treatment to the County Council Hospital, where they subsequently died from acute gastro-enteritis.

Midwifery Services.—At the end of 1947 there were 189 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire, as compared with 170 at the end of 1946.

Statistics relating to Work under the Midwives Acts.

Year	Midwives practising in December	Number of Cases dealt with by Midwives acting			Visits of Inspection by Supervisor
		As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses	Total	
1938	202	*	*	*	458
1939	233	*	*	*	505
1940	221	*	*	*	597
1941	185	3077	836	3913	271
1942	173	3186	955	4141	344
1943	181	3262	943	4205	335
1944	176	3522	1136	4658	336
1945	173	3261	1168	4429	230
1946	170	3340	1037	4377	180
1947	189	3518	1730	5248	245

*Figures not available.

Notifications received from Midwives.

Year	Medical Help	Still-births	Death of mother or child	Artificial feeding	Liability to be a source of infection	Having laid out a dead body
1938	1190	40	23	57	136	61
1939	1240	39	21	52	169	31
1940	1390	49	17	60	160	42
1941	1479	60	30	110	144	35
1942	1466	59	29	39	130	49
1943	1402	56	35	137	200	35
1944	1484	70	44	138	203	31
1945	1222	65	37	140	218	24
1946	1304	71	59	182	169	36
1947	1220	87	62	135	193	38

Maternal Deaths.—Notifications of maternal deaths, directly or indirectly due to pregnancy, numbered eight in 1946, and ten in 1947.

Of the eight maternal deaths in 1946, one was transferable to Montgomeryshire, and two occurred in the Borough of Shrewsbury.

Amongst the ten maternal deaths for 1947, one also occurred in the Borough of Shrewsbury.

The Maternal Death-rates for the whole County (inclusive of the Borough of Shrewsbury), based on the official returns of the Registrar-General, are as follows :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	
		Shropshire	England and Wales
1946	6	1.15	1.43
1947	11	1.94	1.17

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths which have been investigated in this County since 1930, and it will be observed that 103 deaths out of a total of 254 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 1947.

Year	Causes of Deaths Investigated				Death-rate per 1,000 live and still-births		
	All causes	Puerperal Pyrexia	Other	Number in first confinement	Shropshire		England and Wales
					Local Statistics	Official Statistics	
1930	21	8	13	11	5.13	5.37	4.40
1931	21	10	11	12	5.31	5.31	4.11
1932	18	11	7	6	4.77	3.97	4.24
1933	22	8	14	13	6.00	5.57	4.42
1934	24	9	15	11	6.52	5.43	4.60
1935	15	9	6	4	4.16	4.43	4.10
1936	18	4	14	5	4.93	4.39	3.81
1937	14	3	11	5	3.97	3.97	3.23
1938	16	5	11	7	4.34	3.25	3.08
1939	12	4	8	7	3.16	2.9	2.93
1940	14	2	12	4	3.41	2.6	2.16
1941	10	2	8	—	2.14	3.43	2.23
1942	6	—	6	1	1.24	1.2	2.01
1943	13	1	12	3	2.6	2.2	2.29
1944	7	2	5	3	1.3	1.7	1.93
1945	6	1	5	4	1.3	1.5	1.79
1946	7	—	7	2	1.34	1.15	1.43
1947	10	—	10	5	1.76	1.94	1.17

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—During 1946 the number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts, received from medical practitioners was 474, and the fees paid in connection therewith amounted to £946 6s. 1d.

The number of claims received during 1947 was 562, involving the payment of £1,038 5s. 6d.

Obstetrical Consultant.—The opinion of the County Council Obstetrical Consultant was sought for 21 cases during 1946, and for 29 cases during 1947.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—A total of 43 cases were notified in 1946, and 30 cases in 1947. No deaths occurred from this condition in either of these years.

Pemphigus.—Two cases of Pemphigus occurred during 1946, and three during 1947. There were no deaths from this disease.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Registration.—The Registration Authority has the power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases, and registration was not required 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.

One new Nursing Home was registered in 1946, and three certificates of registration were cancelled. One Nursing Home was added to the Register in 1947.

The following are particulars of Nursing Homes and Hospitals registered for maternity and general cases, and of the accommodation provided :—

Registered Nursing Homes		Patient Accommodation				
		Cases provided for	1946		1947	
1946	1947		Beds	Cots	Beds	Cots
8	9	General only	89	2	101	2
4	3	Maternity only	18	—	15	—
14	15	Maternity and General	178	2	188	2
Totals 26	27		285	4	304	4

Inspection.—Registered Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Supervisor of Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each once a quarter. One hundred and four inspections were made during 1946, and ninety-seven during 1947.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

The tables below summarise the work carried out at the County Council Hospital during 1946 and 1947. There was an increasing demand on the accommodation for maternity patients, and admissions were restricted to abnormal cases and to women who, owing to home circumstances, could not properly be confined in their own homes.

Cases treated in the County Council Hospital during 1946 and 1947.

	Men		Women		Maternity		Children (non-maternity)				Totals	
							Under 5		5—16			
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Cases (1st January) ..	36	14	36	33	19	34	10	11	7	4	108	96
Admissions	287	361	586	516	807	766	103	139	45	154	1828	1936
Discharges	235	269	542	482	813	769	89	116	43	147	1722	1783
Deaths	71	68	31	39	1	2	15	25	1	3	119	137
Cases (31st December)	14	38	33	28	34	29	11	9	4	8	96	112

Average Number of Beds occupied in 1946 and 1947.

				Men	Women	Maternity	Children (non-maternity)		All Cases
							Under 5	5—16	
Average	1946	..	..	28	36	31	9	4	108
	1947	..	..	29	30	28	9	6	102
Highest	1946	..	..	39	51	43	16	8	133
	1947	..	..	41	42	45	18	22	168
Lowest	1946	..	..	11	22	16	1	1	67
	1947	..	..	14	10	14	2	2	75

Midwifery.—The number of women confined in the County Council Hospital was 756 in 1946, and 766 in 1947.

An Ante-Natal Clinic was held every Saturday morning in Shrewsbury, where booked cases attended periodically for examination and advice. The average number in attendance was 36 per session in 1946, and 35 per session in 1947.

In 1946 there was one maternal death due to Eclampsia; and in 1947 two maternal deaths occurred, the causes being Pre-eclamptic Shock and Acute Appendicitis.

The number of live babies born was 754 in 1946 (twenty twin-births), and 747 in 1947 (fourteen twin-births and one triplet-birth).

There were 22 still-births in 1946, and 35 in 1947.

Particulars of Confinements, Births and Deaths during 1946 and 1947.

Year	Confinements	Births			Deaths		
		Live	Still	Total	Mother	Child	Total
1946	756	754	22	776	1	26	27
1947	766	747	35	782	2	23	25

Particulars of Infant Deaths during 1946 and 1947.

Causes	1946	1947
Acute Oedema of Brain	—	1
Asphyxia	2	—
Atelectasis	1	2
Broncho-pneumonia	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	1
Convulsions	1	2
Gross Deformity	—	1
Hydrocephalus	3	—
Intra-cranial Haemorrhage ..	1	—
Meningocele	1	—
Prematurity	16	15
Pneumonia	1	—
Totals	26	23

Other work.—The number of surgical operations (major and minor) was 357 in 1946, and 457 (including 88 Tonsillectomy cases, operated on by Surgeons from the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury) in 1947.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—During the year 1946, the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 142, which was 20 less than in the previous year; and the number of deaths from this form of the disease was 82, a decrease of 26 compared with the previous year.

During the year 1947, the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 164, which was 22 more than in 1946; and the number of deaths from this form of the disease was 95, an increase of 13 on those which occurred in 1946.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—In the case of other forms of Tuberculosis, the number of notifications for 1946 was 71, which was 34 less than in the previous year; and the number of deaths was 20, which was 2 more than in the previous year.

During the year 1947, the number of cases notified was 71—the same as in 1946; and the number of deaths was 18, or 2 less than in the previous year.

Particulars of Notification of, and Deaths from, both forms of the disease, classified in age groups, are as follows :—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary), 1946.

Age periods of cases				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
1—5	..	..	..	—	—	5	9	—	—	1	2
5—15	..	..	..	3	2	20	17	—	—	3	1
15—25	..	..	..	26	16	1	4	8	4	1	—
25—35	..	..	..	21	19	4	4	4	15	1	—
35—45	..	..	..	15	9	—	1	9	3	1	1
45—55	..	..	..	10	8	2	2	11	6	2	1
55—65	..	..	..	5	2	1	—	5	6	1	—
65 and upwards	..	..	..	3	2	—	1	8	1	1	2
				84	58	33	38	46	36	13	7
TOTALS FOR 1946			..	142		71		82		20	
TOTALS FOR 1945			..	162		105		108		18	

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary), 1947.

Age periods of cases				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
1—5	..	..	..	—	2	3	5	—	1	5	1
5—15	..	..	..	4	1	20	20	—	1	2	2
15—25	..	..	..	22	28	4	7	5	9	—	1
25—35	..	..	..	18	16	2	3	12	13	2	—
35—45	..	..	..	22	11	—	—	13	7	1	1
45—55	..	..	..	15	5	2	4	9	6	—	1
55—65	..	..	..	8	6	—	—	9	2	—	1
65 and upwards	..	..	..	3	3	—	1	3	1	—	1
				92	72	31	40	52	43	10	8
TOTALS FOR 1947			..	164		71		95		18	
TOTALS FOR 1946			..	142		71		82		20	

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Notifications and Death Rates since 1938.

Year	Notifications	Deaths	Population	Rates per 1,000	
				Notifications	Deaths
1938	164	71	241,400	0.68	0.29
1939	156	91	{ *244,900 †249,500 }	0.63	0.36
1940	198	72	257,170	0.76	0.27
1941	246	109	276,920	0.88	0.39
1942	208	91	268,900	0.77	0.33
1943	213	126	260,900	0.81	0.48
1944	155	108	259,830	0.59	0.41
1945	162	108	256,530	0.63	0.42
1946	142	82	262,020	0.54	0.31
1947	164	95	264,800	0.61	0.35

*Estimated population for Birth-rate purposes.

†Estimated population for Death-rate purposes.

Allowances to Patients (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—The number of patients who were granted allowances for the first time was 22 in 1946, and 42 in 1947. These allowances were paid to patients suffering from, and likely to benefit from treatment for, pulmonary tuberculosis, and include :—

- Maintenance Allowances, for patients and dependants ;
- Discretionary Allowances, to enable patients to meet standing charges, such as high rent and insurance premiums ; and
- Special Payments to provide pocket money for single persons in the Sanatorium, and domestic help for married women who are themselves receiving treatment, as well as grants to patients' relatives to enable them to visit the Sanatorium.

Particulars of the awards made to these patients are set out below :—

	1946	1947
Patients receiving Maintenance Allowances	14	32
„ „ Special Payments	2	2
„ „ Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances ..	4	6
„ „ Maintenance Allowances and Special Payments ..	1	2
„ „ Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments	1	—

Below are set out particulars of the number of patients being paid allowances on the 31st December, 1946 and 1947 :—

	1946	1947
Receiving Maintenance Allowances	17	25
„ „ Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances ..	6	8
Receiving (a) pocket money	2	—
(b) provision for domestic help	1	2
(c) travelling allowances for relatives ..	3	3

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are particulars of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis who were admitted to Shirlett Sanatorium during 1946 and 1947, and of discharges and deaths during these years :—

	Admitted		Discharged		Died	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Adults—						
Males	36	38	37	36	1	1
Females	31	35	29	34	2	2
Children—						
Boys	2	3	1	3	—	—
Girls	2	3	2	3	—	—
Totals	71	79	69	76	3	3

Tuberculosis Dispensaries :

Attendances at Tuberculosis Dispensaries in 1946.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES	Cases who attended during the year		SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES			Total Attend- ances
	Total	For the first time	Notified Cases	Non-notified cases		
				Contacts	Suspects	
Shrewsbury	945	615	1343	360	972	2675
Oswestry	294	93	548	35	185	768
Wellington	711	413	2397	202	644	3243
Whitchurch	100	55	74	50	84	208
Ludlow	55	30	63	28	33	124
Bridgnorth	83	52	114	31	58	203
	2188	1258	4539	706	1976	7221

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, two sessions were held in Church Stretton in 1946 for examination of contacts, and 33 attendances were made.

In 1947 there were also two sessions when a total of 24 attendances were made.

Arrangements are also made for a Clinic to be held at the Child Welfare Centre at Market Drayton at intervals to encourage the attendance of persons who find that travelling difficulties prevent their coming to Shrewsbury or Wellington. Two sessions were held and 24 attendances made in 1946.

In 1947 two sessions were also held and 19 attendances were made.

Attendances at Tuberculosis Dispensaries in 1947.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES	Cases who attended during the year		SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES			Total Attend- ances
	Total	For the first time	Notified Cases	Non-notified cases		
				Contacts	Suspects	
Shrewsbury	1005	647	1154	356	907	2417
Oswestry	190	136	537	36	122	695
Wellington	920	463	2284	259	793	3336
Whitchurch	86	53	90	36	52	178
Ludlow	52	25	42	15	34	91
Bridgnorth	96	48	114	25	59	198
	2349	1372	4221	727	1967	6915

Visits of Tuberculosis Officers :—

	1945	1946	1947
On notification	115	34	27
To contacts	29	25	18
To suspicious cases	171	162	141
On discharge from Sanatorium	5	2	3
Other occasions	111	189	156
	431	412	345

Examinations of Sputum.—The total number of sputum examinations during the year 1946 was 939, compared with 984 in the previous year.

The total number of examinations made during 1947 was 780.

Shelters.—There are at present 131 shelters in the County, 124 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax.—Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 28 new cases during the year 1946, and 112 patients regularly attended the Treatment Centres during that year.

During 1947, Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 50 new cases, and Artificial Pneumoperitoneum in 2 new cases. A total of 118 patients attended the Treatment Centres during the year.

Patients receiving Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment during 1946 and 1947.

Centre	No. of Cases Treated		No. of Refills Given	
	1946	1947	1946	1947
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary ..	70	68	1063	1125
Wellington Public Assistance Institution ..	37	44	768	887
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients) ..	5	6	70	30
	112	118	1901	2042

X-Ray Examination.—During 1946, the number of X-Ray films taken was 2,329, an increase of 144 over the previous year.

During 1947, the number of films was 2,420, an increase of 91 over the figures for 1946.

Light Therapy.—During the year 1946, the number of cases who attended for treatment was 26, and 520 treatments were given.

In the year 1947, the number of cases who attended was 9, and 303 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.

No cases were sent for treatment either during 1946 or 1947.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—There are 11 beds for female patients in Prees Heath Sanatorium. During the year 1946, the number of cases admitted was 4; discharged 1; died 2.

During 1947, 6 cases were admitted and 6 died.

Dr. Watkin writes :—"One of the most effective measures for preventing the spread of Tuberculosis, is the isolation in hospital of patients suffering from an advanced stage of the disease. In these days of housing shortage, the need for adequate and suitable hospital accommodation for such cases is becoming even more apparent. Such accommodation has been provided on a small scale at Prees Heath Sanatorium where there are eleven beds. This has always been quite inadequate, as the County needs forty beds to cope with the average numbers of advanced cases.

"Use has been made for years of open-air shelters at the County Council Hospital, Wellington Infirmary, and some of the Public Assistance Institutions. These shelters are very unsatisfactory for bedridden cases. They are cold and damp in winter, and in warm summer weather when the sun beats down on them they become intolerably hot. At such times it is distressing to see the patients lie sweating in their beds, and the effect on their health is undoubtedly very bad. Advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis require comfort, warmth in winter, a reasonable amount of fresh air, and protection from oppressive heat in summer.

"Looking at the matter from the point of view of the nursing staff, the task of nursing advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in open-air huts some distance away from kitchen, sanitary annexes, and other hospital conveniences, is a hard one, and tends to discourage the recruitment of nurses to hospital service.

"It is therefore necessary to stress again the urgent necessity for proper hospital accommodation for these cases."

Dr. Elliott writes :—"In 1946 the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis—eighty-two—was the third lowest on record. The other years which show a lower number were 1938 and 1940, in which years the number of deaths was seventy-one and seventy-two respectively.

"During the period of the first world war, 1914—1918, the average number of deaths per annum was 207, whilst during the second world war, 1939—1945, the average number of deaths was 100. This shows a decrease of 50% in the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

"This position must be considered satisfactory when one considers the increased strain on the people due to the overcrowding of many houses in this County by evacuees from bombed areas, and the lack of efficient ventilation in the homes and workshops due to black-out conditions,—all factors having a tendency to lower the general health of the population and favouring a spread of Tuberculous infection.

"It is difficult to attribute this fall in the deaths between the Wars to any particular factor, but the improved standard of education of the people, and the increased propaganda of health education in the means of preventing infection is perhaps one of the most important factors.

"Tuberculosis is largely a disease of the home, and most infections occur there. The improvement in the housing conditions between the Wars must have played a big part in the decrease, as the risk of mass infection in a poorly ventilated slum house must be infinitely greater than in a modern well-ventilated Council house. Many years ago we advocated the setting apart of a number of houses in each Housing Scheme for Tuberculous families, but this suggestion was never wholly adopted, although many Local Authorities gave us great help in granting houses to these families on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Officer. It is perhaps too much to hope in the present acute shortage of houses, that this suggestion will be adopted in the near future, but it must not be lost sight of, and will play a very important part in the prevention of Tuberculosis in the future. The Authorities must be prepared to subsidise the rents of these houses, as Tuberculosis is a crippling disease, and many of its sufferers may not be able to earn the better wages of those who are fit and can afford the rents of these houses.

"In the present housing shortage our main weapon against Tuberculosis must be the diagnosis of the disease in its early stages. With modern treatment it can be cured in the majority of cases, and these patients are rendered non-infectious, and can be returned to their homes and work with no risk of infection to others, thus lessening the number of potential sources of infection, with a consequent diminution in the number of cases in the future.

"May I again emphasize the fact that the Salop County Council provides every facility for the early diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis, but unfortunately so many cases do not seek advice until they are past cure, or are so crippled that at best they can only be patched up. In the best interests of the patient and public, early treatment of the disease is a factor of paramount importance in the prevention of Tuberculosis."

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

Shropshire cases requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Park Hall, Oswestry. After-Care Clinics are held twice weekly at Shrewsbury; weekly at Oswestry and Wellington; fortnightly at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oakengates, Wem and Whitchurch; and monthly at Newport.

Attendances at Clinics.—The following tables give particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1946 and 1947. The tuberculosis 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, 1946.

Age Groups	On Books 1/1/46	Admitted	No. treated	Discharged	On Books 31/12/46	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/46	Attendances
Under 5 years ..	505	278	783	288	494	1	1,426
5—16 years ..	1,080	560	1,640	540	1,098	2	3,788
Over 16 years ..	1,035	689	1,724	512	944	268	3,389
T.B. cases (all ages)	136	11	147	12	112	23	555
Totals ..	2,756	1,538	4,294	1,352	2,648	294	9,158

It will be observed that 4,294 patients are stated to have been treated during the year 1946, but as 89 of these have been included in more than one group, the actual figure should be regarded as 4,205.

In addition, 253 cases for whom treatment was not found to be necessary were examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon; these have not been included amongst the attendances at the After-Care Centres.

Attendances at Orthopaedic After-Care Clinics during 1947.

Age Groups	On Books 1/1/47	Admitted	Treated	Discharged	On Books 31/12/47	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/47	Attendances
Under 5 years ..	490	341	831	233	598	—	1,863
5—16 years ..	1,197	536	1,633	418	1,213	2	3,910
Over 16 years ..	1,206	711	1,917	646	918	353	3,748
T.B. cases (all ages)	135	11	146	14	102	30	587
Totals ..	2,928	1,599	4,527	1,311	2,831	385	10,108

Similarly, 110 patients who attended the After-Care Clinics during the year 1947 are recorded in more than one group and the actual number of patients treated was, therefore, 4,417.

During the year 1947, there were 179 cases examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon and found not to require treatment and this figure has not been included in the number of attendances.

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 (the cost of whose treatment was borne either by the Public Health or Education Committee) admitted to Hospital for treatment in 1946 and 1947 are given in the table below.

Cases admitted to Orthopaedic Hospital in 1946 and 1947.

Disease	Under 3 years of age		3—16 years of age		Over 16 years of age		Total	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Tuberculosis	1	1	19	9	12	15	32	25
Osteomyelitis	—	3	15	9	—	1	15	13
Injuries (bones and joints)	11	5	17	23	—	2	28	30
Congenital Defects and Deformities	—	5	49	56	5	5	54	66
Acquired Deformities	7	3	29	31	2	7	38	41
Arthritis	1	1	1	2	5	2	7	5
Poliomyelitis	—	3	8	11	3	—	11	14
Other Defects	—	—	3	5	—	—	3	5
Totals	20	21	141	146	27	32	188	199
Total for 1945	13		130		26		169	

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, 1938, 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—1947.

		Averages (five-yearly periods)					Individual years						
		1921—25	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—45	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculosis (all ages)	..	40	23	27	27	20	19	17	25	24	17	21	14
Medical Inspection	.. ..	14	13	11	17	13	11	13	15	10	16	31	28
Child Welfare	.. ..	8	5	3	5	5	4	7	6	4	4	5	4
Totals	.. ..	62	51	41	49	38	34	37	46	38	37	57	46
Non-Tuberculous Adults	..	—	—	—	7	4	6	4	5	4	3	5	4

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

Cost of Treatment in Orthopaedic Hospital.

Scheme	Yearly Averages (five-year periods)				Individual Years						
	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—45	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculosis	£4269	£3122	£3567	£2795	£2857	£2582	£2850	£3073	£2613	£3875	£3681
School Health Service	1608	1323	1626	1823	1415	1574	1753	1931	2441	5823	7353
Child Welfare	778	331	452	782	833	716	912	1022	428	1028	760
Annual Average Cost	6655	4776	5645	5400	5105	4872	5515	6026	5482	10726	11794
Non-tuberculous adults	—	—	*856	484	324	606	370	713	407	554	977

*This amount represents the average annual cost of treatment for the period 1938—40.

During the war years, the admission of County Council patients to the Orthopaedic Hospital was restricted as far as possible in order to allow of the beds being made available for the treatment of war casualties. This no doubt accounts for the increase in the number of cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital in subsequent years under the various schemes of the County Council.

Service	Year	No. of in-patient days	Mean cost per day	Yearly cost of treatment
Tuberculosis	1945	5501	9/6d.	£2613
	1946	7138	10/10d.	3875
	1947	5206	14/1½d.	3681
School Health Service ..	1945	5278	9/3d.	2441
	1946	10942	10/7½d.	5823
	1947	10505	14/-	7353
Child Welfare	1945	925	9/3d.	428
	1946	1938	10/7½d.	1028
	1947	1086	14/-	760
Non-tuberculous adults ..	1945	1103	7/4½d.	407
	1946	1402	8/10½d.	554
	1947	1628	12/-	977

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The increase in the prevalence of Venereal Disease in this County, which commenced in 1945, continued during 1946, but abated somewhat during 1947. 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 the Shrewsbury Clinic, but an auxiliary Clinic was opened in Oswestry in 1941.

Treatment by General Medical Practitioners.—Circular 2226, which was issued by the Ministry of Health in December, 1940, recommended that, as a war-time measure, arrangements should be made for the treatment of cases of Venereal Disease by suitably qualified medical practitioners in their own surgeries during normal hours of attendance.

The list of medical practitioners, with whom arrangements were made in this County, has not been added to since the termination of the war, as it was considered that the existing Clinic facilities were, on the whole, adequate for this County, especially as the treatment in these Clinics is carried out by recognised specialists in Venereal Diseases.

Under the arrangements made in Circular 2226, the number of cases dealt with was, in 1946, three males and one female; and in 1947, one male case only.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1946 and 1947.

	SHREWSBURY CLINIC											
	Cases						Attendances					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Syphilis	117	131	98	120	215	251	854	878	697	860	1551	1738
Soft Chancre	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	6	—	—	3	6
Gonorrhoea	186	137	47	28	233	165	596	305	129	93	725	398
Other Conditions ..	125	132	91	95	216	227	269	241	211	165	480	406
Totals	429	401	236	243	665	644	1722	1430	1037	1118	2759	2548
Increase or Decrease ..	—28		+7		—21		—292		+81		—211	

OSWESTRY CLINIC												
Syphilis	21	20	20	24	41	44	148	135	146	135	294	270
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	18	17	7	6	25	23	43	36	21	14	64	50
Other Conditions ..	13	16	17	15	30	31	24	27	17	28	41	55
Totals	52	53	44	45	96	98	215	198	184	177	399	375
Increase or Decrease ..	+1		+1		+2		—17		—7		—24	

	WOLVERHAMPTON CLINIC				General Medical Practitioners			
	New Cases		Total Attendances (all cases)		Cases			
					Male		Female	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Syphilis	5	2	204	217	3	1	1	—
Soft Chancre	—	—			—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	3	6			—	—	—	—
Other Conditions	13	16			—	—	—	—
Totals	21	24	204	217	3	1	1	—
Increase or Decrease	+3		+13		—2		—1	

Examination of Pathological Specimens from Treatment Centres.

	Culture		Serum		Microscopic	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Salop Clinics	6	60	538	581	603	397
Wolverhampton Clinic	2	4	66	50	74	37

Regulation 33.B.—In January, 1943, Regulation 33.B. was added to the Defence (General) Regulations, and provided for the compulsory treatment of Venereal Disease in certain circumstances. The object of the Regulation was to bring under medical care those infected persons who had shown themselves unresponsive to educational propaganda, or to methods of persuasion, and who, therefore, remained a constant source of danger to the health of the community. Regulation 33.B expired on 31st December, 1947.

During 1946, the number of "contacts" notified to the County Medical Officer of Health under this Regulation was 8 (males 1, females 7). Two notifications were received in respect of one of these contacts; in the remaining seven cases only one was received. The necessary visits, formal (to those notified more than once) and informal (to those notified only once) were carried out with the following results:—

Number already in attendance at Clinic	2
Number who attended after two visits	1 3
Number who did not attend:	
(a) Promised but failed to attend	3
(b) Could not be traced	1
(c) Refused to attend	1 5
	8

During 1947, the number of "contacts" notified was 8, all of whom were females. The number of notifications received in respect of these contacts was:—

- 3 in respect of 1 contact;
- 2 in respect of 3 contacts; and
- 1 in respect of 4 contacts.

The necessary visits, formal and informal, were carried out and all the cases attended the Clinics.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

Register of Blind Persons.—The numbers of persons on the Shropshire Register of Blind Persons on the 31st December, 1946 and 1947, respectively, were 472 and 457.

It is considered that the analytical details given below, which were furnished by the Shropshire Association for the Blind, who function for the County Council for the purposes of the Blind Persons Acts, will be of interest. It should be noted, however, that these particulars relate to the positions at the end of the financial years.

Particulars of Persons on the Register of Shropshire Blind Persons.

	On 31/3/46	On 31/3/47	On 31/3/48
Home Workers	20	21	22
Workshop Employees	1	1	1
Persons otherwise employed	35	28	27
Persons of independent means	11	13	16
Unemployable persons living at home	341	333	333
Persons in Institutions and Homes	37	36	40
Adults undergoing training	5	4	10
Adults trained but unemployable	2	3	1
Children in Special Schools for the Blind	9	8	9
Children under 5 years of age	1	1	—
	462	448	459

During the year ended 31st March, 1947, arrangements were made for 26 persons to be examined by ophthalmologists, and 25 by the Assistant Medical Officers.

In the year ended 31st March, 1948, ophthalmologists undertook the examination of 58 persons, and a further 7 persons had their vision tested by Assistant Medical Officers.

Arrangements have now been made for all cases believed to qualify for inclusion in the register of blind persons to be seen by ophthalmologists.

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—During the financial year ended 31st March, 1947, the amount of £12,394 18s. 0d. was paid in Domiciliary Relief of the Blind. This figure included an amount of £519 17s. 11d. which was subsequently reclaimed from other counties, in respect of cases for which they were responsible.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1948, payments of Domiciliary Assistance amounted to £9,774 14s. 2d., of which £515 14s. 7d. was subsequently reclaimed from other counties.

The fact that the State Blind Pension was increased from 10/- per week to 26/- per week on the 1st October, 1946, caused the general need for domiciliary assistance to decrease from that date.

Home Workers.—The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind has a Home Workers' Scheme in which, by arrangement with the County Council, the Shropshire Home Workers are included, and from the reports of the Institution, which are furnished at the end of each financial year, the information given below has been obtained.

The average number of Shropshire Home Workers supervised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind during the year ended 31st March, 1947, was 20, and during the year ended 31st March, 1948, was 21.

Visits paid to Shropshire Home Workers by officials of the Birmingham Royal Institution averaged 5 visits per Home Worker during both years.

The following table gives particulars of the average earnings of the Home Workers, and the average amounts by which these earnings were augmented by the County Council during the past four years :—

Average Earnings of Home Workers.

Year ended	Average Weekly Earnings	Average Weekly Augmentation
31/3/45	32/-	28/10d.
31/3/46	37/3d.	29/2d.
31/3/47	37/1d.	27/11d.
31/3/48	42/5d.	38/6d.

Shropshire Association for the Blind.—A third Home Teacher was appointed by the County Council in July, 1947, and seconded for service with the Shropshire Association for the Blind. The Home Teachers, in addition to giving instruction in Braille, Moon and Handicrafts and arranging various social gatherings, also investigate all applications for financial assistance. The recommendations of the officials of the Shropshire Association for the Blind regarding the financial needs of blind persons were submitted to the Health Committee for consideration, and grants authorised by that Committee were paid fortnightly by cheques sent out by the County Treasurer.

MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.—During the year ended 31st March, 1947, a total of 93 new patients were seen by the Medical Superintendent of the Salop Mental Hospital, Dr. Stanley Hughes, at the weekly sessions of the Mental Treatment Clinic, held in the Out-Patients' Department of the Royal Salop Infirmary, and re-visits were made in 66 cases.

During the year ended 31st March, 1948, the number of new patients seen by Dr. Stanley Hughes at the Royal Salop Infirmary was 121, and re-visits were made in 104 cases.

In November, 1946, an additional out-patient clinic was inaugurated at Wellington, where sessions were originally held twice monthly at the Welfare Centre, Haygate Road, Wellington. It was, however, found that the attendances at this clinic did not justify twice-monthly sessions and the clinic was latterly held once a month.

A monthly clinic was also established at Oswestry in November, 1947, at the Oswestry and District Hospital.

During the year ended 31st March, 1947, admission to the Salop Mental Hospital was arranged for 94 voluntary and 3 temporary patients.

During the year ended 31st March, 1948, a total of 132 voluntary and 6 temporary patients were admitted to the Salop Mental Hospital.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938 :

Statistics.—The following are particulars of defectives dealt with under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts who were either “under order” or “under statutory supervision” on the 31st December, 1945, 1946 and 1947 :—

	MALES						FEMALES						Totals		
	Under 16			Over 16			Under 16			Over 16					
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Cases in State Institutions	—	—	—	6	7	7	—	—	—	7	8	8	13	15	15
Cases in Certified Institutions.. ..	7	4	5	87	100	98	6	8	9	123	104	105	223	216	217
Cases under Guardianship	—	—	1	6	2	2	—	—	—	14	14	15	20	16	18
Cases on licence(a) from Institutions	—	—	—	17	13	12	—	—	—	20	30	29	37	43	41
(b) from Guardianship	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	3	3	1
Cases under Statutory Supervision ..	20	49	50	98	103	106	29	38	32	100	98	103	247	288	291
Totals	27	53	56	215	226	225	35	46	41	266	256	261	543	581	583

There were also, in addition to the above, defectives who, although not under statutory supervision under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts, were kept under friendly supervision by the Health Visitors, and other defectives who were accommodated in Public Assistance Institutions and in the Salop Mental Hospital. The numbers of defectives thus supervised and accommodated on 31st December, 1945, 1946 and 1947, are given below :—

	1945	1946	1947
Cases under friendly supervision	658	617	590
Cases in Public Assistance Institutions	68	72	68
Cases in Salop Mental Hospital	129	128	128
Totals	855	817	786

School Cases.—The duty imposed on Local Education Authorities by Section 55 (1) of the Education Act, 1921, to certify certain children, who on mental grounds were considered only to be educable in special schools, has been modified by the Education Act, 1944. Such children are now more appropriately included in the much larger group “Educationally Subnormal Pupils,” who under the School Health and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1945, are defined as follows :

“Pupils who, by reason of limited ability or other conditions resulting in educational retardation, require some specialised form of education, wholly or partly in substitution for the education normally given in ordinary schools.”

The following are particulars of Educationally Subnormal children under the jurisdiction of the Salop Education Authority on 31st December, 1946 and 1947 :—

	Male		Female		Total	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
In Special Schools	7	45	7	4	14	49
Awaiting admission to Special Schools	15	10	9	15	24	25
Awaiting parental consent to admission to Special Schools	32	40	21	32	53	72
Totals	54	95	37	51	91	146

At the end of the year 1946, there were in addition 216 school children (136 boys and 80 girls) whose mental condition had been called in question, and at the end of the year 1947 this number had increased to 304 (of which 195 were boys and 109 girls).

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

On 31st December, 1947, four motor ambulances were owned by the County Council—all stationed at the County Council Hospital. To these should be added a converted ambulance, used as a staff van, as well as a "Utilicon," both of which are sometimes used for ambulance purposes.

Details are given below of the Ambulance facilities in the County at the end of the year :

	No. of Vehicles	
County Council	4	4
Local Authorities :		
Whitchurch U.D.C.	1	
Market Drayton U.D.C.	1	
*East Shropshire Local Authorities Joint Committee	2	
Bridgnorth M.B.C.	1	
*Wellington U.D.C.	1	
Shifnal R.D.C.	1	7
Voluntary Hospitals :		
Lady Forester Hospital, Much Wenlock	1	
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital	2	3
Other Voluntary Bodies :		
St. John Ambulance Brigade, Shrewsbury	2	
Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee	1	
Ludlow Joint Ambulance Committee	2	
Madeley Ambulance Committee	1	
Albrighton Ambulance Committee	1	
Ellesmere and District Ambulance Committee	1	
Newport and District Voluntary Ambulance Committee	1	
Pontesbury Ambulance Association	1	10
Collieries :		
Ifton	1	
Highley	1	2
Private Enterprise :		
Newport	1	1
		27

*In addition, these Local Authorities had each one converted ambulance, capable of limited use.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

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

	1945	1946	1947
Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs, for Diphtheria Bacilli	1,272	1,155	1,120
„ Haemolytic Streptococci	1,761	1,418	1,266
„ Vincents Angina	848	813	766
Other Examinations	217	57	113
Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli, Microscopic	1,597	2,906	1,346
„ Culture	1,267	2,654	579
„ Animal Inoculation	549	2,711	835
General Cultural Examinations of Sputum	51	86	25
Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms	563	683	696
Widals Tests	54	91	48
Venereal Diseases Examinations : Serological	1,360	2,098	2,162
„ Bacteriological	1,167	950	524
Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples	1,306	1,701	1,235
Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples	695	1,375	1,476
Other Bacteriological Examinations	1,494	1,140	936
Haemotology—Blood Counts, etc.	727	597	606
Biochemical Examinations	702	518	488
Water and Sewage—Chemical Examinations	108	66	27
Histology—Block Examinations	66	70	57
Totals	15,804	21,089	14,305

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations :

Licences.—On 31st December, 1946, a total of 845 licences for the production of Designated Milk (269 Tuberculin Tested and 576 Accredited) were in force. In addition 29 of the Tuberculin Tested Milk producers and 16 of the Accredited Milk producers held bottling licences.

On 31st December, 1947, the total number of Designated Milk licences in force was 898 (of which 350 were Tuberculin Tested and 548 Accredited). Bottling licences were held by 30 Tuberculin Tested milk producers and 12 Accredited Milk producers.

The table below indicates the licensing position at the end of each year from 1934 to 1947. The consistent increase in the numbers of Tuberculin Tested Milk licences issued during recent years, and the corresponding decrease in the numbers of Accredited Milk licences, are accounted for mainly by the graduation of producers of Accredited Milk to the production of milk of Tuberculin Tested standard.

Designated Milk Licences in force on 31st December, 1934—1947.

Licences	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested ..	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84	111	177	206	269	350
*Accredited ..	14	390	533	542	595	689	675	666	677	652	620	580	576	548
Totals ..	29	410	553	578	652	760	750	743	761	763	797	786	845	898

*Designated "Grade A" Milk prior to 1936.

Dairy Herds in the County.—Particulars of dairy herds in the County on the 31st December, 1945, 1946 and 1947, are as follows :—

	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested Herds (not Attested)	94	105	143
" " " (Attested)	112	164	207
Attested Herds (not Tuberculin Tested)	63	78	101
Accredited Herds	580	576	548
Total Numbers of Designated and Attested Herds	849	923	999
Undesignated Herds	4100	3991	3907
Total Numbers of Dairy Herds	4949	4914	4906

During 1946, Designated and Attested Herds increased by 74 and represented 18.8 per cent. of the whole of the dairy herds in the County.

In 1947, the corresponding increase was 76 and the percentage 20.4.

Routine Sampling—Bacteriological Examination of Milk.—The following table summarises the results of examination of samples of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk, and of samples obtained from producers "qualifying" for Designated Milk licences, during the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 :—

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples during 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Designation	Total Samples			Satisfactory			Unsatisfactory		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	666	1074	1364	458	865	1064	208	209	300
Accredited Milk	2525	2756	2588	1526	2041	1879	999	715	709
"Qualifying"	447	489	255	271	335	208	176	154	47
Totals ..	3638	4319	4207	2255	3241	3151	1383	1078	1056

Disciplinary Action.—During 1946, the sampling records of 64 Designated Milk producers from whose premises three consecutive unsatisfactory milk samples had been obtained, were considered by the Milk (Special Designations) Committee. Of these, 54 were producers of Accredited Milk and 10 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Warnings were issued to 11 Accredited Milk producers, and the licences of 19 producers were suspended, while those of 24 producers were revoked.

Of the Tuberculin Tested Milk producers, 2 were warned, the licences of 3 producers were suspended, and those of 4 producers were revoked.

No action was taken against one Tuberculin Tested Milk producer who attributed the cause of the failure of his samples to the unsatisfactory condition of the milk churns, a matter which was taken up with the Dairy concerned.

During 1947, the cases of 11 Accredited Milk producers and 2 Tuberculin Tested Milk producers with three consecutive unsatisfactory samples were considered by the Committee.

The licences of 2 Accredited Milk producers were suspended, 4 licences were revoked, and in the remaining 5 cases, further samples were collected; these proved without exception to be satisfactory and no further action was taken.

The licence of one Tuberculin Tested Milk producer was suspended, and no further action was taken in the remaining case after further samples had proved to be satisfactory.

Inspection of Premises.—During 1946, the County Sanitary Inspectors made 2,122 visits to farms. The initial inspection of the premises of new applicants for Designated Milk licences involved 280 of the total visits.

During 1947, farm inspections totalled 1,563, of which 311 were initial inspections of the premises of new applicants.

Defence Regulation 55.G. :

Sampling of Heat-treated Milk.—During 1944, restrictions on the sale of milk by retail, other than of certain grades, were proposed by the Ministry of Food, and for this purpose Defence Regulation 55.G. came into operation. This Regulation prohibited the sale by retail of milk which was not "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised," or otherwise "Heat-treated," or "Accredited," in any area, principally urban, in England or Scotland which is defined or specified as a prohibited area by the Minister of Food. No such area has yet been specified, either in this County or in this country, and the main objects and requirements of the Regulation have as yet been unattained.

As Food and Drugs Authority, however, the County Council was asked to co-operate with the Ministry of Food in the collection of samples of Heat-treated milk from establishments approved by the Ministry in accordance with the Regulation.

During 1946, a total of 152 samples, exclusive of those taken within the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is a separate Food and Drugs Authority, were collected from 7 establishments, and 146 of these samples were found to be satisfactory, while 6 proved to have been insufficiently heat-treated.

During 1947, a total of 168 samples (exclusive of those taken within the Borough of Shrewsbury), were collected from these 7 establishments; 146 samples were found to be satisfactory, while 22 samples failed to satisfy the prescribed tests.

Biological Examination of Milk Samples.—Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, prohibits the sale for human consumption of milk known to have been obtained from tuberculous cows. The County Council is responsible for the enforcement of this Section and the following is a summary of the results of the examination of samples of designated milks taken during the years 1945, 1946 and 1947. (See also "Biological Examination of School Milk Supplies" on page 45 and "Tuberculous Milk" on page 46).

Biological Examination of Milk Samples during 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Designation of Milk	Total Samples			Negative			Positive			No. of Cows dealt with under Tuberculosis Order		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested ..	77	394	9	75	393	9	2	1	—	—	—	—
Accredited ..	277	973	891	270	950	870	7	23	21	10	17	13
"Qualifying" ..	29	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	383	1367	900*	374	1343	879	9	24	21	10	17	13

*In addition to this total, 83 milk samples from Accredited Herds, submitted for examination during 1947, gave no conclusive results owing to an epidemic of disease amongst the guinea-pigs which died shortly after injection. This epidemic, which occurred also in other parts of the country, necessitated suspension of sampling on several occasions, and accounts for the disparity in the numbers of samples taken during 1946 and 1947.

Routine Sampling—Examination for Hypochlorite Contamination.—The introduction of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1943, permitting the use of certain brands of Sodium Hypochlorite solutions for the sterilisation of dairy and milking utensils, raised the question of possible contamination of milk by the improper use of such solutions, or by the use of stronger solutions than those recommended by the Regulations. For the purpose of ascertaining possible contamination, arrangements were made for the examination of milk samples from producers licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. Those producers whose milk was found to be contaminated were visited and advised in the correct use of the sterilising solutions.

The following table summarises the results of samples taken during 1946 and 1947 :—

Examination for Hypochlorite Contamination of Designated Milks.

Designation	Total Samples		Positive		Negative	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	138	179	—	1	138	178
Accredited Milk ..	368	342	—	3	368	339
Totals ..	506	521	—	4	506	517

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

A census, taken on 16th October, 1945, revealed that, of the 33,643 pupils attending maintained schools in the County, there were 23,550 who were obtaining fresh milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme. These figures indicate that 69.9 per cent. of the population of the maintained schools were being supplied with milk.

On the corresponding day during the year 1946, it was ascertained that 27,566 of the 30,804 pupils in attendance on that day at schools in the County were being supplied with milk, representing 89.4 per cent. of the school children in attendance. The fact that, from 1st August, 1946, milk was supplied free of cost to all pupils in attendance at maintained schools, may account for the increase in the percentage of pupils receiving milk at school during this year.

On 5th November, 1947, a similar census showed that there were 33,012 pupils in attendance on that day at schools in the County, and that 27,653 pupils, or 83.7 per cent., received milk in school under the Scheme.

During 1947, the percentage of school population receiving milk in school, therefore, decreased by 5.7 per cent. It is possible that this may be accounted for by the increased canteen facilities made available during that year by the Local Education Authority.

The following are particulars of the numbers of School Departments in the County receiving milk and of the grades of milk supplied :—

							No. of School Departments Supplied		
							1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	65	70	86
Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	141	153	174
Accredited Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	52	40
Undesignated Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	38	21
Totals							307	313	321

Wherever possible, approval of milk for use on school premises is restricted to that designated either as "Tuberculin Tested" or "Pasteurised." Should one of these grades not be obtainable, approval is given to an "Accredited" milk ; but in the case of a few schools where milk even of the "Accredited" standard is unobtainable, approval is given to an undesignated milk, provided that the samples taken comply with "Accredited" milk bacteriological standards, and that the premises and methods of production are reasonably satisfactory. These matters are investigated by the County Sanitary Inspector before approval is given, albeit with great reluctance, to the use of an undesignated milk on school premises.

During 1946, dried milk was supplied to pupils at 16 schools, and at 14 schools no milk supply was available.

During 1947, dried milk was supplied to 14 schools and 6 schools were without a milk supply.

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk Supplies.—Samples are taken four times yearly for bacteriological examination of those School milk supplies which are not obtained from Designated Milk producers, and which are not therefore sampled regularly under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

A summary of the results of examinations carried out during 1945, 1946 and 1947, is given in the following table :—

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk Supplies.

Designation of Milk	Samples taken			Satisfactory			Unsatisfactory		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested ..	4	38	33	1	24	24	3	14	9
Pasteurised	5	89	80	4	80	68	1	9	12
Accredited	6	28	12	2	16	5	4	12	7
Undesignated	1	101	67	—	29	26	1	72	41
Totals	16	256	192	7	149	123	9	107	69

The high percentage of failures among the undesignated milks is very significant.

Biological Examination of School Milk Supplies.—Samples of milk supplied to schools are also taken twice yearly for biological examination for tubercle bacilli.

The following are the results of samples taken during 1945, 1946 and 1947 :—

Designation of Milk	Total Samples			Positive			Negative		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
Tuberculin Tested ..	3	22	25	—	—	—	3	22	25
Pasteurised	9	15	—	—	—	—	9	15	—
Accredited	5	20	5	—	1	—	5	19	5
Undesignated	2	62	36	—	—	—	2	62	36
Totals	19	119	66	—	1	—	19	118	66

In 1946, one sample was found to contain living tubercle bacilli. This was a sample of Accredited Milk and an investigation conducted by the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries failed to provide evidence of tuberculosis in the herd from which the milk was obtained. One cow, however, had been sent for slaughter, shortly after the positive sample was obtained and before the investigation was carried out.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Tuberculous Milk :

Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, prohibits the sale for human consumption of milk obtained from a cow or cows known to be tuberculous.

During 1946, complaints in respect of 34 Shropshire herds, which had been found to be giving milk containing living tubercle bacilli, were received from Medical Officers of Health. The herds involved were examined, on behalf of the County Council, by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and 30 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

During 1947, similar complaints in respect of 8 herds were received from Medical Officers of Health, and 6 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Sampling under this Section by County Council Sampling Officers is dealt with on pages 43 and 45 in the sections of this report which concern the sampling of Designated Milk and milk supplied to Schools.

Sampling of Ice-Cream :

During 1946, following upon the outbreak of typhoid fever at Aberystwyth and the consequent direction of public attention to the conditions of manufacture and sale of Ice-Cream, samples were taken in this County by Sampling Officers of the County Health Department. In the absence of any recognised standard of cleanliness, it is not possible to comment in detail on the results which are scheduled below of the examinations of these samples, but judged by the standards of cleanliness applicable to milk, the majority were far from satisfactory. The results of all examinations were communicated to District Medical Officers, who are responsible, under Sections 14 and 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the registration and supervision of premises used in connection with the manufacture and sale of Ice-Cream.

Particulars of Samples of Ice-Cream taken during 1946.

Sample No.	Bacterial Count Present in 1 m.l.	Coliform Bacteria Present	Faecal or Non-Faecal Type
1	Uncountable	1/10th m.l.	—
2	4,040,000	1/100th m.l.	Faecal
3	59,500	1/10th m.l.	Faecal
4	42,000	Absent	—
5	Uncountable	1/100th m.l.	Faecal
6	Uncountable	1/1000th m.l.	Non-Faecal
7	Uncountable	1/1000th m.l.	Non-Faecal
8	80,000	Absent	—
9	42,000	1/10th m.l.	Non-Faecal
10	71,000	1/10th m.l.	Non-Faecal
11	57,000	1/10th m.l.	Faecal
12	Uncountable	1/1000th m.l.	Faecal
13	Uncountable	1/1000th m.l.	Non-Faecal
14	88,000	1/1000th m.l.	Non-Faecal

On 1st May, 1947, the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation. These Regulations prescribe the heat-treatment of various types of ice-cream mixtures, the cooling to a given temperature after constitution, the storage of the ice-cream at a given temperature after preparation, and protection against contamination during preparation, storage and sale. Responsibility for the enforcement and execution of these Regulations is placed on Local Sanitary Authorities.

In the absence of a statutory test of bacterial cleanliness for ice-cream a form of Methylene Blue Test was provisionally recommended by the Ministry of Health, and the table below summarises the results of the examination of 10 samples taken during 1947 by the Sampling Officers of the County Council. While it will be observed that only 3 samples attained the highest grade of bacterial cleanliness, i.e., Grade 1, it is stressed that the cleanliness of ice-cream offered for sale should be judged by the result of the examination of a series of samples, and not by that of one particular sample. The results of these examinations were referred to District Medical Officers of Health.

Particulars of Samples of Ice-Cream taken during 1947.

Sample No.	Methylene Blue Test	Provisional Grading
1	Decolourised in 0 hours	4
2	Not decolourised in 4½ hours ..	1
3	Decolourised in 0 hours	4
4	" " 0 "	4
5	" " 1 hour	3
6	" " 0 hours	4
7	Not decolourised in 4½ hours ..	1
8	" " 4½ "	1
9	Decolourised in 0 hours	4
10	" " 0 "	4

Sampling of Milk and Other Foods :

Under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, a person who sells, to the prejudice of the public, any food or drug which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded, is guilty of an offence; and under Section 68 of the Act, an authorised officer (Sampling Officer) of a Food and Drugs Authority may procure samples of foods and drugs for analysis, with a view to ensuring that the requirements of Section 3 are being complied with.

During 1946, a total of 1,079 samples were collected, 950 being samples of Milk and 129 samples of Foods other than Milk. The results of the examination of these samples are given in the table on page 48 of this report.

In 34 instances Court Proceedings followed, resulting in fines ranging from 4/- to £50 (and totalling £161 4s. 0d.) being imposed, and in total costs of £99 18s. 6d. being allowed.

During 1947, a total of 776 samples were collected, 630 being samples of Milk and 146 samples of Foods other than Milk. The results of the examination of these samples are given in the table on page 49 of this report.

In 15 instances Court Proceedings were instituted, resulting in fines ranging from £1 0s. 0d. to £10 0s. 0d. (and totalling £30 2s. 0d.) being imposed, and in total costs of £45 5s. 0d. being allowed.

Results of Analyses of Food and Drug Samples taken in 1946.

Description of Samples	Number of Samples taken				
	Total	Formal		Informal	
		Genuine	Non-Gen.	Genuine	Non-Gen.
Milk	950	585	193	140	32
Baking Powder	16	1	4	8	3
Liquorice	2	2	—	—	—
Carbonate of Soda	2	—	1	—	1
Chief Egg	2	—	1	—	1
Egg Powder	1	1	—	—	—
Lard	3	3	—	—	—
Butter	3	2	—	1	—
Margarine	1	1	—	—	—
Stuffing	4	2	—	1	1
Arrowroot	2	—	—	2	—
Ginger	6	1	—	5	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	5	—	—	5	—
Onion Extract	1	—	—	—	1
Peppermint	1	—	—	1	—
Sponge Pudding	1	—	—	1	—
Malted Food	1	—	—	1	—
Gelatine	2	1	—	1	—
Self Raising Flour	1	—	—	1	—
Golden Raising Powder	2	—	—	2	—
Brawn	3	2	—	1	—
Mixed Herbs	1	—	—	1	—
Carbonate of Magnesia	2	—	—	2	—
Coffee and Chicory Extract	2	1	—	1	—
Jelly	1	—	—	1	—
Borax	2	1	—	1	—
Salts	3	1	—	2	—
Molvita Chocolate	1	—	—	1	—
Semolina Pudding	1	—	—	1	—
Chocolate Cup	1	—	—	1	—
Boracic Powder	3	—	—	3	—
Cloves	1	—	—	1	—
Pimento	1	—	—	1	—
Nutmeg	1	—	—	1	—
Cinnamon	2	—	—	2	—
Mace	1	—	—	1	—
Glycerine	3	1	—	2	—
Cream of Tartar	2	—	—	2	—
Flowers of Sulphur	1	—	—	1	—
Milk Loaf	1	—	—	1	—
Fish Cakes	1	—	—	1	—
Glycerine, Lemon and Glucose	1	—	—	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—	—	1	—
Coffee	1	—	—	1	—
Vinegar	7	6	—	1	—
Castor Oil	1	—	—	1	—
Mixed Spice	1	—	—	1	—
Table Cream	1	—	—	1	—
Beef Sausages	5	3	2	—	—
Camphorated Oil	2	—	—	2	—
Processed Peas	2	2	—	—	—
Jam	1	1	—	—	—
Beer	1	1	—	—	—
Macaroni	1	1	—	—	—
Cocoa	1	1	—	—	—
Beetroot	1	1	—	—	—
Pea Soup	1	1	—	—	—
Iodine	1	—	—	1	—
Egg Savouree	1	—	—	1	—
Gravy Browning	1	1	—	—	—
Meat Paste	1	1	—	—	—
Mustard	1	1	—	—	—
Vinecta Tonic	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper	1	1	—	—	—
Malt Cup	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	1,079	631	201	208	39

Results of Analyses of Food and Drug Samples taken in 1947.

Description of Samples	Number of Samples taken				
	Total	Formal		Informal	
		Genuine	Non-Genuine	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	630	357	209	27	37
Saccharine Tablets	1	1	—	—	—
Tonic	2	2	—	—	—
Pickled Cabbage	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee	8	8	—	—	—
Carbonate of Soda	1	—	1	—	—
Cinnamon	1	1	—	—	—
Glycerine	1	1	—	—	—
Sausages	15	11	3	1	—
Brawn	1	1	—	—	—
Jam	11	11	—	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	3	3	—	—	—
Baking Powder	2	2	—	—	—
Mixed Herbs	3	3	—	—	—
Fish Paste	2	2	—	—	—
Powdered Gelatine	2	2	—	—	—
Semolina	4	4	—	—	—
Soyaghetti	1	1	—	—	—
Rolled Oats	1	1	—	—	—
White Pepper	1	1	—	—	—
Sultanas	1	1	—	—	—
Peppermint Tablets	1	—	—	1	—
British Barley	1	1	—	—	—
Iron Tonic Cup	1	1	—	—	—
Fish Cakes	3	3	—	—	—
Vinegar	7	6	1	—	—
Orange Jelly Dessert	2	2	—	—	—
Suet Pudding	1	—	1	—	—
Scotch Barley Flakes	1	1	—	—	—
Groats	1	1	—	—	—
Pom	1	1	—	—	—
Meat Pies	3	3	—	—	—
Cut Green Beans	1	1	—	—	—
Spaghetti in Meat Sauce	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Caraway Seed	1	1	—	—	—
Rhubarb	2	2	—	—	—
Barlova	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Nutmeg	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine	2	2	—	—	—
Pinnacle Pellets	1	1	—	—	—
Begona	1	1	—	—	—
Cooking Fat	3	3	—	—	—
Cake Mixture	4	4	—	—	—
Junket Powder	1	1	—	—	—
Soup	3	3	—	—	—
Health Salt	4	4	—	—	—
Rich Ruby British Wine	1	—	—	1	—
Glucose with Vitamin D.	1	1	—	—	—
Soya Flour	3	3	—	—	—
Meat Extract	2	2	—	—	—
Cocoa	1	1	—	—	—
Malt Extract	4	4	—	—	—
Fruit Lunch	1	1	—	—	—
Garden Peas	3	3	—	—	—
Salad Oil	2	2	—	—	—
Mincemeat	2	2	—	—	—
Ground Mace	1	1	—	—	—
Granulated Borax	1	1	—	—	—
Black Currants	1	1	—	—	—
Salad Dressing	2	2	—	—	—
Cordial	5	4	—	1	—
Continental Mustard	1	1	—	—	—
Christmas Pudding	1	1	—	—	—
Sauce	3	3	—	—	—
Totals	776	493	215	31	37

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 of this Act, it was the duty of the County Council, prior to the 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 requirements of the agricultural population; but since that date the payments to be made by the County Council have been modified as required by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, and the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—This Act amends the law relating to the making of contributions by the Minister of Health and County Councils, and may be cited together with the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946, as the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1946.

In respect of each new house completed after 31st December, 1939, and before 18th April, 1946, by any Council of a County District, the Minister may pay an annual contribution for 40 years of either £5 10s. or £6 10s. 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 per house for 40 years to the Local Authority. (In exceptional circumstances, the Minister may increase his contributions under Section 2 from £10 to £12 per annum, in which case the annual payment by the County Council will be increased proportionately).

Houses completed after the 18th April, 1946, now rank for the payment of increased contributions in accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946; and, in special circumstances, certain houses completed before that date, but not earlier than 31st December, 1939, may also rank for the increased payments.

Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946.—This Act provides for payment by the Minister of Health—in respect of each new house completed after the 18th April, 1946, and in respect of which the Local Housing Authority has made application to the Minister for a grant—of £16 10s. per annum for 60 years under Section 2, or £25 10s. for a like period under Section 3.

Where, under Section 3, contributions are paid by the Minister, the County Council is required to contribute £1 10s. per annum to the Local Authority concerned.

As in the case of the Act of 1938, the Minister may, in exceptional circumstances, increase his contribution by a sum not exceeding £2, when the annual contribution of the County Council will be increased proportionately.

Section 10 of the Act enables the Minister to increase any Exchequer contributions payable by him under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, in respect of houses completed during the war years, particularly those erected under the War Emergency Housing programme for agricultural workers, to the equivalent of contributions payable by him under Sections 2 and 3 and for like periods. In such cases, the contributions payable by the County Council under the Act of 1938 are increased from £1 for 40 years to £1 10s. for 60 years.

Grants paid by the County Council under Housing Acts, 1936—1946.

District Council	No. of Houses eligible for grants under the Housing Acts		County Council Grants	
			Paid to 31st March, 1946	Paid to 31st March, 1947
	1946	1947	£	£
Atcham Rural ..	52	54	237	348
Bridgnorth ..	12	16	24	66
Clun ..	45	45	413	464
Drayton ..	42	42	281	323
Ellesmere ..	68	68	542	616
Ludlow ..	—	14	—	69
Oswestry ..	26	28	176	226
Shifnal ..	4	4	10	15
Wellington ..	38	42	402	452
Wenlock Borough ..	10	10	53	66
Totals ..	297	323	2,138	2,645

WATER SUPPLIES.

East Shropshire Joint Water Board.—A report by Major A. H. S. Waters, Consulting Civil Engineer, who had been engaged by the County Council to carry out a survey of the water requirements and resources of the County, was presented to the County Council during 1946. In his report, Major Waters suggested that the complex systems of water supply within the areas of Local Authorities in the Wrekin Parliamentary Division could best be simplified by the constitution of a Joint Water Board, and to this end a conference of representatives of the County Council and the Local Authorities concerned took place in June, 1946. The suggestion that a Joint Water Board should be established was approved, and it was arranged to retain Financial and Technical Advisers to assist in the formation of the Board.

A further meeting was held in September, 1946, when it was agreed that a report by the Financial Adviser should be presented to a further conference of Technical Representatives of the Authorities concerned, early in 1947.

Further meetings between representatives of the Local Authorities and the County Council took place in April and July, 1947, resulting in a decision that application should be made to the Minister of Health for the constitution of a Joint Water Board for the supply of water to the Borough of Wenlock, the Urban Districts of Dawley, Oakengates and Wellington, and the Rural Districts of Shifnal and Wellington, and that a Provisional Joint Committee should be constituted to proceed with the formation of the Board.

A Draft Order for the constitution of the Joint Water Board was approved in December, 1947, by the newly-formed Provisional Joint Committee, and this Order came into force on the 1st April, 1949.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 307.—The table on page 53 gives particulars of grants which have been paid, or promised, by the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936; and it will be seen that grants have been approved 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 £149,514.

No new applications have been received from Local Authorities for the payments of grants by the County Council under this Act, but two schemes for the provision of water supplies for Pentre and Ruyton-xi-Towns, which were submitted by the Oswestry Rural District Council and approved by the County Council in 1936, but which were postponed at the outbreak of war, have now been superseded by a scheme to supply practically the whole of the Rural District.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—Under this Act, a sum of £15,000,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Minister of Health to assist Local Authorities in the provision or improvement of water supplies and sewerage facilities in rural areas.

Where the Minister undertakes to make contributions towards the expenses incurred by Local Authorities in the provision of water supplies or sewage disposal facilities, the County Council also is required, by Section 2 of the Act, to contribute towards the cost of these services.

Particulars of grants, in respect of expenses of water supply, which have been promised to District Councils up to the end of 1947 by the County Council under the Act of 1944 are given below :—

Water Supply Schemes—Grants promised by the County Council.

District	Scheme	Date of Approval	Scope of Scheme		Estimated Capital Cost	Exchequer Grant	County Council Grant	
			No. of Properties	No. of Inhabitants			Maximum Annual Grant	Period of Payment
Atcham Rural	West Atcham and Pimhill	17/5/47	2,209	11,444	108,268	22,500	1,070	30 years
Bridgnorth Rural	Claverley	17/5/47	243	972	14,040	1,500	187/10/0	12 years
Clun Rural	Clungunford and Aston-on-Clun	25/1/47	110	393	13,000	1,500	71/7/6	30 years

Particulars of water supply schemes in respect of which applications for grants were received from District Councils up to the end of 1947, but upon which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant, are given in the table on page 54.

A proposed new water supply scheme for the High Level areas of the Bridgnorth and Ludlow Rural Districts was in course of preparation at the end of 1947.

Water Supply Schemes—Grants paid or promised by the County Council.

District.	Scheme.	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Esti- mated Cost.	Ministry Grant.	Loan.		Annual Charges.		County Council Grant.		
			No. of Houses.	Inhab- itants.			Author- ised.	Period (Yrs.)	Loan.	Main- tenance	Basis.	Max- imum.	Paid to date.
Atcham R.	Pimhill	4/5/35	288	1,152	£ 16,300	£ 2,500	£ 14,820	30	£ —	£ —	50% annual deficit	£ 6,675	£ 2,190
	West Atcham	2/5/36	1,876	7,596	75,100	15,000	1,480	15	4,285	700	"	24,000	6,800
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 deficit	885	99
	Worthen and Brockton	1/5/37	88	350	4,500	400	4,100	30	—	—	"	1,245	332
Drayton R.	Kempton	1/2/36	31	110	2,200	250	1,650	30	—	—	Block Grant	300	300
	*Wentnor Norbury Myndtown	4/2/39	50	190	3,500	75	—	30	188	15	15% annual deficit	—	*
Ludlow R.	Woore	3/11/34	137	524	4,080	—	3,655	30	189	378	50% annual deficit	885	334
	Hodnet	4/5/35	118	400	3,887 (Actual)	450	425	25	—	—	Block Grant	900	900
Oswestry R.	Ightfield	7/11/36	119	468	6,550	75	6,475	30	—	—	50% annual deficit	3,179	855
	Norton-in-hales	24/7/37	67	200	1,970	—	1,505	30	106	127	"	1,656	373
Oswestry R.	Clee Hill	6/11/37	511	1,930	5,516	—	5,516	30	317	108	33½% annual deficit	1,837	493
	Weston Rhyn	2/2/35	—	—	900	150	750	30	58	—	Block Grant	150	150
Oswestry R.	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 deficit	639	170
Oswestry R.	Gronwen	7/11/36	10	40	437	—	373	30	23	2	"	225	39
	Llyncllys	7/11/36	24	96	783	—	746	30	14	5	"	415	110
Wellington R.	Selattyn (Ext'n)	7/11/36	1,186	4,744	1,748	—	1,748	30	92	277	"	2,032	406
	Edmond	2/11/35	200	800	5,350	850	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	850	850
					£ 149,514							£ 48,123	£ 16,651

*Scheme postponed.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Water Supply Schemes submitted by District Councils up to end of 1947, in respect of which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
Atcham R. ..	East and South-East Atcham	151,000 [£]	For supplying seventeen parishes around Shrewsbury by a bulk supply from the Shrewsbury Corporation's Water Undertaking.
Bridgnorth R. ..	Alveley	1,645	For the improvement and extension of existing facilities.
	Worfield	13,500	For the extension of the Wolverhampton Corporation's water mains to Worfield.
	Low Level Areas	216,000	For the provision of piped water supplies from the Elan Aqueduct.
Clun R. ..	Clun Rural District	162,000	For supplying the greater part of the Rural District.
Drayton R. ..	Drayton Rural District	185,000	For the development of existing supplies and provision of new sources of supply.
	Hodnet, Ightfield and Moreton Saye	44,400	For the improvement and extension of existing piped supplies.
Ellesmere R. ..	Ellesmere Rural District	105,000	For the extension of existing supplies and the provision of new sources of supply.
Ludlow R. ..	Ludlow Rural District	168,700	For supplying practically the whole of the Ludlow Rural District.
	Bitterley	1,386	For the provision of a piped water supply for the village of Bitterley.
Oswestry R. ..	Oswestry Rural District	101,125	For extending and improving existing supplies.
Wellington R. ..	Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley	13,750	For connecting Shifnal Rural District's mains to augment supply to Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley.
	High Ercall	4,000	For supplementing existing supplies at High Ercall by Air Ministry boreholes.
	Kinnersley	4,020	For the extension to Kinnersley of water mains.
Wem R. ..	Wem Rural District	294,000	For the provision of piped water supplies through the whole of the Wem Rural District.
Ludlow B. ..	Ludlow	9,175	For the improvement of water supply facilities in Ludlow.
Wellington U. ..	Horton, Preston and Eyton-on-the-Weald Moors	5,000	For extending the Wellington Rural District main from Lilleshall to the Parishes of Preston and Eyton-on-the-Weald Moors.
Whitchurch U. ..	Whitchurch Urban District	66,350	For new source of supply to replace existing supply.
	Total	£1,546,051	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Public Health Act, 1946—Section 307.—During the period 1946 to 1947, one new application was received for a County Council grant under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936. This was submitted by the Dawley Urban District Council in respect of a revised scheme for the disposal and treatment of sewage from the Urban District.

The original scheme, approved by the County Council for grant purposes in 1939 and estimated to cost £40,960, has been withdrawn and replaced by a scheme which is to be proceeded with in two parts. Part 1 of the scheme is estimated to cost £27,240, whilst the cost of the second part is as yet unknown.

A scheme for the provision of sewerage facilities in Weston Rhyn, which was submitted by the Oswestry Rural District Council for the purposes of grant under the Public Health Act and approved by the County Council in 1938, has been withdrawn; but a new scheme has been prepared and submitted for County Council approval under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Particulars are given in the table on page 56 of grants which have been paid by the County Council towards the cost of approved schemes. Grants amounting to £21,051 have now been paid in respect of schemes the total capital cost of which amounts to £98,162.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—The Cleobury Mortimer Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme is the only sewerage scheme in respect of which the County Council had promised a grant under this Act at the end of 1947. Full particulars are as follows:—

District	Scheme	Scope of Scheme		Estimated Capital Cost	Exchequer Grant	County Council Grant Maximum Amount
		No. of Properties	No. of Inhabitants			
Ludlow Rural	Cleobury Mortimer	285	1,140	22,330	5,500	£4,201 (Lump Sum) (One quarter of net cost of scheme)

Particulars are given in the table on page 57 of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes submitted by District Councils up to the end of 1947 for grant purposes under this Act, but upon which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

Proposals for a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Bayston Hill were in course of preparation by the Atcham Rural District Council at the end of 1947.

Public Health Act, 1936.
Sewerage Schemes—Grants paid by the County Council.

District	Scheme	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Capital Cost	Loan		Annual Charges		County Council Grant		
			No. of Houses	Inhab- itants		Author- ised	Period (years)	Loan	Main- tenance	Basis	Maxi- mum amount prom- ised	Total amount paid
Wenlock B. Shifnal R.	Broseley ..	4/2/39	540	2,200	£ 8,800	£ 8,800	30	£ 485	£ 200	15% Cost	£ 1,320	£ 1,320
	Albrighton ..	4/11/44	783	2,800	13,077	10,805 669 154	30 15 10	641	120	25% "	3,269	3,269
Wellington R.	Ketley and Lawley ..	2/5/36	796	650	31,975	22,398	30	659	300	25% "	8,000	8,000
	Donnington and Muxton ..	4/2/39	388	1,552	18,460	600 17,204 666	60 30 15	1,028	100	20% "	3,692	3,692
	Donnington and Muxton (Extension)	28/10/39	—	—	9,000*	—	—	—	—	20% "	1,400	1,400
	Ditto ..	29/5/43	—	—	16,850	14,625 2,225	30 20	919	100	20% "	3,370	3,370
					£98,162						£21,051	£21,051

* An amount of £2,000 was contributed by the War Department towards the cost of this Scheme, thus reducing the capital cost to £7,000.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Sewerage Schemes submitted by District Councils up to end of 1947, in respect of which the County Council had not then made any decision in the matter of grant.

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description of Scheme
Atcham R. ..	Cross Houses	£ 14,572	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities for the village of Cross Houses.
Clun R.	Aston-on-Clun	15,500	For providing sewage disposal facilities and works in an area as yet unsewered.
	Clun Village	18,800	For extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Drayton R. ..	Hodnet	14,732	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Oswestry R. ..	Weston Rhyn	32,776	For the improvement of existing facilities and provision of new sewage disposal works in conjunction with Ceiriog Rural District Council.
	Morda	32,050	For the improvement of existing facilities.
Wellington R. ..	High Ercall	10,710	For the improvement and extension of existing facilities and purchase of Air Ministry sewage disposal works.
Bridgnorth B. ..	Bridgnorth	82,600	For extension and improvement of existing facilities and provision of new sewage disposal works. This scheme will not qualify for grant under the Act of 1944.
Church Stretton U.	All Stretton	18,950	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities and provision of new sewage disposal works.
Newport U. ..	Newport	28,260	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Oakengates U. ..	Oakengates	132,500	For the extension and improvement of existing facilities.
Wenlock B. ..	Madeley	19,365	For the provision of sewage disposal facilities in an area which is as yet unsewered.
	Total ..	£420,815	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY.

Following the decision of the Public Health and Housing Committee on 18th December, 1943, that fuller information concerning the sanitary circumstances in the individual County Districts and in the County as a whole should be made available to them, District Medical Officers have been requested each year to supply statistics relating to Sewage Disposal, Water Supplies and Housing. The following table and that on page 59 have been compiled from questionnaires completed by District Medical Officers relative to the years 1945 and 1946.

Summary of Answers to Questionnaires on Water and Sewage.

Medical Officer and District	Houses in District.		Water Supplies		Sewage Disposal	
			Piped and Stand Pipe Supplies		Connected to Public Sewers	
	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946
Dr. Dickson.						
Bridgnorth Borough	†1,683	1,764	†1,628	1,752	†1,533	1,676
Bridgnorth Rural	3,460	3,464	690	1,178	400	418
Dr. Evans.						
Oswestry Borough	2,931	2,982	2,902	2,953	2,900	2,951
Ellesmere Urban	580	580	580	580	570	570
Wem Urban	658	658	656	656	624	624
Whitchurch Urban	1,899	1,922	1,848	1,848	1,748	1,771
Ellesmere Rural	1,713	1,760	372	372	Nil	Nil
Oswestry Rural	4,229	4,283	2,310	2,415	1,265	1,317
Wem Rural	3,004	3,004	474	446	Nil	Nil
Dr. Gregory.						
Bishop's Castle Borough	396	396	374	374	353	354
Ludlow Borough	1,553	1,554	1,553	1,554	1,350	1,501
Wenlock Borough	4,333	4,372	3,360	3,400	3,000	2,039
Church Stretton Urban	684	690	628	632	475	475
Atcham Rural	5,307	5,300	*2,650	*2,670	530	550
Clun Rural	2,879	2,880	580	1,400	—	—
Ludlow Rural	3,864	3,919	1,243	1,403	450	450
Dr. Stewart.						
Dawley Urban	2,179	2,169	2,169	2,169	809	809
Market Drayton Urban	†1,470	1,493	†1,460	1,578	†1,372	1,322
Newport Urban	976	977	974	975	967	971
Oakengates Urban	3,050	3,050	3,050	3,050	2,550	2,550
Wellington Urban	2,769	2,772	2,769	2,762	2,733	2,736
Drayton Rural	2,319	2,333	938	982	138	138
Shifnal Rural	2,500	2,500	1,470	1,520	1,400	1,400
Wellington Rural	5,781	5,806	3,880	4,050	2,850	2,859
Dr. Symons.						
Shrewsbury Borough	11,401	11,530	11,401	11,423	10,968	11,097

†Figures for 1944. No information supplied for 1945.

*Approximate figures.

—Figures not available.

Summary of Answers to Questionnaires on Housing.

Medical Officer and District	Popu- lation (1931) Census)	Houses in District		Fit		Minor Repairs		Reconditioning		Demolition		Replacement		Erected during§	
		1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946
Dr. Dickson. Bridgnorth B. Bridgnorth R.	5,295 12,616	+1,683 3,460	1,764 3,464	+1,083 740	663 732	+150 1,190	†450 1,202	+160 1,156	†375 1,156	+500 374	276 374	+819 500	500 600	— 13	12 4
Dr. Evans. Oswestry B. Ellesmere U. Wem U. Whitchurch U. Ellesmere R. Oswestry R. Wem R.	9,961 1,872 2,255 6,174 6,684 16,569 10,273	2,931 580 658 1,899 1,713 4,229 3,004	2,982 580 658 1,922 1,760 4,283 3,004	2,300 150 420 800 465 909 940	1,821 †150 †408 †900 †640 †257 840	700 330 175 749 204 1,095 1,001	561 †330 †175 †672 †550 †1,328 1,001	350 30 25 150 464 1,555 987	350 30 †25 †150 †320 †1,841 987	250 70 50 200 580 670 76	250 70 †50 200 †250 †857 76	300 100 †80 250 †300 1,000 150	300 100 †80 250 †300 1,000 150	Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil	51 Nil Nil 20 Nil 54 Nil
Dr. Gregory. Bishop's Castle B. Ludlow B. Wenlock B. Church Stretton U. Atcham R. Chun R. Ludlow R.	1,352 5,823 14,149 2,398 19,576 10,673 14,511	396 1,553 4,333 684 5,307 2,879 3,864	396 1,554 4,372 690 5,300 2,880 3,919	301 †1,343 * 680 * * 263	* * * * * * †351	95 †100 * 4 * * 255	* * * * * * †308	Nil †50 * Nil * * 1,851	* * * * * * †2,122	Nil †60 * Nil * * 133	* * * * * * †147	Nil †200 * 16 * * 350 †200	* * * * * * †300	Nil Nil Nil Nil 2 Nil Nil	Nil 1 39 Nil 20 1 5
Dr. Stewart. Dawley U. Market Drayton U. Newport U. Oakengates U. Wellington U. Drayton R. Shifnal R. Wellington R.	7,669 4,749 3,437 11,249 8,550 7,888 7,583 16,118	†2,179 +1,470 976 3,050 2,769 2,319 2,500 5,781	2,169 1,493 977 3,050 2,772 2,333 2,500 5,806	†1,269 +1,337 674 1,475 1,726 †464 939 *	1,269 1,312 675 1,475 1,729 †373 900 *	†315 + 52 275 372 †1,159 651 *	— 380 72 205 372 †933 680 *	†108 +45 110 550 456 †464 697 *	†239 98 90 625 456 †747 705 *	†495 +88 140 700 215 †230 213 *	661 83 140 700 215 †280 215 *	†1,000 200 150 1,200 315 280 275 *	Nil — Nil 50 Nil Nil 6 Nil	Nil 34 1 Nil 2 12 5 6	
Dr. Symons. Shrewsbury B.	36,732	11,401	11,530	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	†850	—	—	1	129

— Figures not available.

* Figures not available until completion of Housing Surveys.

† Includes minor repairs.

§ Includes permanent and temporary houses.

† Approximate figures.

+ 1944 figures. Figures not supplied for 1945.

