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COUNTY BOROUGH



OF SOUTHPORT.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

County Borough of Southport

For the Year 1944

*(including the Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the
School Medical Officer).*

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL
MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1944

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1944. The report is still abbreviated in accordance with instructions but it is hoped that this curtailment will not be necessary in the future.

The Registrar General's estimate of the civilian population for the year was 82,860, and the annual statistics are based on this figure.

The death rate for the year was 15.73 per thousand; this rate is uncorrected for age and sex as no factors of correction are yet available, the rate therefore is not comparable with those of the great towns and other County Boroughs. The rate is, however, considerably lower than in the previous year. Thirty-five per cent. of the total deaths occurred in respect of persons of seventy-five years and over.

The Infantile death rate for the year was 44 per 1,000 live births, a rate which compares favourably with those for the rest of the country. The "Zymotic" death rate for the year was 0.072 per 1,000 of the civilian population.

The birth rate of 14.09 was the highest since the year 1921. The maternal mortality rate was 1.66 per thousand registered births, the rate for England and Wales in this year being 1.93.

These figures may be regarded as satisfactory, and serve to show that there has been no deterioration in the state of the public health as a result of the war years. Looking back over the period of the war years the statistics of the town show that despite the abnormal conditions of living the health of the people in the town has been maintained at a high level. The outbreaks of infectious disease which were feared in the earlier years of the war did not materialise, and the careful building up of the Health Services of the country during the inter-war years had resulted in an organisation which was able to stand the severe test of total war, and which not only succeeded in maintaining these services throughout, but also was able to shoulder the additional burden of organising the casualty services of Civil Defence and in towns such as Southport the extension of all health services to cope with immediate enlargements of the population due to evacuation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. E. FITZGERALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Part 1.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM
AND
VITAL STATISTICS

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM

Area of Borough (including Foreshore, 18,333 acres)	9,426 acres
Population (1931 Census)	78,927
Do. (Estimated by the Registrar-General), middle of 1944.....	82,860
Density of Population	8.79 per acre
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1944.....	23,594
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1944	£967,434
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£3,947
Number of births registered	1,168
Legitimate	1,065
Illegitimate	103
Net birth rate (per 1,000 of the population)	14.09
Average birth rate, preceding ten years	10.55
Number of infant deaths (under one year)	52
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	44
Legitimate	42
Illegitimate	67
Average Infantile Mortality Rate, preceding ten years	53
Number of deaths registered	1,304
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	15.73
Average crude death rate, preceding ten years	15.30
Number of deaths from tuberculosis (all forms)	33
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	0.39
Average tuberculosis death rate (preceding ten years)	0.503
Number of deaths from Zymotic disease	7
Death rate from Zymotic diseases (per 1,000 of the population).....	0.072
Average death rate from Zymotic diseases (preceding ten years).....	0.13
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth—	
From Sepsis	—
From other causes	2
Number of persons in receipt of out-door relief—	
(a) On 1st January, 1945	235
(b) On 1st January, 1944	301
Total grants in the way of Poor Law Relief, 31/3/44	£7,222
Total grants in the way of Poor Law Relief, 31/3/43	£8,027
Number of blind persons on the register (31st December, 1944)	142
Average domestic consumption of water per head, per day	26.92 galls.
Total consumption of water per head, per day	35.09 galls.
Rainfall during 1944.....	35.41
Hours of sunshine during 1944	1,413

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The population at the census of 1931 was 78,927. The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the middle of 1944 is 82,860. The comparable figure for the middle of 1943 was 85,140.

Birth Rate.—The total number of live births registered in the Borough during 1944 was 1,168. Of these 590 were males and 578 females. The birth rate for the year was 14·09 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population. This is the highest rate for the town since the year 1921. 103 (8·8%) of the births were illegitimate.

The number of stillbirths registered was 30, and represents a rate of 0·36 per 1,000 of the civilian population, which compares favourably with the rate of 0·50 for England and Wales.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths occurring amongst the residents of the town was 1,304 (565 males and 739 females). The crude death rate for the year was 15·73 per 1,000 of the civilian population. 35% of the deaths occurred in respect of persons aged 75 years and over.

Principal Causes of Death.—

Tuberculosis (all forms)	33
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	165
Cancer	224
Heart Disease	366
Respiratory Diseases	110
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	45
Violence, including Suicide	39

Deaths from Violence.—There were nine deaths from suicide and of the remainder deaths, were due to the following causes :—

Road Accidents	4
Drowning	2
Falls	12
Poisoning (Carbon-monoxide)	4
Burns	2
Miscellaneous Causes	6

Zymotic Death Rate.—

Diphtheria	Nil	Typhoid	Nil	Diarrhoea	3
Scarlet Fever	Nil	Measles	3	Whooping Cough	1
Total deaths 7. Rate per 1,000 of the population 0·072.					

Infantile Mortality Rate.—

Total Deaths	52	Rate per 1,000 births	44
Legitimate	45	do.	42
Illegitimate	7	do.	67

TABLE 1. VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1944 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICT Z		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS §		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Uncorrected Number	Net		Number x	Rate	of Non-residents regist'd in the District	of Residents not regist'd in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number	Rate					Number x	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number x	Rate
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1922	72,020	1023	1028	14.27	940	13.05	79	114	58	56	975	13.54
1923	72,410	1012	996	13.76	940	12.98	69	106	65	65	977	13.49
1924	73,650	952	934	12.90	977	13.24	78	109	59	63	1006	13.66
1925	74,260	988	973	13.10	880	11.85	56	118	59	61	937	12.62
1926	77,970	942	928	11.90	878	11.26	72	124	58	62	930	11.93
1927	78,670	973	958	12.18	1002	12.64	64	130	46	48	1067	13.56
1928	79,290	959	957	11.54	1002	12.64	72	132	69	75	1044	13.17
1929	80,040	929	896	11.07	1073	13.41	86	179	65	73	1146	14.32
1930	80,700	921	890	11.03	1035	12.82	72	165	66	74	1101	13.64
1931	77,280	877	824	10.66	1062	13.74	67	185	56	68	1157	14.97
1932	78,770	915	886	11.25	1019	12.94	68	150	40	45	1079	13.70
1933	78,980	805	769	9.51	1128	14.28	73	157	44	57	1189	15.05
1934	79,100	918	860	10.87	998	12.62	61	153	40	46	1070	13.53
1935	79,300	872	808	10.19	1104	13.92	63	143	52	64	1161	14.64
1936	79,280	880	804	10.14	1105	13.94	81	182	41	51	1189	15.00
1937	78,960	914	837	10.60	1143	14.48	63	205	56	67	1266	16.03
1938	78,600	870	802	10.20	1157	14.65	84	159	56	70	1215	15.46
1939	*78,900 *81,840	925	752	9.53	1271	15.53	101	168	41	52	1338	16.34
1940	88,550	1147	871	9.84	1385	15.64	115	148	40	43	1418	16.01
1941	95,410	1455	949	9.94	1375	15.53	171	211	65	68	1415	14.83
1942	90,480	1371	1075	11.90	1213	13.41	108	218	41	38	1323	14.62
1943	85,140	1283	1048	12.30	1237	14.53	73	246	49	47	1410	16.60
1944	82,860	1484	1168	14.09	1150	13.88	87	241	52	44	1304	15.73

* 78,900 for Birth Rate · 81,840 for Death Rate.

Z Including deaths in the Borough Isolation Hospital in the West Lancashire Rural District.

x In Column 6 are included the whole of the deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district, military deaths excepted.

In Column 12 is entered the number in Column 6, corrected by subtraction of the number in Column 8 and by the addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are similarly corrected by subtraction of the deaths under 1, included in the number given in Column 8, and by addition of the deaths under 1 included in the number given in Column 9.

§ "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales die in a district other than that in which they resided.

The following Special Cases arise as to Transferable Deaths :—

(1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses and nursing homes (but not almshouses) have been regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission the death is not transferable.

(2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement have been referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.

(3) Deaths from violence have been referred (a) to the district of residence, under the general rule; (b) if this district is unknown, or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred, if known; (c) failing this, to the district where the death occurred, if known; and (d) failing this, to the district where the body was found.

	1911	Census 1921	1931
Total population at all ages	69,643	71,900	78,927
Number of inhabited houses	15,676	16,314	20,388
Average number of persons per house	4.44	4.41	3.87
Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	9,426	9,426	9,426

TABLE II.

Showing the total number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Borough, and the Deaths resulting therefrom, during the last 10 years (1935-1944). It includes the Deaths which occurred both in the Borough, and in the Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital (outside the Borough).

	NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED											DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE											Case Mortality (of all cases) in Borough and Borough Hosp. for 10 years 1935-1944
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Total Cases for 10 years 1935- 1944	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Total Deaths during 10 years 1935 to 1944	
Scarlet Fever	84	265	209	208	176	150	381	117	151	140	1881	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	6	0·32%
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	72	14	81	143	151	61	234	101	34	10	901	5	—	6	5	8	1	6	5	1	—	37	4·11%
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1·43%
Para-typhoid Fever	1	1	—	1	—	—	28	2	1	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	24	21	26	42	30	24	35	24	25	28	279	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	·36%
Puerperal Fever	1	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	1	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	7	87·5%
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	4	7	7	9	11	12	25	10	5	96	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	4·167%
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	2	9	36	13	1	1	62	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	1	1	11	17·74%
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	43	47	57	50	37	36	56	74	52	63	515	31	33	33	25	40	24	38	37	43	27	331	64·27%
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	28	28	13	24	34	36	31	28	51	26	299	4	8	8	9	7	9	7	9	9	6	76	25·42%
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	3	5	2	4	3	—	1	2	2	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox*	446	406	300	318	368	774	564	676	414	326	4592	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles*	142	327	1148	231	155	1164	780	1091	742	741	6521	—	1	2	1	2	1	—	3	2	3	15	·23%
German Measles	15	112	93	20	131	1538	748	122	157	230	3166	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough*	166	406	134	166	186	636	531	160	368	301	3108	—	5	1	—	1	1	3	—	4	1	16	·51%

The following additional notifications were received during 1944 :—Pneumonia (all forms) 61 ; Bacillary Dysentery 18 ; Malaria 4.

* Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough were made Compulsorily notifiable in Southport in May, 1902, and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Poliomyelitis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum in February, 1912.

Measles, German Measles and Whooping Cough :—Only the first case in a house in two months is notifiable.

TABLE IIIa.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Popu- lation	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Cor- rected for Age and Sex	Under One Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Legiti- mate	Rate per 1,000 Births	Illegiti- mate	Rate per 1,000 Births	Pulm'ry Tuber- culosis	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Other Forms T.B.	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Zymotic Diseases	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation
1927	78670	496	571	1067	13.56	11.50	46	48	41	46	5	75	41	0.52	7	0.09	9	0.11
1928	79290	458	586	1044	13.17	11.17	69	75	61	71	8	140	39	0.49	10	0.13	16	0.20
1929	80040	533	613	1146	14.32	12.14	65	72	57	68	8	148	44	0.55	7	0.09	14	0.17
1930	80700	468	633	1101	13.64	11.56	66	74	52	63	14	222	60	0.74	9	0.11	19	0.24
1931	77280	510	647	1157	14.97	12.69	56	68	53	68	3	55	40	0.52	9	0.12	16	0.21
1932	78770	495	584	1079	13.70	11.62	40	45	35	42	5	79	33	0.42	7	0.09	8	0.10
1933	78980	517	672	1189	15.05	12.76	44	57	38	53	6	115	40	0.51	9	0.11	7	0.09
1934	79100	481	589	1070	13.53	11.23	40	46	37	45	3	79	38	0.48	9	0.11	11	0.14
1935	79300	509	661	1161	14.64	12.15	52	64	51	68	1	18	31	0.39	4	0.05	9	0.11
1936	79280	557	632	1189	15.00	12.45	41	51	37	49	4	68	33	0.42	8	0.10	9	0.11
1937	78960	566	700	1266	16.03	13.30	56	67	50	64	6	120	33	0.42	8	0.10	16	0.20
1938	78600	565	650	1215	15.46	12.83	56	70	49	65	7	132	25	0.32	9	0.11	11	0.14
1939	81840	606	732	1338	16.34	13.56	41	52	37	47	4	70	40	0.49	7	0.09	17	0.21
1940	88550	608	810	1418	16.01	12.65	40	43	33	38	7	121	24	0.27	9	0.10	3	0.93
1941	95410	641	774	1415	14.8	11.69	65	68	58	54	7	115	38	0.40	7	0.07	9	0.94
1942	90480	584	739	1323	14.6	—	41	38	36	36	5	75	37	0.41	9	0.10	8	0.09
1943	85140	619	791	1410	16.6	—	49	47	43	45	6	67	43	0.50	9	0.10	8	0.09
1944	82860	565	739	1304	15.74	—	52	44	45	42	7	67	27	0.32	6	0.07	6	0.07

TABLE IIIb.
BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS.

Year	Population	Males	Females	Total	Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Still Births
1927	78670	480	478	958	891	67	12.18	—
1928	79290	458	457	915	858	57	11.54	35
1929	80040	470	426	896	842	54	11.07	45
1930	80700	464	426	890	827	63	11.03	45
1931	77280	403	421	824	769	55	10.66	42
1932	78770	450	436	886	823	63	11.25	63
1933	78980	390	379	769	717	52	9.74	24
1934	79100	477	383	860	822	38	10.87	45
1935	79300	426	382	808	754	54	10.19	41
1936	79280	412	392	804	745	59	10.14	34
1937	78960	388	449	837	787	50	10.60	35
1938	78600	402	400	802	749	53	10.20	41
1939	78900	382	370	752	700	52	9.53	28
1940	88550	448	423	871	820	51	9.84	40
1941	95410	494	455	949	892	57	9.94	40
1942	90480	555	520	1075	1008	67	11.88	37
1943	85140	558	490	1048	958	90	12.3	35
1944	82860	590	578	1168	1065	103	14.01	32

TABLE IIIc.
MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Year	No. of Live and Still Births	RATES PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS					
		Sepsis		Other Causes		Total	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1925	973*	1	1.03	1	1.03	2	2.06
1926	928*	—	—	5	5.39	5	5.39
1927	958*	—	—	4	4.18	4	4.18
1928	950	—	—	2	2.11	2	2.11
1929	941	—	—	4	4.25	4	4.25
1930	935	3	3.20	7	7.49	10	10.69
1931	866	1	1.15	4	4.62	5	5.77
1932	949	1	1.06	6	6.32	7	7.38
1933	793	—	—	3	3.78	3	3.78
1934	905	—	—	3	3.31	3	3.31
1935	849	1	1.18	3	3.53	4	4.71
1936	838	1	1.19	2	2.39	3	3.58
1937	872	2	2.29	2	2.29	4	4.58
1938	843	—	—	—	—	—	—
1939	780	2	2.44	1	1.22	3	3.66
1940	911	—	—	1	1.08	1	1.08
1941	989	1	0.88	2	1.77	3	2.65
1942	1112	1	0.90	2	1.80	3	2.70
1943	1083	—	—	1	0.92	1	0.92
1944	1198	—	—	2	1.67	2	1.67

* Live Births Only.

TABLE IV.—BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1944.

England and Wales—126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures, based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	Rate per 1,000 total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931)	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61
Southport	14.09	0.36	15.73	—	—	0.03	—	0.01	—	0.09	2.5	44

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows : per 1,000 Total Births

Puerperal	Sepsis	Others	Total
.....	0.28	1.65	1.93
Southport	—	1.67	1.67

TABLE V.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Totals all ages	SEX		AGE DISTRIBUTION											
				MALES						FEMALES					
		M.	F.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	65 up.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	65 up.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	27	17	10	—	—	—	7	6	4	—	—	—	6	3	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	2	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic Disease	8	2	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	3	2
9. Influenza	8	3	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
10. Measles	3	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
11. Ac. Poliomyel and Polioenceph	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Ac. Inf. Enceph	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav and oesoph (m) uterus (f)	21	7	14	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	2	6	6
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	48	23	25	—	—	—	1	9	13	—	—	—	1	3	21
15. Cancer of breast	27	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	12	12
16. Cancer of all other sites	128	57	71	—	—	—	2	17	38	—	—	—	1	25	45
17. Diabetes	13	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	7
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	165	48	117	—	—	—	—	11	37	—	—	—	1	25	91
19. Heart diseases	366	174	192	—	—	—	5	47	122	—	—	—	2	24	166
20. Other dis. of cir. system	30	12	18	—	—	—	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	3	15
21. Bronchitis	66	36	30	—	—	—	1	9	26	2	1	1	—	5	21
22. Pneumonia	32	19	13	2	3	—	—	3	11	4	—	—	3	1	5
23. Other respiratory dis.	12	6	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	1	2	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Other digve. diseases	40	13	27	1	3	—	—	4	5	1	—	—	3	9	14
28. Nephritis	45	20	25	—	—	—	2	6	12	—	—	—	2	9	14
29. Puer. and post-abort. Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
31. Premature Birth	21	8	13	8	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
32. Con. mal., birth inj., infant diseases	14	9	5	8	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	1	—
33. Suicide	9	5	4	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	1	2	1
34. Road traffic accidents	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—
35. Other violent causes	26	10	16	—	1	—	—	5	4	—	—	1	1	2	12
36. All other causes	168	80	88	3	1	—	4	17	55	1	—	1	6	12	68
TOTALS	1304	565	739	24	10	1	23	151	356	28	3	6	37	155	510

Part II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH
SERVICES FOR THE AREA

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.—The staff of the Public Health Department has varied throughout the war years and three clerks (Mr. K. C. Vidler, Mr. N. Heywood and Miss M. Broomhead) are still in the Services. The Medical Staff has remained the same since 1939 except that Dr. M. F. Brownlie who was appointed on 11th October, 1941, as temporary Assistant Medical Officer, resident at New Hall Hospital, was recruited to the Forces in November, 1942, and is still in the Army Service.

The problem of the future staffing of the department will be the subject of a special report to the Committee in the near future.

Laboratory Facilities.—The same arrangements as hitherto have continued. Specimens for pathological examinations are sent to the Laboratory at the Southport Infirmary and the bacteriological examination of the milk and water supplies of the County Borough have been carried out by arrangement with the Thompson-Yates Laboratories at the Liverpool University. Samples of Foods and Drugs requiring bacteriological examination are also sent to the latter laboratory and samples for chemical analysis are sent to the City Analyst of Liverpool, who also holds the position of Public Analyst for Southport.

During the year the preliminary steps were taken to formulate a scheme in conjunction with the Board of Management of the Southport Infirmary whereby the laboratory services could be concentrated at the Infirmary Laboratory. This scheme would allow for necessary extensions of the service and would be of considerable benefit to the town. The final arrangements of the project are still under discussion.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Corporation has continued the service for the removal of cases of infectious disease. The ambulance driver and his assistant were both called to the Forces, and since then the posts have been filled by temporary drivers who are not resident at the hospital. Despite many difficulties the service has continued in a reasonably satisfactory manner.

In 1940 the Police department who previously had been responsible for the removal of accident cases to hospital ceased to control this service and the Civil Defence Ambulance Service took over the work. The two ambulances owned by the Watch Committee were then transferred to the depot at Houghton Street.

Throughout the war years the "accident" cases and cases requiring removal to hospital from private houses have been dealt with by the Civil Defence personnel, both full-time and voluntary part-time members of the staff.

At no time during this period has any complaint been made and the work at all times has been carried out expeditiously and efficiently. The greatest credit is due to the ambulance officer and to all members of the service for the services rendered to the town under the exceptional difficulties which characterised this work during the war years.

The future of the service is in doubt and will be dependent upon the development of the Government's schemes as they concern the hospital services of the country.

Nursing in the Home.—This service is provided by the local Southport and Birkdale District Nursing Association. The staff at present consists of eight nurses and a matron-in-charge. The Association receives a grant of £200 per annum from the Southport Corporation. The work of the Association is of the greatest value to the community and home-nursing must always continue to be an important part of any medical services which may develop on national lines. The Association deserves the whole-hearted support of the residents in the County Borough.

HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

Southport Infirmary.—A general hospital service is provided by the Southport Infirmary, which in addition to out-patients departments, contains accommodation for 150 bed-patients. The annual report of the Infirmary Board for the year 1944 shows that 2,610 persons received in-patient treatment at the Infirmary in that year; that 14,312 persons (of which 3,083 were accident emergency cases) attended the out-patient department, and altogether made 67,686 visits.

The Corporation has an arrangement with the Infirmary Board for the treatment of cases of surgical tuberculosis and during the year three patients were treated at the Infirmary under this scheme.

New Hall Hospital.—Before the war this hospital had accommodation for 70 beds in the Isolation wards and 36 beds in the Sanatorium. During the war further accommodation was provided and at present there are 90 beds in the Isolation wards and the accommodation for nursing and domestic staff has also been increased. A scheme for the replacement of the huts in the Sanatorium by a ward block was approved by the Ministry of Health in 1939, but owing to the outbreak of war the work was not proceeded with.

Fleetwood Road Hospital.—This hospital is designed for the accommodation of the aged and chronic sick persons. The normal accommodation of the hospital is 65 beds, and the beds are invariably kept full. During the year 1943, the need for further accommodation of a similar type became so urgent that the Corporation purchased and equipped the Victoria Home (25 beds) at 20, Park Road, Southport. Since this house was opened, the beds here also have been kept full. The necessity of providing further accommodation is fully recognised by the committee, and is under discussion to-day.

Ormskirk County Hospital.—Under the County Borough of Southport's administrative scheme, 1937, the Health Committee took over the responsibility for arranging for the care and maintenance of all sick persons requiring relief in Public Assistance establishments. There was no Poor Law Hospital in the County Borough and the arrangement with the Lancashire County Council to accept Southport cases at the County Hospital, Ormskirk, has been continued. The types of cases which come under the care of the Health Committee as a result of the administrative scheme are as follow :—

- (a) Persons suffering from sickness, accident, or bodily infirmity;
- (b) Persons suffering from mental infirmity—
 - (i) certified under the Lunacy or Mental Deficiency Acts.
 - (ii) not so certified.

Persons coming under categories (a) and (b)(ii) are cared for at the County Hospital, Ormskirk. Those under (b)(i) at institutions suitable for such persons in other parts of the country, the maintenance charges being paid for by the authority.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

The Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital.—This hospital, which was a gift to the town by Miss Christiana Hartley, M.B.E., J.P., was opened in 1932. It has always been regarded as one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country. Throughout the war and up to the present time, the hospital has been the mainstay of the maternity work in the County Borough. The need for extension of the nursery became apparent during the war, and it was necessary to take over one four-bed ward for this purpose, thus reducing the original provision of 30 beds to 26 beds. It is believed that this step has been of great benefit in the conduct of the hospital, but the provision of nursery accommodation by extension of the building will be necessary as soon as this can be undertaken.

The St. Katharine's Lying-in Hospital, 5, Lathom Road, Southport.—This was requisitioned by the Ministry of Health in 1941, and up to the end of 1944 was run on behalf of the Ministry by the Health department. At the end of 1944, the Corporation entered into an agreement with the Committee of the St. Katharine's home to take over the hospital. It is now being carried on by the Health department, and a further hospital accommodation of 15 beds has become available.

The Red House Lying-in Hospital, Shore Road, Ainsdale.—This house was requisitioned on behalf of the Ministry of Health and has been used as an emergency lying-in hospital during the war. At the present time it is used as a hospital for the reception of cases from the hostels for ex-service women of which there are three with a total accommodation of 60 beds. The maternity beds available at the Red House number 11.

The following table shows the numbers of admissions at these hospitals for the past eight years :—

Year	<i>Christiana Hartley Hospital</i>		<i>St. Katharine's Hospital</i>		<i>The Red House Hospital</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	<i>South- port</i>	<i>Evac- uees</i>	<i>South- port</i>	<i>Evac- uees</i>	<i>South- port</i>	<i>Evac- uees</i>	<i>South- port</i>	<i>Evas- uees</i>
1937	347	—	48	—	—	—	395	—
1938	369	—	48	—	—	—	417	—
1939	427	39	—	—	—	—	427	39
1940	450	134	54	27	—	—	504	161
1941	450	241	65	167	19	20	534	428
1942	408	134	119	89	79	91	606	314
1943	368	100	158	72	107	62	633	234
1944	530	15	246	112	144	71	920	198

It can be seen from this table that the number of admissions of Southport cases had more than doubled in the year 1944 as compared with the year 1937. Although the "Southport" classification will include in the later years a number who are still to be regarded as temporarily resident in the town, as a result of the war, yet discounting this, it is reasonably clear that there has been a much greater trend towards confinement in hospital rather than in the home.

The V.D. and Skin Department, Curzon Road.—This department has continued to function throughout the war. The clinic rooms on the ground floor were altered and adapted as a first-aid post and the permanent staff co-operated and assisted the civil defence members in the aid-post work. The premises have now reverted to their former condition and use.

Day Nurseries.—There are three day nurseries in the town :—

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (1) King Street Methodist Schools, opened 7th April, 1941 | 40-60 places. |
| (2) Crossens Day Nursery, North Road, opened 5th October, 1942 | 40 places. |
| (3) Bedford Park Day Nursery, opened 29th July, 1942 | 40 places. |

These nurseries have been organised and run by the department on behalf of the Ministry of Health. They have been intended for the reception of the infants of mothers who were occupied in essential war work.

The following table shows the attendances at each nursery during the year 1944 :—

Nursery	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
King St.	1169	1103	1200	1137	1284	1292	1279	1256	1250	1321	857	1096	14244
Crossens	605	474	626	526	702	656	545	585	775	750	370	425	7039
Bedford Park	743	834	942	714	932	1020	847	914	855	755	567	470	9593
Totals	2517	2411	2718	2377	2918	2968	2671	2755	2880	2826	1794	1991	30876

RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES.

69, Albert Road.—Opened in July, 1941, has accommodation for 30 children. In this nursery infants and children under five years of age are admitted. When this nursery opened it was intended mainly for the children of mothers who were engaged on war work, involving work during the night-shifts. Also the infants of mothers who were admitted to hospital for one cause or another were accepted.

24, Grosvenor Road.—This nursery was opened in May, 1942, and has accommodation for 17 children; it was intended as a mixed day nursery and residential nursery, but in the main has been used for the latter purpose, as the situation of the nursery did not lend itself to the day nursery work.

The average number of children in these nurseries during 1944 are shown as follows :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
69, Albert Road	25	25	23	20	18	20	20	30	25	21	18	16
24, Grosvenor Rd.	12	11	12	12	15	12	14	14	12	10	5	6

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—Under section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 1,550 births were notified. Of these, 455 were notified by doctors and 1,095 by midwives, a figure which includes 1,034 births occurring in the Lying-in Hospitals. There were 46 still births, leaving a total of 1,504 live births in the area, compared with 1,291 in the previous year.

Health Visiting.—During the year, the following visits were paid :—

To expectant mothers—first visits	227
total visits	1,875
To children under one year—first visits	1,119
total visits	3,175
To children between the ages of one and five years— total visits	7,713
To boarded-out children—first visits	65
To nurse children—total visits	157

Child Welfare Centres.—The five centres in the town continued during the year, and in addition to the normal working of each centre, the distribution of vitamin foods issued by the Ministry of Food was continued. This work was willingly undertaken throughout the war years and still continues. One other distributing centre exists at the health centre No. 2, Church Street.

This method of distribution has been most effective and has ensured the success of the local scheme which is of such importance to the welfare of the mothers and infants.

The following table shows the attendances at the different centres during the year :—

NAME OF CENTRE	INFANTS		CHILDREN OVER ONE YEAR AND UNDER FIVE YEARS	
	First Visits	Re-visits	First Visits	Re-visits
Hampton Road	171	3173	3	1670
High Park	182	3094	10	1166
Liverpool Road	153	2698	9	1301
Crossens	127	2224	1	981
Hoghton Street	170	3149	27	1417
TOTAL	803	14332	50	6535
Evacuees	77	623	40	363
TOTAL	880	14955	90	6898

Ante-Natal Services.—During the year four ante-natal clinics were in operation in the town. Three at the Christiana Hartley Hospital, and one at 44, Hoghton Street. Three of these clinics were attended by mothers resident in the town and the fourth held at the Christiana Hartley Hospital was attended by expectant ex-service women from three hostels in the town.

The three clinics at the Christiana Hartley Hospital were conducted by the Obstetric specialist in charge of the hospital. During the year 662 Southport mothers were examined and 196 from the hostels.

The central Ante-Natal clinic held at the Hoghton Street premises is attended by those patients who intend to be confined at home, and by those who are doubtful as to the best arrangements to be made. At the clinic the Municipal midwives can be interviewed and booked by intending patients. The clinic is conducted by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health—Dr. Butters. During the year 227 new patients attended the clinic.

Attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinics during 1944.—

	<i>First visits</i>	<i>Re-visits</i>	<i>Total</i>
Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital	858	4,562	5,420
44, Hoghton Street	227	669	896

Home Help.—The arrangements which were made originally in 1937 for the provision of home-helps in cases of confinement on the district became inoperable owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable persons to take up this work.

Domiciliary Midwifery.—The Municipal midwives delivered 155 cases and made 2,780 visits. They also paid 1,837 ante-natal visits and 1,210 incidental calls.

The town is divided into four areas for the purposes of this work. One midwife being resident in each area. The distribution of cases during the year was as follows :—

Area 1. Midwife "A"	48	Area 2. Midwife "B"	28
Area 3. Midwife "C"	42	Area 4. Midwife "D"	37

The Municipal midwives also attend at the central Ante-Natal Clinic, a system which helps in co-ordinating the work.

Midwives in Private Practice.—20 midwives notified their intention to practice as compared with 19 in the previous year. They attended 306 cases as midwives and 210 as maternity nurses.

The supervisor of midwives paid 75 visits of inspection during the year.

The Maternity Dental Clinic.—Is available for both expectant and nursing mothers. At this clinic 51 women made 528 attendances.

BLIND WELFARE.

On January 1st, 1944, there were 151 names on the Register of Blind Persons. During the year nine names were added, four being new cases residing in the town, and five transfers from other areas.

12 blind persons died during the year and six were transferred to other areas. On December 31st 1944, there were 142 persons on the register. Of these, 49 were males and 93 females. Two of these were between the ages of 16 and 21 years, 11 between the ages of 21 and 40 years, eight in the age group from 40 to 50 years, 49 between the ages of 50 and 65 years, and 72 over the age of 65 years.

The Home Teacher paid 857 visits to blind persons in their homes during the year, and 87 classes in Braille and Handicraft work were held. 909 attendances were made at these classes during the 12 months. Forty-one social gatherings were arranged.

At the end of the year, 81 persons on the register were in receipt of weekly grants and the total sum expended during the year on this account was £5,439. At the end of the year 12 blind persons were resident in approved institutions.

Thanks are again due to the Transport Department for their kindness in supplying free bus passes for the blind, and also to Miss Mace who has continued her voluntary work for the well-being of the Blind Community in this town.

CORPORATION HOSPITALS.—Admissions, Discharges, etc., 1944.

Name of Hospital	Type of Patient	No. in Hospital, 31/12/43	Admitted	Discharged	Died	No. in Hospital, 31/12/44
New Hall	Diphtheria	4	16	19	—	1
	Scarlet Fever	10	115	119	—	6
	Pemphigus	1	5	5	—	1
	Chickenpox	—	13	13	—	—
	Measles	—	81	74	1	6
	Rubella	—	40	40	—	—
	Pneumonia	—	7	6	—	1
	Dysentery	—	6	6	—	—
	Whooping Cough	—	9	6	—	3
	Erysipelas	—	4	4	—	—
	Mumps	—	15	12	—	3
	Scabies	—	3	3	—	—
	Impetigo	—	3	3	—	—
	Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	—	—
	Vincent's Angina	—	2	1	1	—
	Paratyphoid (Carrier)	1	—	—	—	1
	Obs. & O.D.	7	138	139	—	6
		23	458	451	2	28
	Tuberculosis	23	45	31	7	30
Fleetwood Road Hospital	Aged and Chronic Sick	70	62	43	21	68
Victoria Home (1)	do.	—	31	4	2	25
V.D. and Skin Hospital	In-patient	—	33	32	1*	—
	Out-patient	256	258	154	32*	328
Ormskirk County Hospital (2)	Hospital Wards	67	284	201	76	74
	Pavilion	39	64	48	15	40
Christiana Hartley	Maternity Hospital	2	545	524	1	22
St. Katharine's	Maternity Hospital	10	358	356	2	10
Red House	Maternity Hospital	9	215	213	3	8

(1) Victoria Home, opened January 25th, 1944.

(2) Ormskirk County Hospital is administered by the Lancashire County Council.

* Transfers.

CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1944.

Cause of Death	Under one wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Under one mth.	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total
Cardiac failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	4	—	9
Premature birth	18	1	1	—	20	—	—	—	—	20
Meningocele	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inanition	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Convulsions	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	4
Haemorrhage	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	4
Spina Bifida	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Congenital Syphilis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Septicaemia	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Congenital malformat'n	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	26	3	3	3	35	6	6	5	—	52

Part III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF
THE AREA

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The water supply is maintained by the Southport and District Water Board, which is a combination of the local authorities of the County Borough of Southport, the Urban District of Formby, and the West Lancashire Rural District. The Board supplies water within the area of these three authorities.

There are five pumping stations owned by the Water Board, and these are situated six to ten miles south-east of the town. The water from Scarth Hill does not come into Southport.

The wells and boreholes are all over 200 feet deep. Owing to the depth of the wells and the nature of the strata the possibilities of contamination are remote. The water has no plumbo-solvent action, and although somewhat hard is exceptionally pure, both chemically and bacteriologically. The water from the Blundell House pumping station (opened in July, 1934) shows a marked difference from the others, being a much softer supply.

Samples of the water are taken regularly.

Chemical Analysis, April, 1944.

The water is hard with a temporary hardness of 23.5 parts per 100,000 and a permanent hardness of 7.1 parts. It therefore has a total hardness of 30.6 parts per 100,000.

	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>		<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total solid matter in solution	40.96	Calcium Carbonate	17.6
Oxygen required } in 15 minutes.....	0.006	Magnesium Carbonate	5.0
to oxidise } in 3 hours	0.013	Magnesium Sulphate	8.5
Ammonia	0.002	Sodium Sulphate	1.1
Ammonia from organic matter	None	Sodium Chloride	4.8
Nitrogen as Nitrates	None	Sodium and Potassium	
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None	Silicates, etc.	4.0
Combined Chlorine	2.90		
		TOTAL SOLIDS	41.0

Bacteriological Examination, September, 1944.

Number of colonies on agar at 37°C. for 48 hours = 0 per 1 cc.
 Number of colonies on agar at 22°C. for 48 hours = 0 per 1 cc.
 B. Coli absent in 100 cc. of water examined.

Streptococcus faecalis absent in 100 cc. of water examined.

Thanks are due to Mr. N. B. Bennett, A.M.Inst., C.E., A.M.Inst., W.E., the Water Board Manager, for providing the following statement of analyses made of the water obtained from the various pumping stations.

**Analyses of Samples of Water taken from the Pumping Stations,
6th November, 1944.**

	Halsall Lane P.S.	Springfield P.S. (Filtered)	Bickerstaffe P.S. (Filtered)	Blundell House P.S. (Filtered)
Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000				
Appearance	Bright, very slight de- posit of min- eral debris	Clear and Bright	Bright, very few particles of mineral debris	Clear and bright
Colour	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.9
Free Carbonic Acid	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.4
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	460	650	760	340
Total Solids, 180° C.	31.0	43.0	51.0	23.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.3	3.4	2.2	2.3
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nitrites	Absent	Absent	Less than 0.001	Absent
Metals	Absent	Absent	Iron, less than 0.003	Iron, less than 0.003
Free Ammonia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.010	0.010	0.060	0.025
Hardness : Permanent	6.0	10.0	14.5	5.5
Temporary	18.5	26.0	29.5	11.0
Total	24.5	36.0	44.0	16.5
(Total Hardness : Degrees Clarks Scale)	17.15	25.2	30.8	11.55
Bacteriological Results				
No. of Bacteria per c.c.—				
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	4	1	6	1
1 day at 37°C.	2	0	0	1
2 days at 37°C.	2	0	0	1
The Bacillus Coli. <i>Present in</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>Absent in</i>	100 c.c.	100 c.c.	100 c.c.	100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii <i>Present in</i>	—	—	—	—
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)				
<i>Absent in</i>	100 c.c.	100 c.c.	100 c.c.	100 c.c.

Reports :—

The samples were reported as being clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from insignificant traces of iron. The water is hard in character but contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is therefore considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

All the houses in the Borough have a direct supply from the mains with the exception of nine houses in the Ainsdale area, and in these the supply is obtained from six shallow wells.

Drainage.—The number of properties without a main drainage system that is connected to the public sewer is 160. It is confidently anticipated that, when building schemes are in operation and the public sewers extended as a consequence, the number will be gradually reduced until those premises not provided with modern sanitation will be very few.

Negotiations regarding the abolition of a number of cesspools in the Scarisbrick New Road area continued. Meanwhile, legal proceedings were necessary in 12 cases for non-compliance with the provisions of the Public

Health Act, 1936, and the Byelaws with respect to the cleansing of cesspools. One summons was withdrawn on the person concerned giving an undertaking to repair the cesspool. In all the other cases convictions were obtained.

Household Refuse.—The work of collection and disposal of refuse is the responsibility of the Borough Engineer. The method of collection of household refuse used is a combination of the horse and motor collection. Household refuse is disposed of by means of "controlled" tipping on land not otherwise used.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

General.—For the purpose of sanitary inspection the Borough is divided into districts, each area being under the control of one Sanitary Inspector.

Despite all the circumstances associated with war conditions, including those resulting from the extra demands made upon the services of the inspectors, the duties were carried out satisfactorily.

As the climax of the war approached, emergency legislative measures affected the supply of materials, and this, coupled with the progressive withdrawal of labour for special war purposes over a long period of time, increasingly contributed to the difficulties of administration, especially in regard to the work necessary for the remedy of structural defects.

An important factor, emerging during the period under review, was the advantages of the policy, pursued over so many decades, of encouraging the close co-operation between the public (especially owner-occupiers of properties) and the Department, for the express purpose of preventing insanitary conditions from arising. As a direct consequence, any large increase in the number of complaints to be dealt with was, without doubt, obviated.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,284.

The utmost importance was attached to the Health Publicity Campaign, inaugurated in 1943, and it was continued throughout the year.

The encouragement given by the Government to the rearing of food animals, provided another factor to be reckoned with. Surveys, however, showed that the animals were being kept under good conditions, and only minor supervision was required.

Shops.—The administration of the Shops Act is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department. Defects coming under Section 10 of the Shop Act, 1934, found by inspectors of that Department are immediately reported to the Medical Officer of Health for the necessary action to be taken.

Baths.—The public baths are situated (a) Promenade, (b) Canning Road, and (c) Compton Road. In addition there is the Open Air Bathing Lake, Princes Park. All the sea water used is filtered and chlorinated, and samples taken at intervals have shown a high degree of purity.

Schools.—These have been regularly visited by the District Sanitary Inspectors. The standard of cleanliness has been well maintained, and the advice given in former years as to the importance of frequent and thorough cleansing of floors, desks and equipment has proved of value. Co-operation by the school caretakers has been very good. Drainage matters requiring attention have been dealt with expeditiously.

Common Lodging Houses.—The four registered lodging houses were constantly inspected by the Department's officers, and 188 visits were made during the year. The conditions generally continue to be satisfactory.

Factories.—There has been a war-time increase in the number of factories.

Welfare conditions did not appear to have deteriorated, and no serious nuisances were observed during the 127 visits made.

Statistical information, prepared in the manner required by the Government Department concerned, is shown as follows :—

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	109	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	18	—	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. TOTAL	127	3	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences { insufficient	—	—	—	—
(S.7) { unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—
{ not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	1	1	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
TOTAL	9	9	—	—

Smoke Abatement.—It was not possible to supplement the work carried out in previous years.

Pest Control.—The continual efforts of the Department to maintain the interest of the general public in this subject, together with the publicity given to the matter in the campaign referred to elsewhere in this Report, achieved a certain amount of success during the year.

The disinfection of a number of premises affected with vermin, other than rodents, was carried out by the owners, the occupiers and, in some cases, by contractors. In eight instances infestation proved to be severe and the method of eradication employed was by the use of hydrogen cyanide gas. In the latter cases, the requirements of the Regulations were carried out under observation of the Sanitary Inspectors, and all the usual safety precautions taken.

It became necessary, in March, to appoint an Operator, to organize, and carry out when essential, measures for the destruction of rodents. The Ministry of Food, from time to time, issued directions concerning this problem; surveys and campaigns for the elimination of rodents were undertaken and reports duly submitted. Control measures were carried out in conjunction with neighbouring Local Authorities. A Workable Area Committee was set up, and the Chief Inspector was appointed a member. It may be of interest to note that one campaign involved the distribution of 424 posters for exhibition in premises, in 36 streets, in addition to advising persons upon the best practical means of dealing with the problem.

Summary of Visits.—During the year the total number of visits made by the inspectors was 26,497 including those classified as follows :—

(A) District Inspection :—

(1) Routine :—

Inspections on complaints	1,284
Miscellaneous Inspections	10,435
Re-inspections relating to sanitary defects under Notice, &c.	1,760

(2) Visitation *re* Remedy of Sanitary Defects :—

Houses redrained, or drains amended &c.	113
Building and altering W.C.s	74
Visits <i>re</i> remedy of miscellaneous nuisances	1,327

(3) Inspection of Special Premises :—

Factories (including bakehouses)	127
Common Lodging Houses	188
Stable Premises	9
Offensive Trades Premises	186
Dairies	549

(B) Pest Control Inspections :—

Properties surveyed <i>re</i> rodent infestation	2,620
Properties surveyed <i>re</i> other vermin infestation	253

TOTAL 18,925

Nuisances.—The number of cases recorded for abatement was 1,263.

In all cases the customary verbal request for the abatement of nuisances found was made, but in 396 instances it was necessary to serve Notices, as follows :—

Preliminary	345
Statutory	51

Many signed orders relating to the opening, the cleansing and the repairing of drainage systems were received. The work specified was carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department.

As in former years, all matters concerning the public drainage systems, and sewers, were referred to the Borough Engineer for the necessary measures to be undertaken.

Infectious Diseases.—The following information gives an indication of the duties performed :—

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Inquiries into cases	1,867
Patients Removed to Isolation Hospital	478
Houses Disinfected	322
Bedding Disinfected	418
Schools Disinfected	12
Stables and Cowsheds Disinfected	3
Miscellaneous	1,081
Special Disinfection Scheme	420
TOTAL	4,601

Part IV.

HOUSING

HOUSING.

General.—The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on 31st December, 1944, was 23,594.

Fitness for Habitation.—The standard of the fitness of houses in the Borough continued to be generally good.

Overcrowding.—This problem received the earnest attention of the Department, and in view of the expected heavy demand for residential accommodation, it was thought desirable to obtain some idea of the extent of overcrowding in the town. As it was not possible to undertake a full survey of the whole of the Borough, a token survey was undertaken during the months of January, February and March. The survey was on the same lines as that made under the Housing Act in 1936, but applied to selected streets which were regarded as representative of the various districts.

It should be noted that standards as regards accommodation and "units" were the same in both surveys, though the number of "units" shown as "occupying" included those persons who were normally resident though temporarily absent owing to the war.

Of the 1,370 properties visited 30 were found to be overcrowded :—

<i>Houses having the permitted number of "units" stated</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>		
	<i>Not overcrowded</i>	<i>Overcrowded</i>	<i>Totals</i>
3	40	4	44
5	166	16	182
5½	—	2	2
6½	—	2	2
7½	346	5	351
8	16	1	17
Others	772	—	772
	<hr/> 1,340	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 1,370

Interesting points were that (a) overcrowding existed in the lower "permitted number" class of houses, (b) where allowance was made in respect of absentees, the number of overcrowded houses was halved (see Table II), (c) the popular type of house contains three bedrooms, one living room and one kitchen, together with a bathroom and the usual conveniences, and (d) none of the latter were found to be overcrowded.

Table I.

Number of Properties having a permitted number of "Units".

<i>Number Occupying ("Units")</i>	2	3	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	9	10	12	14	16	<i>Totals</i>
0	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
1	2	19	8	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	37	2	—	—	81
1½	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
2	2	15	35	—	—	—	—	57	—	—	147	6	4	—	266
2½	—	4	16	—	—	—	—	18	1	—	29	—	—	—	68
3	—	1	41	—	—	—	3	82	5	—	150	9	1	—	292
3½	—	2	19	—	1	—	—	27	3	—	33	2	1	—	88
4	—	1	30	—	—	—	—	55	2	—	108	6	3	—	205
4½	—	1	7	—	1	—	—	12	3	—	31	2	—	—	57
5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	41	—	2	68	4	3	1	124
5½	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	14	3	—	—	29
6	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	19	1	—	26	8	—	—	59
6½	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	5	—	—	11	1	—	—	23
7	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	19	4	1	—	32
7½	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	8	1	1	—	14
8	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	1	1	—	10
8½	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	7
9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
9½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	4	44	182	2	2	4	4	351	17	2	692	49	16	1	1,370

Table II.

Degree of Overcrowding.

<i>Excess of Units</i>	<i>Number of cases where the persons occupying</i>	
	<i>includes absentees</i>	<i>excludes absentees</i>
½	9	4
1	8	6
1½	4	1
2	4	2
2½	2	0
3	2	1
4	1	1
TOTALS	30	15

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts).....	1,381
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	3,141
(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,202
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1,151
3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—	
A.—Proceedings under the Public Health Act :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	51
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	50
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
B.—Proceedings under Sections 9 to 12, Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the houses for human habitation	Nil
(4) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil
(5) Number of persons displaced as a result of action under (1) to (4) above	Nil
(6) Number of dwelling houses made fit—	
(i) as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12.....	Nil
(ii) as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 to 12	15
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding :—	
(1) (a) Number of houses overcrowded	30§
(b) Number of persons dwelling therein	203

§ See report of survey.

Part V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Visits of Inspection.

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
Abattoirs	632
Butchers' Shops	2,276
Fish and Poultry Shops	1,236
Provision Shops.....	2,459
Potted Meat and Fish Works	348
Cafe Kitchens	127
Piggeries	111
Cowsheds	67
*Other Premises	316
TOTAL	<u>7,572</u>

* Includes 131 visits to inspect the carcasses of pigs slaughtered on private premises ; 181 visits to obtain samples for bacteriological examination (177 of milk and four of Town's water) ; and visits to secure four samples of Town's water for chemical analysis.

Milk.

Production and Distribution.—There are 96 dairymen on the Register, of whom 37 are cowkeepers.

Purity.—The efforts of the Department in maintaining a clean milk supply have continued. Additional to the regular sampling of milk, and periodical inspection of herds, the practice of subjecting milk to sediment tests was also carried out in 49 cases.

The number of samples of milk taken for chemical analysis was 216, and included 195 genuine samples ; details of the remaining 21 are given on page 38.

As regards the bacteriological examination of milk, 177 samples were procured, 132 from local producers and the other 45 from producers outside the Borough. It is very gratifying to observe that none of these specimens were found to be tuberculous.

Sale of Milk under Designation.—Particulars of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, and in force during the year :—

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
A.—Producer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "Accredited" in relation to milk produced from a herd, and bottled on the producer's premises in the Borough.....	1
B.—Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "Accredited" in relation to milk sold by retail from the holder's premises outside the Borough.....	2
C.—Pasteuriser's licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk treated by the pasteurising process at the holder's premises	5

D.—Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from the holder's premises	20
E.—Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk sold from the holder's premises	2
TOTAL	30

Veterinary Service.—All notifications are followed up by the Department, and an Inspector visits the places concerned in order to prevent any infected milk from being used for human consumption.

The Tuberculosis Order, 1938, imposes upon the Veterinary Inspectors working under the direct instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the duties of dealing with any bovine animal which is, or is suspected to be, affected with tuberculosis.

During the year 1,039 clinical examinations were made by the Veterinary Inspectors, with the following results regarding bovine animals :—

<i>Diagnosis</i>	<i>Number</i>
Tuberculosis	2
Mastitis	6
Acetonemia	1
Enlargement of the supramammary lymphatic glands	1
Induration of the udder	1
TOTAL	11

Meat.

Apart from 131 pigs slaughtered on private premises, all the food animals were killed in the abattoirs, Poplar Street.

Particulars of the number of animals (excluding those not in the classification) brought into the abattoirs, for slaughter, from within the Borough and the adjoining districts, and the results of the post-mortem examinations, are set out below :—

<i>Diagnosis</i>	<i>Number within the Borough</i>	<i>Number outside the Borough</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis	2	41	43
Peritonitis	1	11	12
Pyemia	1	9	10
Oedema	0	10	10
Septic Pericarditis.....	1	2	3
Swine Erysipelas	1	0	1
Fevered	1	5	6
Bruised (accident)	0	1	1
Moribund	0	6	6
TOTAL	7	85	92

A complete summary of the carcasses examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption, is appended. Details of the parts condemned are shown in the list headed "Unsound Food".

**Carcasses Inspected and Condemned During the Year 1944,
Abattoirs, Poplar Street.**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2585		3533	13611	180*
Number inspected	2585		3533	13611	180*
All Diseases except T.B.— Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	23	17	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	349	203	1	865	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	21.47		0.67	6.47	18.33
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses condemned	5	36	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	194	334	1	—	12
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	21.89		0.08	—	6.66

* Including 131 pigs killed on private premises.

OTHER FOODS.

381 samples, of 75 varieties of food, were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The results showed 341 as being genuine and 40 as non-genuine; the latter included 15 formal and 25 informal samples.

Full particulars are given in the following three tables :—

Table "A": List of Samples of milk found to be adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity.

<i>Reference Number and if formal or informal sample</i>	<i>Report of Analysis</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
77 Formal	Practically sour; nauseous taste and odour	Returned to the producer. Not sold to the public.
82 Informal	Deprived of 9% of milkfat	Letter of warning sent by the Town Clerk.
87 Formal	Deprived of 5% of milkfat	Letter of warning sent by the Town Clerk.
166 Formal	Contained 6% added water	Vendor prosecuted. Convicted and fined £5, plus £2. 2s. costs.
169 Formal	Deprived of 6% of milkfat	Followed up by "Appeal to cow" samples numbered 180 and 181.

<i>Reference Number and if formal or informal sample</i>	<i>Report of Analysis</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
173 Informal	Contained 4% added water	Followed up by taking samples in course of delivery from the producer.
176 Formal	Contained 2% added water	Taken in connection with sample numbered 173. Prosecution; case dismissed on technical grounds.
217 Formal	Deprived of 10% of milkfat	Letter of warning sent by the Town Clerk. Followed up by "Appeal to cow" samples.
238 Informal	Deficient in milkfat (2.75% fat; 9.44% other solids)	Taken in connection with sample numbered 217.
241 Informal	Deficient in milkfat (2.87% fat; 9.27% other solids)	Taken in connection with sample numbered 217.
256 Formal	Contained 9% added water	Sample taken in course of delivery from the producer; followed up by further samples numbered 259 and 261. Producer prosecuted.
259 Formal	Contained 14% added water	Producer prosecuted; convicted and fined £5 in each of three cases (samples numbered 256, 259 and 261), plus £3. 3s. advocate's fee, £2. 2s. analyst's fee and £2. 5s. for the expenses of witness.
261 Formal	Contained 32% added water	Producer prosecuted; see remarks <i>re</i> sample numbered 259.
305 Formal	Deprived of 6% of milkfat	Vendor prosecuted; convicted and fined £2, plus £3. 3s. costs.
351 Informal	Deprived of 27% of milkfat	Followed up by taking samples numbered 358, 361, 366, 371 and 372 in course of delivery from the producer.
353 Informal	Deprived of 15% of milkfat	Followed up by taking samples numbered 358, 361, 366, 371 and 372 in course of delivery from the producer.
358 Formal	Deprived of 16% of milkfat	Milk from single kit; bulked sample genuine. Letter of warning sent by the Town Clerk.
361 Formal	Deprived of 30% of milkfat	Particulars similar to those concerning sample numbered 358.
366 Formal	Deprived of 16% of milkfat	Particulars similar to those concerning samples numbered 358 and 361.
371 Formal	Deprived of 14% of milkfat	Particulars similar to those concerning samples numbered 358, 361 and 366.
372 Formal	Deprived of 21% of milkfat	Particulars similar to those concerning samples numbered 358, 361, 366 and 371.

Table "B" : List of samples, other than of milk, found to be adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity.

<i>Reference Number and Article</i>	<i>Report of Analysis</i>	<i>Particulars (All the samples—informat)</i>
44 Butter	Rancid flavour · unpalatable	Small amount of stock ; returned for manufacturing purposes.
65 Baking Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide	Remainder of stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
69 Cinnamon Powder	Contained sand and siliceous matter	Stock withdrawn.
70 Curry Powder	Contained excessive amount of lead	No further stock.
120 Dessert Mould	Infested with acari	Remainder of stock withdrawn from sale.
125 Dessert Mould	Infested with acari	Remainder of stock withdrawn from sale.
211 Orange Juice	Slightly fermented	Referred to the Ministry of Food for suitable disposal.
268 Pancake Mixture*	Infested with acari	Remainder of stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
269 Pudding Mixture*	Infested with acari	Remainder of stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
274 Frutella Sauce	Infested with acari	Remainder of stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
288 Tinned Milk	Contained an undue amount of free acid	Referred to the Ministry of Food.
289 Tinned Milk	Contained an undue amount of free acid	Referred to the Ministry of Food.
290 Tinned Milk	Contained an undue amount of free acid	Referred to the Ministry of Food.
291 Tinned Milk	Contained an undue amount of free acid	Referred to the Ministry of Food.
294 Malt Cocoa Spread	Fermented ; contained a little mould	Stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
334 Parsley	Contained an excessive am- ount of sand and siliceous matter	Packers advised.
335 Pudding Mixture*	Decomposed	Stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
339 Friquix	Infested with acari	Stock surrendered and sent for salvage.
350 Pudding Mixture*	Infested with acari	Stock surrendered and sent for salvage.

* Classified under "Cake and Pudding Mixture" in the statistical summary.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The demand for extractive substances for commercial and industrial purposes, was on such an unprecedented scale as to require the salvaging of all classes of materials. The need, therefore, to continue the step taken, when it became necessary to depart from the policy, hitherto firmly established, of destroying all unsound food, did not lessen.

Prolonged storage of certain kinds of food, under very exceptional conditions, plus the extraordinary circumstances under which transport had to be maintained, created problems requiring constant vigilance by the Department.

In the light of the foregoing facts, the amount of food condemned may be considered to be not unsatisfactory.

Part VI.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.—Only ten cases were notified during the year and there were no deaths. The cases included six children under the age of 15 years, two of whom had been previously immunised. The four other cases occurred in persons whose ages varied from 16 to 34 years of age and of whom two had been protected by immunisation. 24 patients were admitted to hospital with a tentative diagnosis of Diphtheria but were found to be suffering from the following complaints :—

Nasal discharge	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Furunculosis of the auditory meatus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
No apparent disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Tonsillitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Quinzy	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Glandular Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

The following table shows the notifications and deaths occurring in each of the ten years from 1935 to 1944 :—

Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Total
Notifications	72	14	81	143	151	61	234	105	34	10	905
Deaths	5	—	6	5	8	1	6	8	3	—	42

Immunisation.—At the commencement of 1944 the percentage of the child population protected against the disease by immunisation was as follows :—

Under five years of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	64%	immunised.
Ages five to 15 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	74%	„

During the twelve months 745 children under five years of age were immunised and 341 children of from five to 15 years of age, a total of 1,086.

The state of immunisation at the close of the year was :—

Under five years of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	39%	immunised.
Ages five to 15 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	85%	„

The falling off in the percentage of children immunised under five years of age is a matter for concern and steps are being taken to improve this figure.

Scarlet Fever.—140 notifications of this disease were received, and 115 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. The disease continued to be of a mild type and there were no deaths. Some degree of cervical adenitis was a frequent complication, one case developed acute ethmoiditis, two suffered from acute stomatitis, and there were four in which acute otorrhoea developed.

Enteric Group.—No cases under this group were notified during the year.

Undulant Fever.—No cases were notified.

Chicken Pox.—The incidence of this disease was less than during the previous year—326 cases were notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases of this disease were notified. The mothers and infants were admitted to the Skin Hospital in Pilkington Road for treatment, which was successful, and in neither case was the sight of the infant affected.

Puerperal Fever—Puerperal Pyrexia.—Five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the 12 months.

Dysentery.—18 cases of this disease were notified and of these, six were admitted to hospital. Of those admitted in four cases only was the disease verified by recovery of the organism.

Erysipelas.—28 cases were notified and four were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

Measles and German Measles.—Although there was some increase in the number of cases of Measles during the last three months of the year, this disease was not unduly prevalent, 741 cases were notified as compared with 742 in the previous year. German Measles was not prevalent in 1944, 230 cases were notified as compared with 157 cases in the previous year.

81 cases of Measles were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and 40 cases of German Measles. Most of the cases admitted came from various children's homes and institutions in the town.

Whooping Cough.—301 cases were notified during the year as compared with 368 in the previous 12 months. Nine cases were admitted to hospital for treatment.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—Only one case occurred during 1944, at a Naval depot in the borough. The case was removed for treatment to the Royal Naval Hospital at Seaforth.

Malaria.—Four cases were notified, but in each case the infection had been contracted abroad.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the end of the year 1944, 328 persons were under treatment at the Clinic as compared with 256 at the close of the year 1943.

50 patients were treated suffering from Syphilis for the first time during the year as compared with 53 in the previous year. 88 new patients suffering from Gonorrhoea were treated as compared with 83 in 1943.

The total of 7,881 attendances were made at the Out-patient Department during the year, showing a reduction of 156 as compared with 1943.

The new cases dealt with during 1944 are classified as follows :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis	25	25	50
Gonorrhoea	55	33	88
Non-venereal	41	95	136
Transferred from other clinics	4	3	7
	<hr/> 125	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 281

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were admitted during the year and were discharged completely cured without complications.

Four Maternity cases were admitted for In-patient treatment during the year, of these, one was under treatment for Syphilis and three on account of Gonorrhoeal infection. The treatment was successful in each case and the confinements resulted in the births of healthy babies.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year notifications totalled 86, of these 59 were of persons suffering from pulmonary disease and 27 from non-pulmonary disease.

Deaths during the year totalled 33, out of these 27 were due to pulmonary disease, 17 being males and ten females.

	Males		Females		Total
	Adults 17	Children —	Adults 10	Children —	
PULMONARY	17	—	10	—	27
NON-PULMONARY—					
Meninges	—	1	2	1	4
Abdomen	—	1	—	—	1
Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—	—
Peripheral Glands	—	—	—	—	—
Other organs	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	18	2	12	1	33

The following table gives details of deaths covering the last ten years :—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	Cases	Death Rate per 1,000	Cases	Death Rate per 1,000	Cases	Death Rate per 1,000
1935	31	0.39	4	0.05	35	0.44
1936	33	0.42	8	0.10	38	0.52
1937	34	0.43	6	0.08	40	0.52
1938	25	0.32	9	0.11	34	0.43
1939	40	0.49	7	0.09	47	0.58
1940	24	0.27	9	0.10	33	0.37
1941	38	0.40	7	0.07	45	0.47
1942	37	0.41	9	0.10	46	0.51
1943	50	0.59	8	0.09	58	0.68
1944	27	0.33	6	0.07	33	0.40

At the end of the year there were 344 cases on the Dispensary Register.

The attendances at the Dispensary during the years 1938 to 1944 were :—

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
1124	952	1025	1136	1169	1340	1358

During the last five years the Dispensary has been held at 44, Hoghton Street, but it is realised that the premises, with its war-time alterations to its structure and approaches, are not attractive, and its position on the second floor a disadvantage to some of the patients.

All contacts of notified cases are informed that it is in their interest to have an examination, and 133 attended the Dispensary for this purpose.

50 patients attended for treatment at 2, Church Street, for general or local sunlight treatment. The results of treatment have been very satisfactory, and the Kromayer lamp has been of particular value.

New Hall Sanatorium.—45 patients were admitted, 29 discharged and seven died.

Artificial pneumothorax treatment was given to 38 patients during the year and the number of refills given was 1,080. One patient was transferred for thoracoplasty operation, five patients had operations for adhesions and three had operations for phrenic evulsion.

In the early part of 1945, a liaison was established with the County Tuberculosis Authorities, and patients now requiring operative treatment are admitted to one of their three centres for surgical treatment and, except after thoracoplasty, are returned to New Hall for the remainder of their treatment.

During the war years there has been considerable strain on the accommodation in the Sanatorium with its 22 beds and 14 shelter beds, and it has been greatly regretted that the additional sanatorium block planned for 1940 was not able to be erected. The increase of population during the war resulted in an increased demand for beds. During the air raids on this country many patients in a precarious state of health left the danger areas and went into lodgings in town, and those whose condition deteriorated and who might ordinarily have been cared for at home, had to be admitted to Sanatorium. Mass Radiography of the local population has only been carried out among those working in large undertakings out of the Borough, and the numbers referred for supervision or treatment has been small, but the number discovered among the Services has been quite considerable.

It has therefore unfortunately been necessary to select patients for admission. In general the patients selected have been those in whom the prospect of improvement has been good, but others were admitted whose improvement seemed improbable, but whose home circumstances were most unsuitable. The delay in admission of patients whose prospects were favourable did not at any time exceed six weeks, but accommodation could not be provided for some advanced cases who would have been more comfortable with nursing care.

During the year, 1074 X-ray films were taken. The old 1929 X-ray plant has had to be carefully nursed but in spite of this has been out of use whilst under repair on three occasions. Apart from the heavier work required of it in taking X-ray films the machine has been used well over 2,000 times in the lighter work of screen examination of patients and it now appears to be necessary to instal a new plant.

In bad weather there are inconveniences to the patients in the situation of the treatment and examination block in the absence of a covered approach. This will be remedied when the plans for extension of the sanatorium can be put into effect.

Adults with non-pulmonary tuberculosis receive treatment at the County Sanatorium at Wrightington, and children have been treated mainly at Leasowe. Early in 1945, the County Tuberculosis Authorities agreed to admit all non-pulmonary patients to Wrightington, but in view of their present staff difficulties and closure of wards, our former practice still prevails.

Patients requiring minor surgical treatment for non-pulmonary disease are often referred to the Southport Infirmary.

Care Work.—Extra nourishment in the form of milk and cod liver oil preparations is issued to necessitous cases.

The Tuberculosis Care Committee continues to do most valuable work, and during the year, apart from the provision of money, clothing and other necessities to the value of £424, several households were assisted in other ways.

The Seal Sale resulted in the addition to the funds of £245.

Tuberculosis Allowances.—These allowances are given to patients under two categories, firstly, under the Government Scheme to patients suffering from pulmonary disease in whom there is good prospect of their being able to return to work and, secondly, under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by the Southport Corporation, to those with non-pulmonary disease or pulmonary disease of a degree which is likely to result in permanent invalidism of varying degree.

This wise procedure of the Council thus supplied assistance to the patients with, e.g., disease of the spine, in whom treatment is no less lengthy than that of lung disease, but whose final prospects of useful work are in the main much greater and at the same time avoided the consequences of the realisation by those most seriously affected patients with lung disease, that their condition was considered to be unfavourable.

In all cases the allowances are collected from the Health Centre and it is a source of considerable ease to the peace of mind of many of the patients that they have severed their connections with the Public Assistance Department.

Part VIII.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

(The Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the
School Medical Officer)

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

During 1944 the school medical services were well maintained in spite of difficulties, of which the chief was shortage of staff in proportion to the work to be got through. It is to the credit of the department that as an additional safeguard against possible deterioration due to conditions of war, every child attending school was examined at least once during the year. Such a complete survey was not in practice even before the war. It has proved of great value as, on the whole, the children are seen in the normal everyday condition, rather than in the special state of cleanliness often achieved simply for the purpose of the routine medical examination.

Routine Medical Inspection.—Every school under the authority was visited by the medical staff for the purposes of routine inspection.

Elementary Schools.—Complete examination was carried out in the 20 elementary schools of all those who had entered since the previous inspection. Those who had reached the age of 12 years were also examined in preparation for leaving school, and where necessary, a report as to suitability for certain employment was drawn up, to be sent later to the Juvenile Employment Committee. 1,852 children were examined in these two groups.

Just before the doctor's visit every other child was examined by the Health Visitor, and all those who appeared to be physically or mentally handicapped, under-nourished, under-clad, or otherwise in need of special consideration, were brought before the medical officer. The number was 901.

Nutrition.—Apart from actual changes in nutrition, the percentage found in each of the four classes A, B, C, D may vary a little from year to year according to the composition of the age-groups represented. Making due allowance for this, it can still give satisfaction to note that the percentage falling into the two sub-normal groups C and D has never been smaller since this classification was used than it was in 1944. Although the number of children taking school meals and milk is still less than it should be, it is probably true to say that the increase in supplementary feeding is such, that no child in school is now under-nourished through lack of suitable food.

Nutritional Table.

	<i>Children examined during the year</i>	<i>Percentage</i>			
		<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Slightly sub-normal</i>	<i>Bad.</i>
1944	1,852	6·4	88·4	5·1	0·11
1943	2,693	8·0	85·4	6·3	0·07
1942	1,437	4·5	81·2	14·4	—
1941	1,983	7·8	84·5	7·6	0·15
1940	2,749	7·6	83·4	8·7	0·29
1939	1,812	10·3	82·9	6·7	0·11
1938	2,221	8·1	83·6	8·1	0·18

Along with actual nutrition there are other findings which give fair indication of the general care and surroundings of the child. For example :—

Parents present at inspection.—Before the war the number of parents who were sufficiently interested and free to attend at the inspection was rising continuously and had reached 65% for all ages. In 1944, although the parents of 70% of the entrant group were present, for all ages the percentage was only 45. This is, of course, not surprising, as so many mothers are at work, but it does limit the usefulness of the examination, and it is to be hoped that the custom of the parent attending at the older ages will be resumed when possible.

Refusal of examination.—At one time some parents, or their children through them, refused inspection on very flimsy grounds. In 1938, 35 children were thus denied the benefit of being examined. In 1944 there were only six cases of this kind.

Clothing and footgear are also indications of child care. In spite of difficulties, unsatisfactory clothing was very rare—less than before the war, but footwear has been known to be difficult and the percentage of unsatisfactory cases was more than double what it was in 1938. Watertight shoes are of the highest benefit to children, and the repair of their shoes should be considered a work of national importance. Properly made clogs are useful in this respect.

Cleanliness.—The groups of children inspected were, on the whole, cleanly, so far as their bodies and clothing were concerned, and in certain schools where good use is being made of showerbaths the results, and the attitude of the children, were striking. Over all, however, the figure of 0.8% unsatisfactory, is too high, and strenuous efforts are constantly required to get it reduced. Living conditions are probably the greatest factor in this rise, and it is to be hoped that gradual improvement in housing with better sanitary conditions will have some effect.

Renewed efforts have been made to rid the school and pre-school community of head-lice. That these efforts have been partially successful is shown by the figures at routine medical inspection, but the position is still not what it was in 1938, and showed no improvement on 1943.

**Percentage of Children Found at Routine Medical Inspection
with Nits in the Hair.**

1938	1943	1944
6.0	8.0	8.6

The 8% of children found with nits in the hair represents the number of persistent offenders whose parents are evidently unaware of the importance of cleanliness, or incapable of maintaining it. Exclusion from school of those infested, has been a necessary measure to keep the schools reasonably clean, but as a deterrent to those parents who care little for their children's welfare and less for their neighbours' it is useless, unless backed up by prosecution and punishment where necessary.

Summary of Cleanliness Examinations, December, 1944.

	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nits	78	2.4	276	8.3	354	5.4
Verminous	5	0.2	14	0.4	19	0.3
Clean	3,169	97.4	3,041	91.3	6,210	94.3

During the year, Health Visitors paid an average of 5.7 visits of inspections per school. They made 6,583 first inspections and 14,392 re-inspections of children known to require careful supervision.

Vaccination.—No great change in the vaccinal condition of the school population has been evident over the last few years. 76.6% of those inspected had not been vaccinated.

Number found to Require Treatment.—The percentage requiring treatment did not differ widely from the figures of previous years.

Percentage of Children Found to Require Treatment.

Group	1944
Entrants	14.4
Second Age Group	12.9
Third Age Group	14.2
Total	14.1

Secondary Schools.—All higher schools in the borough were visited for routine inspection in 1944. As examinations had not been held at regular intervals during the war years, certain groups only, were inspected. The numbers were as follows :—

Girls' Secondary School	352
Boys' Secondary School	230
Junior Technical School (Girls and Boys)	87

Arrangements for Treatment.—These have been detailed in previous reports and have not been altered. A tremendous amount of work passes through the hands of the medical, dental and nursing staffs at the Health Centre. The premises have now become inadequate for the variety and extent of treatment carried out. The following is a summary of attendances during the year :—

	Southport. 1944	Evacuees. 1944
Nurses' Treatment Clinic	11,399	4,210
Minor Ailment Clinic	2,772	597
Skin Clinic	1,128	337
Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic	170	29
Ophthalmic Clinic	614	113
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	3,652	269
Aural Clinic	1,007	261
Nasal Clinic	1,129	88
Dental Clinic	6,254	453
Immunisation Clinic	504	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The campaign to get the child population fully immunised has been carried on in 1944. 504 children completed courses of injections directly under the Health Department. Parents are now largely aware of the simplicity and value of diphtheria immunisation, but if the campaign is to be effective, active steps have constantly to be taken to round up the careless and the dilatory.

Skin Clinic.—This clinic is still more necessary than it was before the war, largely on account of the number of cases of scabies, still either in the community or constantly being introduced into the area.

	<i>First Examinations, 1944</i>		<i>Re-examinations, 1944</i>	
	<i>Southport</i>	<i>Evacuees</i>	<i>Southport</i>	<i>Evacuees</i>
Ringworm of the Scalp	2	—	3	—
Ringworm of the Body	3	1	2	1
Scabies	170	49	244	70
Other Conditions	397	129	415	123

223 Southport children and 63 evacuees, as well as 109 adults were diagnosed as suffering from scabies during the year. 133 children were admitted to the Skin Department in Pilkington Road with various types of skin disease.

Infectious Diseases.—There was no major outbreak of infectious disease in the schools. Three cases only of diphtheria were notified among school children, and there were no deaths. Immunisation may be showing some effect on the numbers, but it has to be remembered that in 1934 and 1936 similar immunity was enjoyed.

Tuberculosis.—14 notifications of tuberculosis in children of school age were received. Of these one was localised in the lungs and the others in bones and joints or glands. The numbers are considerably higher than before the war, and are part of the general increase in tuberculosis which has to be fought.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING.

Meals and Milk.

No. of Children receiving Free Meals and/or Milk on one particular day in October, 1943 and 1944.

<i>No. of Children receiving :—</i>	1943	1944
Dinners (free)	275	210
„ (paid)	1,814	2,214
Sandwich (free)	63	31
„ (paid)	576	605
Milk (one-third pint) (free)	78	749
„ „ „ (paid)	3,438	5,251
„ (two-thirds pint) (free)	279	392
„ „ „ (paid)	2,068	422

CHILDREN IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

22 children were admitted to Special Schools during the year as follows :—

Bradstock Lockett Hospital Home	7
Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby	1
Maghull Homes for Epileptics	1
Clatterbridge General Hospital	1
Monyhull Residential School	2
Pontville R.C. School	1
Liverpool School for the Deaf	2
Preston Industrial Institute for the Blind	1
Soss Moss Special School	1
Liverpool Open-air Hospital for Children, Leasowe.....	5

The total number of children in Special Schools on the 31st December, 1944, was 33.

Admission to special schools belonging to other authorities, or run by voluntary bodies, is becoming more and more difficult, and children are often on waiting lists for very long periods. After the war, local provision, particularly for delicate children, will have to be considered.

The number of children notified during the year to the Mental Deficiency Authority was seven.

