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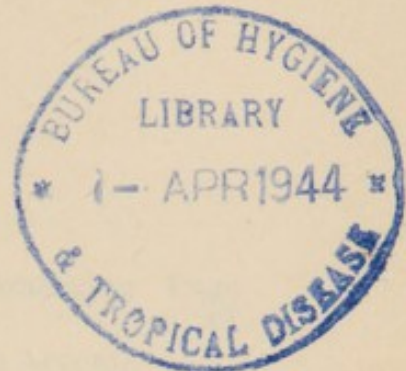
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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER *of* HEALTH

W. D. CARRUTHERS, M.B., D.P.H.

For the Year 1942

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1943



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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

The Annual Report for 1942 is again a war-time Report and is therefore compressed. Again the birth-rate is higher, and the death-rate lower, than the corresponding rates for England and Wales. The death-rate indeed was the lowest recorded. There is also an improvement in both the maternal mortality and infant mortality rates. There has been less infectious disease, with the exception of scarlet fever, which was mild. The incidence of diphtheria this year is the same as last year and was severe, 47 deaths occurring. The Local Authorities have shown great activity in offering immunisation against this disease and have been assisted by the County medical staff in the work, but unless this is a universally accepted measure of protection we cannot avoid outbreaks of this most fatal disease in children. There were fewer deaths from both pulmonary and other forms of tuberculosis in 1942 than in the previous year, but more notifications of the disease were made, and, although it was expected that under war conditions tuberculosis would be more prevalent, it is a matter for congratulation that we have not experienced, so far, the increase in the death-rate that was observed in the last Great War.

A full account will be found in the Report of the working of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme which, fortunately, has not had to be curtailed through war conditions, and it will be observed that more Day Nurseries have been opened.

The work of the two Laboratories continues to grow and both afford valuable assistance in the many schemes undertaken to conserve health. On referring to this section of the Report it will be noted how much is being done to maintain the purity of the milk supply, and it must be a matter of congratulation that there has been no serious fall in the cleanliness of milk in view of the labour difficulties farmers have to contend with.

Although there has been some increase in the incidence of venereal disease, it is not large, and facilities for treatment have proved to be quite ample to deal with this. It will be noted that during the year well-attended lectures were given in the north of the County, by specially qualified lecturers, on the control and prevention of venereal disease, and such activities, combined with those of the Ministry of Information, may indeed have contributed to a state of affairs more satisfactory than was anticipated, for,

as I have remarked, there has been no great increase in the incidence of this disease.

War conditions have necessarily put a stop to the building of houses, and such matters as extensions of water supplies and the construction or improvement of sewage disposal works, so that, at the end of the war, Local Authorities will be faced with much leeway to make up; therefore, although we can so far congratulate ourselves on the vital statistics shown in this Report, all will realise that such favourable circumstances cannot be expected if for a long period environmental conditions have to be neglected.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Administrative County		(acres)	685,503
Estimated Civilian Population of Area, 1942 (primarily for calculation of Death rates or incidence of Notifiable Diseases)			779,200
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1942.			
(General County Purposes)		£	3,375,671
Estimated net product of a penny rate, 1942-43			
(General County Purposes)		£	13,031 4s. 2d.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	14,348	7,444	6,904	
	Illegitimate	459	250	209	
		14,807	7,694	7,113	Birth-rate 19.0
Stillbirths	Legitimate	521	272	249	
	Illegitimate	23	12	11	
		544	284	260	Rate per 1,000 total births 35.4
Deaths		7,999	4,257	3,742	Death-rate 10.3
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—					Rate per 1,000 total births
			Deaths		
	Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis		14		0.9
	Other Maternal causes		31		2.0
	Total		45		2.9

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	52
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	50
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	85
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	1,183
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	13
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	31
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	86

AREA AND POPULATION.

Since 1934 there has been no alteration in the area of the Administrative County.

The estimated populations have been supplied by the Registrar-General and are primarily given for the calculation of death-rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases amongst civilians, non-civilian deaths and notifications having been excluded from the statistics. Estimates of the numbers and distribution of the non-civilian population are not available and the birth-rates can only be based on the civilian populations of 1942 as used for death-rates.

In the Report for 1939 alterations in the allocation of births and deaths were briefly described.

Until 1940 Areal Comparability Factors supplied by the Registrar-General enabled local death-rates to be adjusted for comparison with the crude death-rate of the Country as a whole or with the similarly adjusted rate of any other local area. Since then, however, the variety and magnitude of local population movements, and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths, have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure such comparability, so that the factors cannot be provided under present conditions.

In the following table the census population of the Administrative County for 1931, and the estimated civilian population for 1942, are set forth :—

	Census, 1931	Estimated Population, 1942
Urban	490,632	*583,800
Rural	212,622	*195,400
Totals	†703,254	779,200

*The increase in the population of the Urban Districts, and the decrease in that of the Rural Districts, is due to the changes in Sanitary Districts and boundaries which took place on the 1st April, 1934, under the Staffordshire Review Order, 1934.

†The census population of the Administrative County as constituted at the 31st December, 1942, is less than this figure by 2,902. The estimated population in the portion of the County area transferred to the County Borough of Wolverhampton on the 1st April, 1933, was 5,419, but this decrease was partly neutralised by the fact that on the 1st April, 1932, a portion of the County of Warwick, with an estimated population of 2,517, was added to the Administrative County.

BIRTHS.

The live births registered in the Administrative County for birth-rate purposes numbered 14,807, compared with 13,645 the previous year, the number in the Urban Districts being 11,400 and in the Rural Districts 3,407.

Stillbirths.—There were 544 stillbirths registered during the year of which 412 were in Urban and 132 in Rural Districts. The stillbirth rate per thousand of the population for the combined Urban and Rural Districts is 0.70. During the same period the rate for England and Wales was 0.54.

LIVE BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION														
DISTRICTS	5 yrs 1889- 1893	5 yrs 1894- 1898	5 yrs 1899- 1903	5 yrs 1904- 1908	5 yrs 1909- 1913	5 yrs 1914- 1918	5 yrs 1919- 1923	5 yrs 1924- 1928	5 yrs 1929- 1933	5 yrs 1934- 1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Combined Urban and Rural { Urban .. Rural ..	33.6	33.2	32.5	30.3	27.8	24.0	24.1	20.2	17.6	17.1	17.4	17.7	17.4	19.0
	35.5	34.7	33.6	31.5	29.2	25.0	25.0	20.7	18.1	17.5	17.9	18.3	17.8	19.5
	30.2	30.5	30.2	27.0	24.4	21.6	22.0	19.0	16.6	15.7	15.9	15.8	16.1	17.4
England and Wales	30.8	29.7	28.7	26.9	24.5	20.4	21.3	17.8	15.6	14.9	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8
Large Towns in England	31.5	30.7	29.7	27.8	25.2	*20.9	22.0	18.2	15.8	14.9	14.8	16.0	14.7	17.3

* 4 years.

* 4 years.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths in the Administrative County amounted to 7,999 the number in the Urban Districts being 6,019, and in the Rural Districts 1,980.

DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION														
DISTRICTS	5 yrs 1889-1893	5 yrs 1894-1898	5 yrs 1899-1903	5 yrs 1904-1908	5 yrs 1909-1913	5 yrs 1914-1918	5 yrs 1919-1923	5 yrs 1924-1928	5 yrs 1929-1933	5 yrs 1934-1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
{ Combined Urban and Rural Urban .. Rural .. }	18.1	16.9	16.1	14.6	14.1	15.0	12.3	11.4	11.6	11.3	11.2	12.0	11.5	10.3
	18.9	17.5	16.6	15.1	14.7	15.5	12.6	11.5	11.8	11.3	11.1	12.1	11.6	10.3
	16.8	15.7	15.1	13.4	12.7	13.8	11.6	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.4	11.7	11.1	10.1
England and Wales Large Towns Smaller Towns	19.1	17.4	16.9	15.3	13.9	15.2	12.5	12.0	12.3	11.9	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6
	21.0	19.0	18.2	15.8	14.3	15.5	12.6	12.0	12.3	12.0	12.0	15.8	14.9	13.3
	17.6	15.9	15.7	14.9	13.6	14.1	11.5	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.2	12.8	13.0	12.1

In the following table I have shown the *chief* causes of death for the last ten years, the numbers given for 1942 being 71.4 per cent. of the total deaths :—

TABLE SHOWING CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
*Zymotic Diseases ..	231	223	303	217	241	194	193	178	218	187
Influenza ..	424	139	170	121	359	142	166	207	189	69
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	469	438	434	358	412	372	368	348	402	373
Tuberculosis, other forms	87	93	86	74	90	93	75	74	121	92
Cancer ..	896	963	981	968	989	1033	1046	1096	1095	1183
†Cerebral Haemorrhage	460	443	457	477	505	472	492	—	—	—
†Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	808	799	756
Heart Disease ..	1579	1556	1618	1846	2006	2003	2246	2024	1889	1752
Bronchitis ..	409	311	377	366	329	262	273	797	631	439
Pneumonia ..	607	570	562	540	603	633	403	474	514	387
Premature Birth ..	413	412	415	472	482	428	466	217	224	237
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases ..										
..										

*Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers, Measles, Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Diarrhoea.

† Change of Classification.

MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES FROM VARIOUS CAUSES.

The following table gives the mortality from various causes in different age groups in the Administrative County during 1942 :—

Causes of Death	Age at Death						TOTAL
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	5	3	—	1	—	13
3. Scarlet Fever	1	2	2	2	—	—	7
4. Whooping Cough	20	11	—	—	—	—	31
5. Diphtheria	1	14	32	—	—	—	47
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3	8	223	113	24	373
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	19	23	31	10	1	92
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	—	2	13	7	24
9. Influenza	7	2	1	14	14	31	69
10. Measles	5	7	1	—	—	—	13
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	2	4	—	6
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	—	—	—	5	50	72	127
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	11	113	100	224
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	11	65	49	125
16. Cancer of all other sites	—	1	5	62	274	365	707
17. Diabetes	—	—	1	9	14	33	57
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	1	1	1	17	212	524	756
19. Heart Disease	—	—	7	117	359	1269	1752
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	—	—	4	45	198	247
21. Bronchitis	26	7	1	22	131	252	439
22. Pneumonia	100	35	10	50	95	97	387
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	2	2	11	28	31	74
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	21	49	18	88
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	83	3	—	—	—	—	86
26. Appendicitis	—	4	7	18	9	4	42
27. Other Digestive Diseases	9	16	7	13	61	67	173
28. Nephritis	—	1	4	44	65	86	200
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	14	—	—	14
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	30	1	—	31
31. Premature Birth	237	—	—	—	—	—	237
32. Congenital Malformations; Birth Injuries; Infantile Diseases	211	8	4	7	4	—	234
33. Suicide	—	—	—	16	25	15	56
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	11	18	42	23	18	112
35. Other Violent Causes	15	19	26	67	50	61	238
36. All other causes	31	20	29	106	136	591	913
Totals	763	192	192	973	1966	3913	7999

The following table has been prepared covering the last 23 years, in which the percentage of deaths under 45 years of age is worked out in relation to the total deaths at all ages, and in the table the sexes are divided. Speaking generally, in 1942 26.5 per cent. of all deaths occurred under the age of 45.

DEATHS UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE—MALE AND FEMALE—SHEWING
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS (ALL AGES).

YEAR	MALE			FEMALE		
	Deaths all ages	Deaths under 45	% of Total	Deaths all ages	Deaths under 45	% of Total
1920	4626	2295	49.61	4084	1935	47.38
1921	4545	2120	46.64	3985	1759	44.14
1922	4534	1943	42.58	4191	1793	42.78
1923	4197	1816	43.27	3788	1556	41.08
1924	4332	1795	41.43	3906	1520	38.91
1925	4556	1919	42.12	4161	1724	41.43
1926	4148	1658	39.97	3808	1441	37.84
1927	4458	1766	39.61	4082	1564	38.31
1928	3965	1449	36.54	3563	1180	33.12
1929	4813	1827	37.96	4293	1453	33.84
1930	4100	1473	35.92	3672	1211	32.98
1931	4376	1472	33.64	3933	1272	32.34
1932	4190	1425	34.01	3824	1174	30.70
1933	4213	1415	33.59	3900	1207	30.95
1934	4105	1261	30.72	3655	1054	28.84
1935	4284	1354	31.61	3802	1159	30.48
1936	4203	1266	30.12	4022	1100	27.35
1937	4793	1484	30.96	4075	1041	25.55
1938	4497	1296	28.82	3915	1065	27.20
1939	4498	1223	27.19	4038	973	24.10
1940	4899	1315	26.84	4246	1069	25.18
1941	4882	1436	29.41	4110	1086	26.42
1942	4257	1150	27.01	3742	970	25.92

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Local Government Act, 1929.

In view of the war, the question of hospital provision remains in abeyance and there has been no further development during 1942.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

There has been no alteration in this scheme.

Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.

On the 1st January, 1943, the following certified cases were chargeable to the County Council.

Great Barr Park Colony	424
Stallington Hall	42
Other Institutions (including State Institutions)	55
	521

Of the above, 42 cases were on licence from Great Barr and 5 from Stallington Hall.

In addition, there were 7 certified patients under guardianship chargeable to the County Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General Nursing.

In the Administrative County at the end of 1942 general nursing was provided by 100 local Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association, Essington now being included in that number, and 8 which work independently.

In addition to the Administrative County, the County Nursing Association have six affiliated Associations working in the City of Stoke-on-Trent and the County Boroughs of Walsall and Wolverhampton.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

During 1942, no application was received for the nursing facilities available in the County Health Visiting Area in the event of an epidemic of measles or diarrhoea.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

There is nothing of an exceptional nature to report regarding the scheme formulated under this Act in 1937, which continued quite satisfactorily.

The midwifery service is undertaken by 92 of the local Associations, which now include Essington, affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and the independent Nursing Association at Stafford. In addition, the work of whole-time midwives in four areas is directly controlled from the County Nursing Association Headquarters. The only change in the nursing personnel establishment was the appointment of a further whole-time midwife for Cannock,

In the previous year the County Council agreed to bear one-half the cost of an additional nurse at Coseley, but the Nursing Association there subsequently found an alternative way of overcoming their difficulty as far as general nursing was concerned, so that there was no alteration of the midwifery staff.

In these days great difficulty is experienced in filling vacancies, but whenever possible the established practice of appointing fully trained women to fill posts vacated by midwives holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board only is put into effect. On reviewing the whole of the area, however, it is found that at the end of 1942 there were three less trained nurse-midwives than at the close of the previous year. Whilst commenting on this aspect of the scheme I would mention that the County Council, under the powers given by Regulation 33 of the Defence Regulations, 1939, made Orders during 1942 temporarily restoring to the Midwives' Roll the names of four women who had surrendered their Certificates and claimed compensation under the Midwives Act, 1936. In three instances the authority was given provided those concerned temporarily resumed whole-time midwifery practice in the salaried service of Nursing Associations included in the County Council Scheme, and in the other to enable the midwife to be employed at a County Public Assistance Institution.

I give below a summary of the staff placed in districts, *i.e.*, excluding relief nurses, at the end of the year. In addition, there were two unfilled vacancies on the whole-time staffs, one of an affiliated Association and the other of the County Headquarters, caused by the resignations of women holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board only.

	WHOLE-TIME MIDWIVES			PART-TIME MIDWIVES		
	Queen's	S.R.N., S.C.M.	S.C.M.	Queen's	S.R.N., S.C.M.	S.C.M.
Affiliated Associations ..	5	20	38	25	7	45
Unaffiliated Association ..	3	1	1	—	—	—
County Nursing Association Headquarters	—	2	14	—	—	—
Totals ..	8	23	53	25	7	45

S.R.N.—State Registered Nurse. S.C.M.—State Certified Midwife.

As will be seen, there were 161 midwives, 84 whole-time and 77 part-time.

The central relief staff at the close of 1942 consisted of 8 nurses, *viz.*, 2 Queen's, 1 S.R.N., S.C.M., and 5 holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board only.

The Parish of Tutbury (Tutbury R.D.) which is the only area not included in the scheme, is served by an entirely independent unaffiliated Nursing Association.

MIDWIVES ACTS, 1902—1926.

The area for which the County Council is the Local Supervising Authority for the purpose of the Midwives Acts is the whole of the Administrative County with the exception of the Municipal Boroughs of Rowley Regis and Tipton. There are 23 Urban Districts and 10 Rural, with an estimated population of 698,120. In addition to the two districts mentioned, the area in which the County Council is responsible for maternity and child welfare purposes, does not include the Municipal Boroughs of Bilston, Newcastle, Stafford and Wednesbury, and the Urban Districts of Cannock and Coseley, so that the population in this respect is reduced to 467,190.

Towards the end of 1941 the arrangements for the supervision of midwives were reviewed. At that time there were two non-medical Supervisors with large districts in the north and south of the County, the work in a small area in the centre being undertaken by the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare in addition to her normal responsibilities, which, of course, include the general control of the midwifery and child welfare schemes. With the supervision of midwives are combined the inspection of Health Visitors and School Nurses, other activities in connection with the Child Welfare Scheme, etc. As a result of the review it was decided that the three areas should be re-arranged and an additional non-medical Supervisor appointed: she commenced duty on the 16th February, 1942. During the year, 1,232 visits and interviews were undertaken for midwifery purposes.

On the 31st December there were 209 domiciliary midwives resident in the County area who were actually practising, 161 district (84 whole-time, 77 part-time) and 8 relief midwives employed by Nursing Associations under the Scheme, and 40 in independent practice. Included in the latter figure are 10 midwives who were also engaged at registered Maternity Homes, and in addition, there were 14 maternity home midwives who do not undertake domiciliary cases. The Assistant Superintendent of the County Nursing Association and 2 salaried General Nurses also notified to cover probable rare relief duty. Eleven out-of-area midwives, including two employed by a Nursing Association whose area extends into Staffordshire were in active practice at the end of the year. Ten

other midwives, 7 resident within the County and 3 outside, notified their intention to practise but attended no cases. None of the midwives resident within the County is *bona-fide*.

Since the Act came into operation in 1902, the names of 115 midwives have been removed from the Roll in consequence of action taken by the Local Supervising Authority.

No applications were received during the year from independent midwives for compensation for loss of practice consequent upon suspension from duty, they themselves not being in default, after contact with infection.

As will be seen from the following table, the majority of the midwives resident in the County area are under 45 years of age :—

Salaried :—	21-44	45-64	65 and upwards.
District	80	79	2
Relief Staff	6	2	—
Independent	20	18	2
Maternity Home Midwives only	7	7	—
	113	106	4

During the year, 10,875 cases, 10,575 live and stillbirths and 300 miscarriages and abortions, were attended by domiciliary midwives, and the following summary indicates the numbers taken by each class of midwife :—

Salaried :—	Cases.
Whole-time	7,350
Part-time	2,400
Independent resident in the County.. .. .	1,042
Out-of-area, including Association midwives	83
	10,875

Roughly, the average individual number of cases taken by whole-time salaried midwives, based on the normal staff of 86, was 85.

In the table which follows more detailed information of the cases attended is given :—

	Total Births (Live and Still-born)	* As Midwives		† As Maternity Nurses		‡ Births in respect of which no record is available	
		Births	% of total	Births	% of total	No.	% of total
Live and Stillbirths	13,675	8,695	63.6	1,880	13.7	3,100	22.7
Abortions and Miscarriages	—	195	—	105	—	—	—

* Doctors not having been engaged for the confinements.

† Doctors having been engaged by the patients.

‡ These figures are in respect of births which (i) were attended by doctors, no midwife having been engaged; (ii) took place outside the Administrative County; (iii) took place in Institutions.

Four hundred and ninety-five live and stillbirths, together with 3 abortions or miscarriages, occurred at Public Assistance Institutions, and 957 at Maternity Homes, 1 abortion or a miscarriage also occurring at the latter.

The rules of the Central Midwives Board require certain notifications by midwives, and particulars are given in the following table. The last five years only have been included in view of the curtailment of the area in 1937.

Year.	* No. of Births attended by Midwives.	Medical Aid Notices.	Stillbirths.	Death of Mother.	Death of Child.	Contact with Infection.	Laying out the Dead.	Artificial Feeding.
1938	8730	4283	222	9	174	158	44	249
1939	8778	4297	222	5	206	161	38	262
1940	8714	3822	206	8	176	157	31	253
1941	9161	3966	220	8	187	151	38	280
1942	9325	3811	214	7	161	118	28	331

* Including midwifery cases in Maternity Homes.

The percentage of doctors' calls to the number of births attended by midwives in 1942 was 40.9. In 1915 the corresponding

figure was 10.7 per cent., and the large gradual increase since can be ascribed to the trained type of midwife now practising.

The following figures show the causes which occasioned the sending for medical assistance :—

Pregnancy :

Disproportion	80
Query Presentation	35
Threatened Abortion	73
Puffiness of face and hands	47
Varicose Veins	16
Fits	2
Vaginal Discharge	17
Unsatisfactory condition and general health	215
Excessive Sickness	14
Loss of Blood	84
Sugar	2
Albuminuria	119
Blood Pressure	37
Cardiac	10
Total	751

LABOUR :

Premature Birth	38
Abnormal Presentation	153
Delayed or Difficult	602
Placenta Prævia.. .. .	7
Hæmorrhage Ante-partum	43
Ditto Post-partum	65
Eclampsia	3
Prolapse of Cord	8
Lacerated Perinæum	1,008
Retained Placenta and Membranes	64
Unsatisfactory Condition	83
Inertia	74
Abortion	145
Albuminuria	7
Purulent Discharge	3
Total	2,303

LYING-IN :

High Temperature	113
Inflamed and painful Leg	30

Convulsions	1
Unsatisfactory Condition	53
Offensive Lochia.. .. .	3
Unusual Swelling of Breasts	17
Excessive or Prolonged Bleeding	1

Total 218

CHILD :

Deformities	53
Convulsions	5
Inflamed and discharging eyes.. ..	167
Feebleness and prematurity	113
Unsatisfactory Condition	138
Rash	14
Pemphigus	2
Spina Bifida	17
Hare Lip and Cleft Palate	9
Jaundice	13
Hæmorrhage—Bowel	3
Do. —Mouth	5

Total 539

Grand Total 3,811

During the financial year ended March, 1943, 3,883 notifications of sending for medical help were received, and, out of this number, Medical Practitioners claimed their fees from the County Council in 1,680 cases, that is, 43.3 per cent. of the possible claims.

In the last five financial years the fees paid by the County Council were as follows :—

Finan- cial Year	No. of Notifications of sending for Medical Aid	No. of Claims received	Percentage of claims received to Notifications	Total amount paid to Doctors during year	Amounts recovered from Patients during year
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1938-39	4402	2424	55	3513 18 9	1593 16 0
1939-40	4256	2319	54	3614 6 6	1576 17 10
1940-41	3944	1959	50	3167 16 0	2026 16 2
1941-42	3920	1870	48	3420 8 4	1939 8 3
1942-43	3883	1680	43	3067 0 0	2273 17 7

No alteration has taken place in the scale for necessitous cases which was adopted from 1st October, 1934.

INFLAMED AND DISCHARGING EYES.

Year	CASES				Vision Un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blind-ness	Deaths
	Notified	TREATED						
		At Home	In Hospital In-pat'nt	Out-pat'nt				
1938	193	166	11	16	191	—	—	2
1939	203	180	20	3	203	—	—	—
1940	162	145	12	5	160	—	—	2
1941	183	165	11	7	181	—	—	2
1942	167	149	14	4	167	—	—	—

The 167 cases in 1942, 156 of which were not severe, include medical aid calls for all unsatisfactory eye conditions and not notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum only. The County Council are concerned with the notification and treatment of the latter condition in their Health Visiting Area, which is dealt with later in the Report.

STILLBIRTHS.

In the area now administered by the County Council under the Midwives Acts, 488 stillbirths were registered during the year.

As already indicated, 214 were reported by midwives, a figure which has varied little during the last 19 years, and the causes were as follows :—

Albuminuria	..	..	..	..	1
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	..	..	..	..	1
Asphyxia	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Heart	..	..	..	..	1
Cord round Neck	..	..	..	..	5
Cord Prolapse	..	..	..	..	10
Deformities	..	..	..	..	17
Difficult Labour	..	..	..	..	24
Fall and Shock	..	..	..	..	2
Maceration	..	..	..	..	82
Malpresentation	..	..	..	..	11
Premature	..	..	..	..	46
Spina Bifida	..	..	..	..	4
Unsatisfactory Condition of Mother	..	..	..	..	9

PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS.

Puerperal Pyrexia is defined as any febrile condition occurring in women within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage, in which a temperature of 100.4 or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours, or has recurred during that period.

The following are particulars of the notifications from the Administrative County during 1942 :—

	In area of County Local Supervising Authority.	In areas of other Authorities.	Total.
Urban Districts ..	70 ..	9 ..	79
Rural Districts ..	26 ..	— ..	26
	—	—	—
	96	9	105
	—	—	—

The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia per thousand total births (live and still) for Staffordshire is 6.84, as compared with 12.61 for England and Wales.

As will have been observed from a previous table, in the area administered by the County Council as Local Supervising Authority the midwives summoned medical assistance for rises of temperature on 113 occasions. These were specially investigated by the Supervisors, and it was found that in 78 instances the unsatisfactory conditions were due to abnormalities which could be said to arise directly from childbirth.

The facilities provided in the Health Visiting Area are mentioned in the appropriate section of the Report.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The County Council are responsible for the registration and inspection of these Homes in their area as Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts.

At the end of the year the number of premises registered, viz., 25, was the same as at the close of 1941. In 1942, one application for registration was granted and one Home was given up. Of the Homes registered 8 only have more than two beds each, and 20 are solely for midwifery and maternity cases. In addition, four exemptions previously allowed were continued.

The County Council have not delegated any of their powers under Section 194 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or earlier provisions, nor have any applications been received for such delegation.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATERNITY UNITS.

As mentioned in previous Reports, the Emergency Hospital Scheme necessitated the suspension of the special maternity unit

at the Wordsley Hospital, and the position remained unchanged at the end of 1942. At the Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home, a special block of the Sedgley Public Assistance Institution, the effect of the same Scheme had been to reduce the number of available beds to 8, but towards the end of the year it was intimated that accommodation which had been modified for use as an emergency operating theatre could be returned to its proper use, and in October I was informed that the normal number of beds, viz. 11, was again available.

The maternity beds (exclusive of isolation and labour beds) available at Public Assistance Institutions at the 31st December were therefore as follows:—

Cannock	..	..	..	..	..	5
Leek	..	..	..	..	..	10
Lichfield	..	..	..	..	..	11
Sedgley : House	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home						11
Stafford	..	..	..	..	..	5

The arrangements made by the County under their Health Visiting Scheme are dealt with in the appropriate section of the Report. In addition, however, arrangements exist at the Mrs. Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton, for the reception of prospective unmarried mothers. In 1942, two cases were admitted.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

In the accompanying table the maternal mortality rate for the Administrative County, showing the deaths per thousand (live and still) births in the last ten years, is given.

Year	Total (Live and Still) Births	DEATHS FROM		Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	
		Puerperal Sepsis	Other Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	Staffs.	England and Wales
1933	11,960	19	18	3.1	4.3
1934	12,497	28	27	4.4	4.4
1935	12,751	20	35	4.3	3.9
1936	12,995	14	33	3.6	3.6
1937	13,485	15	33	3.6	3.1
1938	13,834	12	28	2.9	3.0
1939	13,874	13	28	3.0	2.8
1940	14,069	8	28	2.6	2.2
1941	14,372	16	31	3.3	2.2
1942	15,351	14	31	2.9	2.0

It is gratifying to see that, although there were nearly a thousand more births in 1942 as compared with the previous year, there were two less maternal deaths, with a consequent reduction in the maternal mortality rate. The rate in 1940 was the lowest recorded in the Administrative County, and unfortunately, the downward tendency which commenced in 1935 was checked in 1941. However, the result during the period now under review is encouraging, and it is hoped that a resumption of the downward curve is indicated. As will be seen, there is also a slight reduction in the national rate, which has now reached the low figure of 2.0, but in making this calculation deaths following abortions are excluded, which may affect it to a minor extent.

From the information available it is not possible to arrive at an exact national mean rate for the ten year period shown in the table, but the mean rate for the County is 3.3

Forty-one of the maternal deaths occurred in the area of the Local Supervising Authority. Seven were reported by midwives in accordance with their rules, *i.e.*, the deaths occurred whilst they were actually in attendance as midwives or maternity nurses.

The services provided by the County Council in connection with the efforts to reduce maternal mortality are detailed in the Health Visiting Section of the Report.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate for 1942 was 52 per thousand live births, as against 63 in the previous year. The rate in Urban Districts was 55 compared with 67 last year, and in the Rural Districts 41 compared with 50. In England and Wales in 1942 the infant mortality rate was 49 compared with 59 last year. In the table which follows are shown the rates for the last ten years and also those for England and Wales as a whole. Also shown in this table are the various causes of infantile deaths in Staffordshire for the same period.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	TOTAL DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE									
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Measles	11	13	8	7	7	2	6	1	7	5
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	13	21	29	18	19	14	15	10	29	20
Diphtheria	3	—	3	4	2	2	—	1	—	1
Influenza	13	3	5	8	13	5	7	13	10	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	—	4	9	6	3	1	6	7	4
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6	7	12	8	8	15	8	4	10	8
Syphilitic Diseases	3	2	2	2	—	4	1	3	3	2
Cancer	1	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Heart Disease	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	50	27	42	31	29	25	34	31	56	26
Pneumonia	126	90	127	121	115	120	103	116	162	100
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	1	1	5	2	4	2	5	4	—
Diarrhoea	75	55	78	66	52	52	55	65	63	83
Appendicitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	14	10	10	11	6	5	14	8	12	9
Nephritis	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	—
Premature Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	{ 403	401	403	465	474	415	454	{ 216	224	237
Violence	17	15	17	20	17	18	14	{ 214	223	211
Other Defined Diseases	49	42	58	58	35	63	54	13	28	15
Causes Ill-defined or unknown	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	40	38	31
TOTALS	796	689	808	837	789	751	770	748	879	763
Death Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	69	57	66	67	61	57	58	55	63	52
Staffordshire	64	59	57	59	58	53	50	55	59	49
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

The infant mortality rate for 1942 is the lowest ever recorded for the Administrative County, and is truly remarkable seeing that the result has been obtained during the third year of war. It will be observed that there was a marked reduction throughout England and Wales as a whole with a rate of 49, which is once again slightly lower than that for Staffordshire, where, as the reader will already have seen, the rates for the Urban and Rural Districts were 55 and 41, respectively. It is hoped that this satisfactory state will continue, or even improve, in succeeding years, but there are so many factors involved that the future cannot be looked to with certainty in this respect. In seven only of the 25 Urban Districts and 2 of the 10 Rural Districts were higher infant mortality rates recorded as compared with 1941.

It will be observed from the preceding table that, with two exceptions, there were reductions in the principal causes of death, those for bronchitis and pneumonia being most marked. As to the exceptions, it is disappointing to see the substantial increase in deaths from diarrhoea to a number last experienced in 1932, and it is hoped that this is a passing phase, probably partly due to unsatisfactory social conditions which are inevitable in some areas in time of war. The other, which is the largest group of deaths each year, due to causes described as premature birth, congenital malformations, etc., is not altogether unexpected, for the number has been fairly constant for many years. In view of this the following table is prepared, from which it is gratifying to note that whilst the number of live births increased considerably during 1942, the number of deaths from these causes was practically the same as in the previous year, the current death-rate being the lowest during the decade.

Year.	Live Births.	Deaths of Children under one year of age from Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth, &c.	Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1933	11,424	403	35.3
1934	11,951	401	33.5
1935	12,174	403	33.1
1936	12,441	465	37.4
1937	12,885	474	36.8
1938	13,252	415	31.3
1939	13,324	454	34.1
1940	13,570	430	31.7
1941	13,861	447	32.2
1942	14,807	448	30.3

One hundred and sixty-one deaths were reported by the midwives, having occurred whilst they were in attendance. Ninety-five of these were due to feebleness and prematurity, and 36 to deformity and malformation.

HOSPITALS.

In my 1930 and subsequent Annual Reports details and developments of the County's Hospital Services were given, and I have already mentioned that in view of the war the question of hospital provision under the Local Government Act, 1929, still remains in abeyance. As far as Isolation Hospital provision is concerned, the comments relating to 1942 are given at the beginning of the section relating to infectious diseases which appears later in the Report.

At the County Council's Standon Hall Orthopædic Hospital 120 beds are still available for patients of the various Committees, the war having postponed the contemplated extensions. During 1942, 146 cases were treated for the Joint Board for Tuberculosis, 64 for the Education Committee, 9 for the Public Assistance Committee, 45 under the Health Visiting Scheme, 3 for outside Authorities, and 5 under the Emergency Hospital Scheme.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The number of Clinics and Treatment Centres was set out in detail in the 1930 Report, and the changes in each subsequent year have been stated in my Annual Report.

The changes in Infant Welfare Centres which have taken place during 1942 are given in the section of the Report below, dealing with the Health Visiting Scheme.

HEALTH VISITING SCHEME.

As I have already mentioned, the County Health Visiting Area consists of 17 Urban and 10 Rural Districts, which have a estimated total population of 467,190.

This year there is nothing of an exceptional nature to report on the scheme generally, and the following are brief details of the various activities :—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

This is a well developed service, and there was little variation during 1942. A new Welfare Centre, with fortnightly sessions on Wednesday afternoons, was opened on the 30th September to serve a housing estate at Walton, Stone, so that at the close of the year there were 36 Combined Centres (*i.e.*, Minor Ailments Clinics and Welfare Centres) and 30 Welfare Centres only. In addition, there is one Voluntary Welfare Centre.

The remaining changes, mostly occasioned by the war, included the transfer of the Barton-under-Needwood Centre to other accommodation in the village in April, and, in July, in order to ensure the smoother programming of the Medical and Health Visiting Staffs, the sessions at Penkridge, Huntington and Great Wyrley, were altered from bi-monthly to fortnightly. Later in the year, it was intimated by the Ministry of Health that two vacancies for Assistant Medical Officers, one caused by a resignation and the other by a doctor being called to the Forces, could not be filled, so that there was no alternative but to make the attendances of the medical staff at the Welfare Centres in certain areas less frequent, the remaining sessions being conducted by the Health Visitors only, viz., in the first re-organisation, effected early in October, it was arranged that doctors should be present fortnightly at the Aldridge (Thursday), Featherstone and Wombourne, weekly centres, and attend each fourth week at the Essington and Great Wyrley fortnightly centres. At Wombourne the centre day had to be changed from Friday to Monday. On the second occasion in November, which affected the north of the County, it was decided that the Medical Officers should attend fortnightly only at the Audley, Endon, Halmerend, Madeley and Talke, weekly centres. Prior to that time, at Biddulph there were Welfare Centre Sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons each week, the former being combined with a School Clinic in the morning. In December, the Wednesday openings were dispensed with and the School Clinic combined with the Thursday sessions.

In total, 3,926 Welfare Centre sessions were held in 1942, against 3,891 in the previous year, 66,351 attendances being made by children under one year of age, and 50,155 by children between one and five years. The numbers of children in these groups who attended for the first time during the year were 5,181 and 1,677, respectively. At the end of the year the number of children on the books at the Centres was 4,349 under one year, and 5,924 over one and under five.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

The Huntington Welfare Centre was fully equipped for antenatal purposes in July, which increased the number of centres so provided to 37, and at 21 of them special sessions are held for the purpose. The latter figure represents a decrease of one as compared with the previous year, for the numbers at Leek did not justify the continuance of the clinic there, and it was suspended until the end of the war, the last session being held on the 19th May.

During 1942, 3,115 expectant mothers attended the Clinics, with a total attendance of 11,147.

Where treatment is required, the patient is referred to her own doctor, through the medium of the midwife, if one has been engaged, except for unsatisfactory dental conditions. Treatment of the latter can be given under the County Council Scheme, and the patients are offered the facilities provided.

RURAL ANTE-NATAL SCHEME.

Under this scheme, which operates mainly in rural areas where there are no Ante-natal Clinics, 655 expectant mothers were examined by their own doctors, compared with 685 in 1941.

As a result, it was found that 521 confinements could safely be conducted by the midwives at the patients' homes, but in 25 instances special advice was necessary and in 2 institutional confinements were recommended, both in view of unsatisfactory home conditions.

In 88 cases, further examination only was considered desirable, but in other instances this requirement was coupled with additional recommendations, as follows :—Attendance of doctors at confinements 8, specialists' opinions 3 and confinement in hospital 1.

In the remaining cases the following recommendations were made as a result of the initial examinations :—

A doctor to be present at the confinement	14
Confinement in hospital	2
Specialist opinion and hospital	7
Specialist opinion only	9
Confinement in institutions because of physical condition and unsatisfactory home surroundings	2

In addition, 25 of the women were found to require dental treatment, which was offered under the County Council Scheme.

CONSULTING OBSTETRICIANS.

Under this important service the General Practitioners can, where necessary, obtain the assistance of a Specialist at any time during pregnancy, labour or the puerperium. The facility is frequently sought and in 1942 the Consultants were concerned with 392 cases, as against 338 in the previous year.

MATERNITY HOME AND HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

Arrangements exist at many hospitals and maternity homes for the reception of women whose physical condition or environment is such that confinement at home is unsafe or undesirable.

During the year, 263 patients were dealt with in this way, and 113 were admitted to the maternity wards of Public Assistance Institutions, compared with 248 and 84, respectively, last year.

In addition, 29 women were admitted to a Maternity Home but paid their own fees, the County Council merely giving a guarantee against default.

MATERNITY OUTFITS.

I mentioned last year that, since the war began, the diminishing demand for these outfits had been noticeable, and the position further deteriorated during 1942, one outfit only being disposed of, compared with 9 in 1941 and 92 in 1940.

PAYMENT OF MIDWIVES' FEES.

In order to retain the very essential ante-natal co-operation by the independent midwives, a compensation fee of 10s. 0d. is allowed where a case is lost as a result of County Council activities.

During 1942, one such payment only was made.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

In the Health Visiting Area a Consultant and Hospital Service is at the disposal of the General Practitioners. During the period under review, 68 cases were notified, compared with 52 last year. Under the Scheme a Specialist's opinion was obtained in one instance, and 29 patients were sent to hospital. In addition, it was ascertained that 17 women from the area were sent to hospital through other agencies.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Fifty-three cases were notified from the Health Visiting Area, compared with 44 in 1941, and in 28 instances home nursing was carried out by the Health Visitors. Seven children attended hospital as out-patients and 15 were admitted for treatment. In 52 cases the vision was unimpaired, and one child was under treatment at the end of the year.

The County Council provide hospital treatment.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

One hundred and two children under 5 years of age were referred to the County Ophthalmic Surgeon from the Welfare Centres, mainly on account of an actual or suspected squint. Glasses were prescribed for 73 cases: in 6 instances the County Council provided them. Eight of the new cases were advised other treatment appropriate for the conditions found at the examinations. Generally, where there was unilateral squint the sound eye was occluded, but if this was found to be impracticable, atropine was inserted weekly until it was found possible to have the eye occluded. These children were kept under constant supervision.

Patients seen in previous years were re-examined during 1942, and the total number of attendances at the Clinics, including both old and new cases, was 238.

ORTHOPÆDICS.

The County Council have not established any Orthopædic Clinics, but have arrangements with voluntary bodies who have established Clinics at Leek, Stourbridge, Hartshill, Birmingham, Stafford, Lichfield, Tamworth, Walsall and Dudley, where cases are received on payment.

One hundred and ninety-seven new cases, as against 151 last year were sent to Orthopædic Clinics for out-patient treatment in the first instance, as follows:—

Bow Legs	38
Deformities of Feet.. .. .	50
Deformities of Hands	3
Fractures	4
Knock Knees	53
Paralysis	12
Rickets	3
Torticollis (Wry-neck)	5
Miscellaneous	23
Examined but treatment not necessary..	6

It will be noted that only three cases of rickets are given in this list, but of course there are many more conditions classified under other headings, of which rickets has probably been the primary cause.

I give below details of the out-patient attendances, etc., during the year :—

Number of children on books at 31.12.41 ..	217
New cases referred during 1942	197
	414
Removals on account of :—	
Discharged cured	39
Left the area	7
Attained school age	45
Treatment refused	14
Died	1
Transferred to Joint Board for T.B.	2
No treatment found necessary ..	7
	115
Number of cases at end of year	299

The total number of attendances at Out-patient Clinics during the year was 3,078.

Forty-five children received in-patient treatment at Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, 34 of whom were admitted during the year. As mentioned in previous Reports, pending the extension of accommodation at Standon Hall, the Health Visiting Committee have authorised the use of five beds at outside institutions. These are used mostly for short stay cases. In this way six children under five years of age were admitted to the Hartshill Orthopaedic Hospital during 1942.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT TREATMENT.

Since the war began and the Treatment Centre provided by the County Council at Lichfield was suspended, there has been little activity in this direction. The work is now confined to the Leek area and during 1942, 13 children only were treated, 10 of whom were new cases. The total attendance was 343 and the conditions were as follows :—

Bow legs	1
Bronchial catarrh	1
Cervical adenitis	5
Debility and malnutrition	4
Dermatitis and debility	1
Rickets	1

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The facilities under this scheme, which has now been in operation for seven complete years, are available for expectant and nursing mothers, and children under 5 years of age, in the County Health Visiting Area; they are referred for treatment by the Medical Officers of the Ante-natal Clinics and Welfare Centres, and by General Practitioners under the Rural Ante-natal Scheme. A similar service is undertaken, at an agreed payment, on behalf of the Stafford Corporation Welfare Committee.

During 1942, 1,140 County patients were treated, compared with 1,391 last year, and the following are particulars supplied by Mr. W. H. Jones, the County Dental Officer :—

Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

Of 848 patients recommended for the first time under the scheme, 764 presented themselves for inspection. Of these, 762 were referred for treatment and there were 735 acceptances. In addition, the treatment of 228 women, which had been commenced in the previous year, was completed, giving a total of 963 patients dealt with during 1942. The number of attendances made for treatment was 3,608, but no less than 868 further appointments were not kept, the latter representing 19.4 per cent. of the total. The number of half-day sessions devoted to the treatment of these cases was 769.

This year the percentage of broken appointments is higher, for in 1941 the corresponding figure was 17.4. This is partly due to the increased number of women in employment, together with shopping and transport difficulties.

For a considerable time it was the policy of the County Council to employ trained Dental Nurses, and experience proved their value, particularly as regards the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers. In August, 1942, however, a Circular issued by the Board of Education drew attention to the desirability of untrained women being employed as Dental Attendants in view of the existing and prospective shortage of trained nurses at that time. As a war-time expedient it was decided that the suggestion should be accepted and, at the onset, several trained Dental Nurses were transferred temporarily to existing vacancies on the Health Visiting Staff, their places being taken by unqualified women, who were given a short period of training in the work. Women of the latter type are, of course, being temporarily appointed to fill subsequent vacancies on the Dental Nursing Staff.

The following are particulars of the operations completed during the year :—

Extractions	5,234
Fillings	158
Scalings	154
Sundries	1,892
New Dentures	486
Repairs to Dentures	13
	7,937

In 3 instances patients were admitted to Institutions for the administration of general anæsthetics, the dental treatment being given by the County staff.

The artificial dentures, together with repairs, were all completed in the County Dental Laboratory.

" Toddlers "—

One hundred and seventy-seven " toddlers " were dealt with during the year, and 24 half-day sessions were devoted to their treatment, the total attendances being 192. On 188 occasions the child was accompanied by a parent.

The treatment comprised :—

Extraction of temporary teeth	254
Dressings of Silver Nitrate	154
Fillings in temporary teeth	4
Sundries	186
Advice	62
	660

EXTRA-NOURISHMENT.

In my Report for 1941 I dealt fully with the County Council's war-time change of policy which took effect from 1st September in that year, when half-cream dried milk became available under the National Milk Scheme, in addition to full-cream supplies. Briefly, in order to avoid a duplication of arrangements, and on the assumption that should the milk supplies of the country become adversely affected as the result of a long war, the Government scheme would be given priority, it was decided temporarily to dispense with stocks of ordinary dried milks suitable for normal children, previously kept at the Welfare Centres for sale at cost price, or for free issue in necessitous cases.

From that time, where required, the County Council have afforded the fullest co-operation to the local Milk Officers by inviting them to distribute the dried milks at the Welfare Centres, where cupboard accommodation is placed at their disposal. The majority of the dried milk is therefore issued under the National Scheme, which, in necessitous cases, permits a free supply equivalent to one pint of raw milk per day. Where this quantity is considered by the Medical Officer of a Welfare Centre to be insufficient to feed a child whose parents' circumstances are found to be necessitous after applying the Government Scale, on his authority the supply is supplemented at the expense of the County Council.

The foregoing arrangements are adequate for all normal children, but of course, there are delicate babies and certain expectant and nursing mothers for whom special branded foods are essential. For these the County Council provided that small quantities of the special commodities should still be stocked at the Welfare Centres for sale at cost price or free issue.

During 1942, the totals of the free issues were branded dried milks 412 lbs., National Dried Milks, 3,386 lbs., and 136 eight-ounce bottles of emulsion. In addition, 12,970 lbs. of branded dried milks were disposed of at cost price at the Welfare Centres.

In the previous year, the free issues consisted of 7,455 lbs. of branded dried milks, 1,193 lbs. of National Dried Milk and 781 bottles of emulsion, whilst 73,638 lbs. of branded dried milks were sold at cost price, but the County Council Scheme was in full operation during a part of that period.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

During 1942, 8,360 live births and 291 stillbirths were notified in the Health Visiting Area, 8,257 by midwives and 394 by parents and doctors. The births registered during the year, *i.e.*, 8,673 live births, and 332 stillbirths, cannot strictly be compared with those notified because of the period allowed by law for each purpose.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The work carried out by the Health Visitors under this scheme is shown in the following table :—

Number of children on Register at the end of December, 1942	35
Number of reports on visits to children received during the year 1942	279
Number of new cases during 1942, for which preliminary reports were sent in by Health Visitors	12
Number of foster-parents on Register at end of 1942	32

In January, 1942, the Edgbaston Preparatory School, which had been evacuated from Birmingham to Sidway (Newcastle R.D.), was visited, and, as a result, was exempted from further inspection.

HEALTH VISITORS.

There has been no change in the normal complement of Health Visitors, which consists of 60 whole-time, two of whom are lecturers on mothercraft, and 42 part-time, *i.e.*, District Nurses employed by local Associations whose work is mainly in the rural districts. The whole-time Health Visitors serve a population of approximately 384,015 out of a total of 467,190.

Again this year great difficulty has been experienced in filling vacancies, which was not altogether unexpected in view of other war-time demands. At the 31st December three remained unfilled, a position similar to that at the close of the previous year. A more unsatisfactory position was avoided owing to the decision, mentioned previously in the Report, temporarily to dispense with trained Dental Nurses, for several of that staff became available to fill health visiting vacancies, at any rate for the period of the war.

The visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year were as follows :—

To expectant mothers :—

(1) First visits	..	..	..	1,683
(2) Total visits	..	..	..	4,607

To infants under one year :—

(1) First visits	..	..	..	7,999
(2) Total visits	..	..	..	63,498

To children—one-five years :—

Total visits	..	..	..	96,635
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In 1942 the Health Visitors reported to local Medical Officers of Health 70 instances of insanitary conditions.

LECTURES ON MOTHERCRAFT.

The lectures to mothers which were instituted eleven years ago, have continued at the Infant Welfare Centres. During the year talks were given by the two Lecturers at 320 sessions of 47 Centres in various parts of the Health Visiting Area, the total attendance being 8,168.

WARTIME NURSERIES.

The only wartime Day Nursery established during 1941 was at Darlaston, where 60 children can be accommodated of any age

up to 5 years, but in my Report for that year I mentioned that a comprehensive statement on the need for such Nurseries throughout the County Maternity and Child Welfare Area had been presented to the Public Health Committee. As a result the following Day Nurseries commenced to receive children during 1942 and negotiations regarding others were proceeding at the close of the year :—

<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Date open.</i>	<i>Places provided.</i>
Rugeley. ..	26th March.	25 (part-time).
Brierley Hill (Hill Street). ..	27th April.	40 („ „).
Willenhall. ..	6th July.	45 (whole-time).
Tamworth. ..	21st September.	40 („ „).
Leek. ..	5th October.	40 (part-time).

Part-time—for children from 2-5 years of age.

Whole-time—for children of all ages to 5 years.

As regards wartime Residential Nurseries, at the instigation of the Ministry of Health two small units, each capable of providing for twelve children, were established at Gorsty Hall, situated on the Newcastle R.D.—Cheshire boundary, and Hoar Cross Hall (Tutbury R.D.), and commenced their activities in May and July respectively, when the children of women employed in Birmingham were received. The County Council were asked to arrange the necessary supervision and agreed to do so. In addition, also by request, certain supervision is exercised of a Waifs and Strays Residential Nursery established at St. Mary's Mount, Uttoxeter.

DENTAL LABORATORY.

There was no further development of the Dental Laboratory during 1942, but the establishment of four mechanics was reduced to three on the 7th October when the junior joined the Forces. In an effort to conserve staff, together with the fact that a 46-hour week is now worked, it was decided not to make a temporary appointment. The output of completed work during the year was as follows :—

New dentures	816
Repairs to dentures	42
Orthodontic appliances	44
Repairs to equipment for dental clinics ..	12
	914

COUNTY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Dr. J. L. Edwards, the County Bacteriologist and Pathologist, reports that during 1942, 117,012 investigations were conducted at the County Bacteriological and Pathological Laboratory, being an increase of 24,040 as compared with the previous year. Of these, 86,440 were of a general bacteriological and serological nature, 4,437 in respect of biochemical and pathological investigations, and 26,135 were for the diagnosis of venereal diseases, and tests for cure.

The general bacteriological and serological work was for the most part from the Administrative County, but of the milk examinations 1,571 were undertaken for the City of Stoke-on-Trent and 7 for the County Borough of Dudley.

The tests for venereal diseases were from patients resident in the following areas :—

Administrative County	..	..	..	7,708
City of Stoke-on-Trent	..	..	..	8,775
County Borough of Dudley	..	..	..	630
County of Worcester	..	..	..	780
Kesteven Division of Lincolnshire	..	..	..	826
County Borough of Walsall	..	..	..	841
Other areas outside the Administrative County	..	..	..	417

One hundred and forty-four were from Emergency Hospitals in the Administrative County and 6,014 from members of His Majesty's Forces.

The details of the general bacteriological and serological work are as follows :—

GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY.

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Totals
Water Examinations	63	90	92	76	321
Milk Examinations	3526	3835	3863	3513	14737
Diphtheria	11187	8697	9683	14499	44066
Tuberculosis	1515	1838	1731	1474	6558
Cerebro-spinal Fever	10	6	3	3	22
Streptococcal Infections ..	1001	782	935	1630	4348
Ringworm	9	13	2	9	33
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	424	736	463	799	2422
Brucella Infections (human) ..	95	126	86	76	383
Dysentery (all types)	444	569	359	306	1678
Food Poisoning	178	276	173	247	874
Veterinary Work (other than Milk, including Research)	1272	1480	1570	1812	6134
Other Examinations	1152	1232	1183	1260	4827
Medico-Legal Work	31	5	1	—	37
TOTALS	20907	19685	20144	25704	86440

The 14,737 "Milk Examinations" were constituted as follows :—

Cleanliness and Phosphatase Tests	12,804
Biological Tests	1,853
Investigations for Brucella infections ..	3
Cultures for Streptococci, etc.	24
Direct film for acid fast bacilli	7
Examination of washings from churns ..	28
Examination of Milk Bottles for Sterility ..	17
Microscopic Examination of Deposit ..	1
	14,737

As regards the biological, cleanliness and phosphatase examinations, the purposes of the tests are shown in the accompanying table, and it will be specially noted that 3 samples of "Pasteurised" milk, 10 of "Accredited" and 1 of "Tuberculin Tested" gave positive biological reactions for tuberculosis.

	* Coli and/or Reductase ; or Count and Phosphatase.			Biological Tests.			Grand Total.
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Negative.	Positive.	Total.	
For "Accredited" Standard and Licence	6008	2570	8578	108	10	118	8696
For "Tuberculin Tested" Standard and Licence	142	52	194	107	1	108	302
For "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) Standard	3	1	4	6	—	6	10
For Pasteurised Standard	125	146	271	80	3	83	354
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	911	667	1578	916	54	970	2548
School Milks	48	24	72	71	2	73	145
Submitted by farmers, retailers and others, for their own information	8	7	15	11	1	12	27
Submitted by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under Tuberculosis Order, 1938	—	—	—	284	63	347	347
Totals	7245	3467	10712	1583	134	1717	12429

* The above figures represent the number of *samples* examined.

The following tests were involved :—

Count and/or Coli	2,122
Reductase	10,352
Phosphatase	330
Biological	1,853
Total	14,657

The particulars of the pathological and biochemical investigations were as follows :—

PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL WORK CONDUCTED DURING
THE YEAR 1942.

Gastric Contents.

Fractional Test Meals	319
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Blood.

Estimation of Urea.. .. .	385
„ „ Glucose	222
„ „ Hæmoglobin	534
R.B.C. Count	550
Leucocyte Count	562
Differential Leucocyte Count	571
Reticulocytes	90
Wintrobe's Volume Index	78
Icterus Index	70
Platelet Count	11
Van Den Bergh Reaction	12
Fragility of Red Cells	1
Sedimentation Rate	26
Estimation of Protein	14
„ „ Calcium	12
„ „ Phosphorus	8
„ „ Phosphatase	3
„ „ Bromide	3
„ „ Potassium	1
„ „ Cholesterol	3
„ „ Sodium	1
„ „ Uric Acid	5
Grouping	355

Urine.

Estimation of Urea.. .. .	46
Quantitative Estimation of Albumen	2
Nature of Reducing Substance	1
Urobilin Content	1
Estimation of Glucose	16
Diastase Content	7
Qualitative Test for Bromide	1
Zondek-Aschheim Tests (Friedman's Modification)	36

Fæces.

Quantitative Estimation of Fats	10
Trypsin Content	1

Puncture Fluids.

Cytological Examination	4
Estimation of Protein	1

Pus.

Cytological Examination	1
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Sternal Marrow.

Differential Leucocyte Count	4
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<i>Examination of Calculus</i>	2
--	---

Ascitic Fluid.

Van Den Bergh Reaction	1
Icterus Index	1
Estimation of Protein	1
Fat Content	1

<i>Pathological Sections</i>	464
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Total 4,437

The details of the Venereal Diseases tests are shown in the following table :—

EXAMINATIONS OF PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS CONDUCTED
UNDER THE VENEREAL DISEASES SCHEME DURING THE
YEAR 1942.

	For Detection of		For Wasser- mann Reaction	Sigma & Kahn Tests	Other Examin- ations	Totals
	Spirochæta Pallida	Gonococci				
1st Quarter ..	2	294	2326	3471	534	6627
2nd Quarter ..	—	318	2106	3152	537	6113
3rd Quarter ..	—	377	2147	3268	614	6406
4th Quarter ..	—	333	2315	3685	656	6989
Totals ..	2	1322	8894	13576	2341	26135

The 2,341 "Other Examinations" consisted of :—

Two hundred and fifty-five cerebrospinal fluids for cell count, protein estimation, and colloidal gold test; 2,074 complement fixation tests for gonorrhœa; the examination of 4 specimens of urine and 8 cultures for gonococci.

CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

Mr. E. V. Jones, the County Analyst, reports that the total number of samples analysed was made up as below :—

For County :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938..	..	..	..	1,899
"Appeal to Cow" Samples	..	..	..	34
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926..	..	..	..	25
Drinking Waters	..	..	..	215
Swimming Bath and Pool Waters	..	..	..	2
River Waters (Full Analyses)	..	..	..	157
" " (Partial Analyses)	..	..	..	2
Sewage Effluents (Full Analyses)	..	..	..	79
Coroner Samples	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous Samples	..	..	..	87
				2,506

For Stoke-on-Trent C.B.C. :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938..	..	..	..	897
"Appeal to Cow" Samples	..	..	..	8
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926 ..	..	..	..	2
Drinking Waters	..	..	..	2
Rag Flock Regulations, 1912	..	..	..	3
				912

For Brierley Hill U.D.C. :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938..	..	..	..	117
"Appeal to Cow" Sample	..	..	..	1
Humus	..	..	..	1
				119

For Newcastle-under-Lyme M.B.C. :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938..	..	..	..	112
Marmalade for Poison	..	..	..	1
				113

For Rowley Regis M.B.C. :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938..	..	..	..	74
"Appeal to Cow" Samples	..	..	..	2
				76

Total	..	..	..	
				3,726

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Of the 1,899 samples submitted from the County Area, 1,741 were found to be genuine and 158 adulterated or below standard.

(1) MILK.—Of 1,339 samples of undesignated milk, 129 were found to be unsatisfactory, of which 64 contained added water, 5 contained added water and were further deficient in fat, 44 were deficient in fat, 15 were deficient in fat and solids-not-fat and 1 contained Dried Milk.

One hundred and sixty-four samples of specially designated milks were examined, viz., 30 "Tuberculin Tested," 64 "Accredited" and 70 Pasteurised. Twelve were reported against: 1 of "Tuberculin Tested" and 3 of "Accredited" were deficient in fat, 7 of "Accredited" contained added water and 1 of "Accredited" contained added water and was further deficient in fat.

Fifty-six samples of Sterilized milk were also examined, which were found to be satisfactory with the exception of 2, one containing added water, the other being deficient in fat.

Action taken.—Fifty-six of the 129 unsatisfactory samples of ordinary milk were informal and no direct action could be taken, but "follow up" samples were obtained where possible.

In 28 cases, representing 42 unsatisfactory samples (two or more having been taken simultaneously from the same purveyor in several instances) the adulterations were small and cautions were issued. Eight producers or retailers were prosecuted in respect of 18 samples containing added water. In the remaining 13 cases no action was considered necessary.

As regards the formal samples of designated milks, two cautions were issued in respect of 7 samples of "Accredited"; 4 contained added water, and 3 were deficient in fat. The remaining 5 unsatisfactory samples, 1 "Tuberculin Tested" and 4 "Accredited," were informal.

The unsatisfactory sterilized samples, one deficient in fat and the other containing added water, were formal and two cautions were issued.

In total, 32 producers or retailers were cautioned and 8 prosecuted. Fines amounting to £64 8s. 6d. were imposed, together with £19 7s. 0d. special costs.

The average composition of the milks of all grades was :—

	<i>On all Samples.</i>	<i>On genuine samples.</i>
Fat	3.70%	3.77%
Solids-not-fat ..	8.64%	8.70%

Of 1,416 samples of milk of all grades, passed as genuine, 208 were below the presumptive standard of 8.5 per cent. solids-not-fat, of which 197 were proved by the Freezing Point Depression (Hortvet) to be genuine milk, and 11 were sour.

(2) GENERAL ARTICLES OF FOOD.—Three hundred and forty general articles of food and drugs were examined, and 15 (10 formal and 5 informal) were found to be adulterated or below standard, the County Analyst reporting as follows :—

*“Cocktail, Lemon Juice Substitute, containing Vitamin C.—*This sample (formal) contained no Vitamin C, but consisted of a suspension of Starch in an aqueous solution of phosphoric acid, flavoured with lemon oil. I certified it as being incorrectly labelled.”

*“Cocktail, Orange Juice.—*This sample (formal) was submitted as Cocktail Orange Juice, but the bottle from which the sample was taken was labelled “Cocktail” Orange Juice Substitute, Unsweetened. It consisted of a suspension of starch in an aqueous solution of phosphoric acid, with orange flavouring, and contained no Vitamin C. It could, therefore, in no way be looked upon as orange juice.”

*“Egg Extract.—*Two samples (formal) were submitted, both of which were reported as being incorrectly labelled. They consisted of Wheat and Soya Bean Flour, containing the equivalent of not more than 5 per cent. of egg. One of the samples was also alive with Acari (Meal Mites).”

*“Jam, Gooseberry, Full Fruit Standard.—*Of two samples submitted, one (informal) was 1.8 per cent. deficient in soluble solids, containing only 66.7 per cent. instead of 68.5 per cent.”

*“Lemon Substitute.—*Two samples (formal) were submitted, both of which were reported as being incorrectly labelled. They consisted of an aqueous solution of Tartaric Acid with lemon flavouring. The label stated that one teaspoonful with seven of water equals approximately one lemon. When made up according to the directions, the acidity was only one-seventh of the acidity of a lemon as tartaric acid against citric acid, the natural acid of lemons. It contained no Vitamin C, whereas it should have contained 11.4 milligrams.”

"Milk Powder Substitute.—Only one sample (informal) was submitted, which consisted of wheat flour, to which a little lactose had been added. I certified it as being incorrectly labelled."

"Orange Substitute, Vitaminised.—Two samples (formal) of the same brand were submitted, which were stated to be the natural flavoured perfect substitute, highly concentrated. Although the samples contained 10.6 per cent. of Citric Acid, whilst orange juice contains under 2 per cent., and both samples were devoid of Vitamin C, I certified the labelling as misleading."

"Puresweet.—Only one sample (informal) was submitted, the label of which stated that the contents of the packet when mixed with one pound of sugar, then for every two parts of sugar normally used, use one part of mixture. Analysis showed that instead of the contents of the packet being equal in sweetening power to a little over one pound of sugar it was only equal to about 6 ozs. I certified the labelling as misleading."

"Vinegar, Malt.—Of 15 samples, one (formal) was reported against. The sample was sold as malt vinegar, but was labelled malt flavoured vinegar. It contained the equivalent of not more than 20 per cent. of vinegar derived from malt."

"Vinegar, Malt Flavoured, Unfermented.—This sample (informal) contained only 3.7 per cent. of Acetic Acid, instead of at least 4 per cent., thus showing a deficiency of 6 per cent. acetic acid."

"Vitatone, Non-Alcoholic Tonic.—Two samples (1 formal and 1 informal) were submitted, both stated to contain Quinine, Iron, Calcium, Manganese, Sodium, Potash and Phosphates. These were all present, but in such small amounts that the article had little value as a tonic. I certified them as being labelled in such a way as to be misleading. I also drew attention that if tonic properties were claimed, quantitative particulars of the active ingredients should have been stated on the label, to comply with the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941."

Action taken.—Three summonses were issued against the manufacturer of the Cocktail Lemon Juice Substitute, the charges being (1) label calculated to mislead (2) misleading advertisement and (3) false warranty. He was fined £100, together with £7 15s. 0d. special costs. Cautions were addressed to two retailers, one in respect of the sample of Malt Vinegar and the other in respect of the formal sample of Non-Alcoholic Tonic Vitatone. The results of the examinations of the 2 samples of Egg Extract were reported to the Ministry of Food and also to the appropriate Sanitary

Authority. No action could be taken regarding the 2 samples each of Vitaminised Orange Substitute and Lemon Substitute, as the firm concerned had gone into liquidation.

“ APPEAL TO COW ” SAMPLES.

Of 34 “ Appeal to Cow ” samples, 6 were below the presumptive standard of 8.5 per cent. solids-not-fat and 3 per cent. fat, of which 3 were below in solids-not-fat and 3 were below in fat.

FERTILIZERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

Twenty-five samples were submitted, consisting of 10 Fertilizers and 15 Feeding Stuffs : 4 of each were found to be satisfactory.

DRINKING WATERS.

Of 215 samples, 59 were for the ordinary full analysis and 156 for partial analysis. One hundred and thirty-nine were of satisfactory quality ; 47 contained sewage or animal matter ; 7 were organically impure ; 8 were of doubtful quality ; 2 contained metallic contamination ; 6 showed both vegetable and animal pollution ; 3 showed both sewage and metallic pollution ; 2 showed vegetable and metallic pollution, and one contained an excess of free chlorine.

CORONER SAMPLES.

Three cases were dealt with as follows :—

- (i) Four samples, all of which were examined for Phosphorus, Arsenic, Barium Carbonate and Strychnine.
- (ii) Stomach Contents examined for Corrosive Poisons.
- (iii) Blood examined for Carbon Monoxide.

MILK SUPPLY.

The County Council are concerned with the milk supply as follows :—

- (i) Under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders they are responsible for the issue and control of “ Tuberculin Tested ” and “ Accredited ” licences in the Administrative County, and

- (ii) By arrangements made with the majority of the District Councils, the County staff undertake the sampling of milk as it is being retailed to the public, *i.e.*, street samples.

The appropriate duties in connection with the above are assigned to the Sanitary Inspectors and Milk Sampling Officers of the Public Health Department and normally there are four of each, the former also undertaking other work of a public health nature. In view of the war, at the end of 1941 these staffs had been reduced to two and three respectively, but as far as possible efficient supervision is being maintained.

Details of the work during 1942 are given in the succeeding paragraphs.

STREET SAMPLING.

The County Council are ordinarily responsible for this purpose for the whole of the Administrative County with the exception of the Municipal Boroughs of Newcastle and Rowley Regis and the Urban District of Brierley Hill. In addition, by arrangement, the County Council staff undertake street sampling for the Rowley Regis Municipal Council, one of the separate Food and Drugs Authorities.

In the following tables the numbers of samples of ordinary and specially designated milks taken during the year in the area for which the County Council is normally responsible are shown, together with the results of the bacteriological and biological tests carried out in the County Laboratory. In the table of ordinary milk the numbers of samples taken in the various Sanitary Districts of the County are indicated.

ORDINARY MILK SAMPLES.
1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1942.

Sanitary District	No. of samples Submitted	Result of Examination		T.B.
		Cleanliness		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
URBAN :				
Aldridge ..	*16	11	5	1
Amblecote ..	7	—	7	—
Biddulph ..	*38	17	21	3
Bilston ..	23	8	15	2
Brownhills ..	*12	7	5	2
Cannock ..	*41	25	16	4
Coseley ..	5	4	1	—
Darlaston ..	4	3	1	1
Kidsgrove ..	*31	9	22	—
Leek ..	*26	7	19	—
Lichfield ..	20	12	8	—
Rugeley ..	*30	18	12	—
Sedgley ..	*21	14	7	1
Stafford ..	*51	40	11	4
Stone ..	16	6	10	—
Tamworth ..	*14	7	7	1
Tettenhall ..	8	3	5	1
Tipton ..	8	7	1	—
Uttoxeter ..	*17	9	8	1
Wednesbury ..	*5	—	5	—
Wednesfield ..	4	—	4	1
Willenhall ..	*32	15	17	1
RURAL :				
Cannock ..	*57	42	15	4
Cheadle ..	*52	25	27	2
Leek ..	*6	4	2	—
Lichfield ..	*44	29	15	3
Newcastle ..	*13	8	5	1
Seisdon ..	*32	21	11	3
Stafford ..	*18	15	3	—
Stone ..	*15	10	5	2
Tutbury ..	*4	2	2	—
Uttoxeter ..	5	3	2	—
Totals ..	*675	381	294	38

* All samples not examined bacteriologically.

SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILK.
1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1942.

Designation	No. of Samples Submitted	Result of Examination		T.B.
		Cleanliness		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
“ Tuberculin Tested ” ..	31	27	4	—
“ Accredited ” ..	53	43	10	1
Pasteurised ..	73	47	26	—
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Pasteurised ..	4	2	2	—
Totals ..	161	119	42	1

In addition, twelve samples of sterilized milk were taken for examination, and were all satisfactory.

(i) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Undesignated Milk.—of the 675 samples bacteriologically examined, 381 were found to conform to a certain standard of cleanliness, the remaining 294 failing to do so. Two hundred and fifty-nine of the latter were produced within the County and 35 outside. The percentage of samples reported clean was 56.4, compared with 57.1 last year. In addition to being unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint, 11 also contained tubercle bacilli.

As in previous years, the names of the producers of the unsatisfactory milks were reported to the County Farm Institute, and the farmers concerned were communicated with by the Assistant Director of Agricultural Education, and offered every assistance. In accordance with the usual practice, if no improvement in the cleanliness of the milk resulted, the District Council in whose area the premises are situated was informed, so that the necessary steps could be taken under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Specially Designated Milks.—The cleanliness test was applied to the 161 samples submitted, and 42, or 26.1 per cent., were found to be unsatisfactory, viz. :—4 "Tuberculin Tested," 10 "Accredited," 26 Pasteurised and 2 "Tuberculin Tested" Pasteurised, as compared with 17.0 per cent. in the previous year.

In addition to examination by the bacterial count method, the Pasteurised milks are submitted to the phosphatase test, which

indicates the efficiency or otherwise of the pasteurisation. In this respect 74 of the 77 samples obtained in 1942 were satisfactory.

As regards the unsatisfactory samples, other than those of Pasteurised Milk, 13 were produced in the County and 1 outside. The sources of production of the 28 Pasteurised samples were not known but 23 were of milk treated at premises outside the County.

(ii) BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

With the exception of 50 of ordinary and 12 of designated milks the samples were examined biologically, and 38 of ordinary milk and 1 of "Accredited" were found to contain tubercle bacilli.

Thirty-three undesignated samples and the 1 "Accredited" were produced within the County.

Where the milk was produced in Staffordshire the positive results were reported to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whose Department is responsible for the consequent veterinary examinations of the herds concerned.

The procedure adopted when the sources of production of samples containing tubercle bacilli are outside the County is dealt with in a succeeding paragraph.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

At the end of the year there were 103 suppliers of designated and undesignated milks to schools or departments, as detailed in the following table :—

	No. of Suppliers.	Schools or Depts. supplied.	Children supplied (Dec.)
"Tuberculin Tested"	1	1	54
"Accredited"	68	106	12,057
Pasteurised	18	247	30,535
Undesignated	16	31	2,936
	103	385	45,582

The usual procedure is to sample the supplies at least once each term *after* delivery to the schools. During 1942, however, in view of shortage of staff, this was not always possible, but every effort was made to give adequate supervision. The samples are examined bacteriologically and biologically, and, in the case of Pasteurised milk, by the phosphatase test in addition.

All herds producing milk are, of course, under supervision by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but, in the case of undesignated production, examinations are normally made less frequently. However, as far as school milk is concerned, the Divisional Inspector agreed to deal with the matter adequately, so that the supplies, which are in districts where it is difficult to obtain designated milk, can continue.

The number of samples collected at schools during the year was 76, and of these 24 failed to conform with the required standard of cleanliness. When an unsatisfactory result is obtained notification is made to the supplier and/or producer, and repeat samples are taken.

Seventeen samples from Pasteurised supplies were submitted to the phosphatase test; 14 passed and 3 failed.

As regards the biological examination of samples, where tubercle bacilli are found the school supply is cancelled immediately and is not resumed from the particular source until the herd is free from infection. In the meantime, where possible alternative arrangements are made so that the scheme is not interfered with. The number of tuberculous samples during the year was 2 and the procedure mentioned in a preceding paragraph was adopted.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

In 1942, 101 representations in respect of milk produced in Staffordshire, which was found to contain tubercle bacilli, were made by Medical Officers of Health of districts outside the area administered by the County Council. Similarly, 5 complaints were made to outside Authorities in respect of milk sent into this County for sale. In this respect the County and County Borough Public Health Departments act in the capacity of clearing houses only, and the appropriate action regarding the herds is taken by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

"*Accredited.*"—On the 31st December, 1942, there were 2,554 farmers licensed to produce "*Accredited*" milk, as compared with 2,596 at the end of the previous year. During the period under review, 8,094 samples of milk were taken for examination for cleanliness, and 5,724, or 70.7 per cent., complied with the required standard.

As stated last year, in view of depletion of staff, routine sampling at the farms at two monthly intervals had to be abandoned, but endeavours are made to visit quarterly for this purpose.

Ninety-seven applications for new licences were received and dealt with during 1942, 8 of which were not acceded to.

When it is found that the main conditions attached to a licence, which include, of course, a good sample record, are not being observed, every effort is made to obtain a satisfactory solution, and failing this the case is dealt with by the appropriate Committee. During 1942, the licences of 94 producers were suspended for one month, 33 for two months, and 3 for three months. Twenty-nine were revoked and 26 cautions were issued.

"Tuberculin Tested."—At the end of the year the number of licences in force for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk was 44, as against 36 at the close of 1941. Ten new applications were received and recommended during 1942.

The routine samples are examined biologically as well as for cleanliness. Of 119 obtained during the year, 27 failed to comply with the required bacteriological standard and one was found to contain tubercle bacilli.

GENERAL.

Apart from the foregoing, sampling was undertaken at certain hospitals, sanatoria and institutions, and of 21 samples obtained during the year 10 were unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint. One was found to contain tubercle bacilli.

WATER SUPPLIES AND RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION.

As mentioned last year the war has automatically curtailed the normal activities of Local Authorities in connection with schemes for water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal. It is only possible, therefore, to comment on developments of special interest of schemes which were already in existence, and these are now becoming scanty.

I have no remarks to make on water supplies and the following is the only information available :—

Rivers Pollution Prevention.

RIVER TRENT WATERSHED.

STONE U.D.—The new sewage disposal scheme was completed towards the end of the year and it is hoped that when the works have reached maturity and any initial difficulties in connection with the peculiar sewage of this town have been overcome, a solution will have been found to the long-standing pollution of the River.

STONE R.D.—The difficulties which retarded the work on the sewerage of Tittensor and Groundslow Sanatorium, mentioned in my last Report, were overcome during 1942, and at the end of the year the scheme was nearing completion. When it becomes effective the small overtaxed sewage disposal works at the Sanatorium will be dispensed with.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT COUNCILS FOR WATER AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

In the Report for 1930, the principles governing contributions from the County Council were fully stated and a brief summary has appeared in subsequent Reports.

Contributions continue to be payable in respect of schemes mentioned in previous Reports, where the financial positions warrant them, but no new ones have been approved during the period under review.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

Under these Acts contributions are given by the County Council for the re-conditioning of old houses in rural areas, and for the conversion into dwellings of buildings not previously used for that purpose. Applications for grants must come from the owner of the property concerned. One application only was considered during 1942, in respect of a cottage in the Parish of Tyrley (Newcastle R.D.), and a grant of £100 was offered.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I have no general comments to make as far as Isolation Hospital accommodation in the County is concerned, for there has been no development during the period now under review. In my last Report I mentioned that in view of alterations the Bilston Isolation Hospital was out of commission at the beginning of 1942 and it was re-opened on the 1st November. The small Isolation Hospital at the Bratch, Wombourne, which had become devoid of patients due to difficulties of equipment, is now used for convalescent purposes only.

The following statistics relate to the notifiable infectious diseases amongst civilians during the 52 weeks ended 2nd January, 1943. On reference to the tables at the end of the Report the death-rates for each Sanitary District will be found.

SMALLPOX.—One case of smallpox was notified in 1942, which was the first of its kind in the County since 1930. The patient recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.—There was a marked increase in the incidence of this disease, 2,576 cases having been notified, compared with 1,457 in 1941, but the prevailing type was mild. In the Urban Districts there were 2,156 cases and in the Rural Districts 420, as against 1,125 and 332, respectively, in the previous year. The case rates per thousand of the population were :—Urban Districts 3.69, Rural Districts 2.15, with a total County rate of 3.31, whilst that for England and Wales was 2.19. The corresponding rates for 1931 were 1.91, 1.71, 1.86 and 1.47, respectively, from which it will be observed that whilst there was a greater increase in the Administrative County, the disease was more prevalent in the country as a whole.

Six deaths occurred in Urban Districts and one in a Rural District, which give a rate of 0.01 per thousand of the population in each instance.

DIPHTHERIA.—There was no change in the incidence of this disease, for 1,060 notifications were made, compared with 1,059 in the previous year, and again the prevailing type was more severe than scarlet fever. There was a slight increase in the Urban Districts, viz., 890, as against 866, and a similar decrease in the Rural Districts, where 170 cases were recorded compared with 193. The total case rate was 1.36, whilst that for England and Wales was 1.05.

Forty-one deaths occurred in the Urban and 6 in the Rural Districts, which yield death-rates of 0.07 and 0.03, respectively. In 1941 there were 61 deaths from this disease.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria continued throughout the year with the co-operation of the medical staff of the County Council in the schools and Welfare Centres, but, as previously pointed out, the local Councils are officially responsible and the appropriate statistics will doubtless appear in the Reports of their Medical Officers of Health.

Facilities are provided in the County Laboratory for bacteriological investigations, and, in 1942, 44,066 specimens were dealt with, compared with 19,930 in the previous year. These included 86 virulence tests undertaken in special cases, and 1,166 tests for the identification of diphtheria-like organisms.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Six notifications of enteric fever in Urban Districts and 9 in Rural Districts were made during the year, compared with 55 and 19, respectively, in 1941. The case rate for Staffordshire and for England and Wales was the same, being 0.02 per thousand of the population.

Three deaths occurred from this disease, all of which were in Urban Districts.

MEASLES.—During the period, 4,023 notifications were made, which indicates a marked decrease, for the corresponding figure for 1941 was 8,979. Three thousand and seventy-seven cases occurred in Urban and 946 in Rural Districts, compared with 6,490 and 2,489 in the previous year. The 1942 case rates for the County and England and Wales were 5.16 and 7.46, as against 11.46 and 10.33 in 1941.

Ten deaths occurred in the Urban Districts and 3 in the Rural, the death-rate in each instance being 0.02. There were 25 deaths in 1941.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—Here again there was a substantial decrease in the number of notifications, 1,614 being made in 1942, as compared with 3,173 in 1941. In the Urban Districts there were 1,359 as against 2,284, whilst the corresponding figures for the Rural Districts were 255 and 889, respectively. The case rate for the County was 2.07 and for England and Wales 1.73.

There were 29 deaths in the Urban Districts and 2 in the Rural, the death-rates being 0.05 and 0.01, respectively. In 1941, 53 deaths were due to this cause.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.—Two cases in Urban Districts and one in a Rural District only were notified during 1942, but 6 deaths were reported, 4 in Urban and 2 in Rural Districts.

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS.—In 1942, 6 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, 3 in Urban and 3 in Rural Districts. There were also 2 cases of Polioencephalitis, one each from the Urban and Rural Districts. As regards deaths from these conditions, 2 occurred in Urban Districts.

DYSENTERY.—The notifications of this disease show a notable decrease 39 being reported during the period as compared with 115 in the previous year. Nine of the 35 Sanitary Districts were affected, as follows :—Biddulph U.D., 5 ; Brownhills U.D., 16 ; Kidsgrove U.D., 2 ; Leek U.D., 1 ; Rugeley U.D., 3 ; Stafford M.B., 6 ; Cheadle R.D., 3 ; Lichfield R.D., 2 ; and Seisdon R.D., 1.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—In 1940 an acute rise in the incidence of this disease was experienced, when 161 cases were notified as against 28 in 1939, and in 1941 there was some improvement, when the corresponding number was 128. Nineteen forty-two shows a further reduction, for 87 cases were reported, 65 in 19 of the 25 Urban Districts and 22 in 9 of the 10 Rural Districts. The disease did not reach epidemic proportions. The main decrease was in the Urban Districts, where 106 cases occurred in 1941, the number in the Rural Districts during that year being 22. The case rate for 1942 was 0.11, compared with 0.14 for England and Wales.

There were 10 deaths in 7 of the Urban Districts and one each in 3 of the Rural Districts, as against 26 and 9 deaths, respectively, in 1941.

The County Council have a scheme under which the services of Consultants are at the disposal of the General Practitioners, and special arrangements exist for the cerebro-spinal fluid to be sent to the County Bacteriological Laboratory in a portable incubator, because these organisms do not survive if sent through the post in the ordinary way. Nineteen specimens of cerebro-spinal fluid were examined in the Laboratory during the year, together with 2 swabs, and typing was undertaken when possible.

The deaths from non-notifiable infectious diseases were as follows :—

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.—Seventy-six deaths occurred in Urban Districts, and 10 in Rural Districts, in children under 2 years of age, the death-rates being 6.7 and 2.9, respectively, per thousand live births. The deaths occurred in 21 of the Urban Districts and in 8 of the Rural Districts.

INFLUENZA.—In 1942 there were 49 deaths in Urban and 20 in Rural Districts, as compared with 147 and 42, respectively, in 1941.

The number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, with the deaths, in the Administrative County during the 52 weeks are as follows :—

Diseases	Notifications		Deaths.	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Small-pox	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2156	420	6	1
Diphtheria	890	170	41	6
Enteric Fever	6	9	3	—
Measles	3077	946	10	3
Whooping Cough	1359	255	29	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	79	26	10	4
Erysipelas	198	48	*	*
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	65	22	10	3
Polio-myelitis	3	3	} 2	—
Polio-encephalitis	1	1		—
Pneumonia	840	178	319	68
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	4	2
Dysentery	33	6	*	*

* Not classified in Registrar-General's Return.

VACCINATION.

The ineffectiveness of the working of the Vaccination Acts is shown on examination of the Returns of the various Vaccination Officers for the year 1st January to 31st December, 1941, where it is seen that out of 10,724 children born during the year in whom vaccination was possible, only 31.7 per cent. were subsequently protected against smallpox.

SCABIES.

The Scabies Order, 1941, provided measures for dealing with persons suffering from scabies and gave concurrent powers to County and District Councils. At the onset it was considered that the onus for initial action must rest with the District Authorities, who would be responsible for the domiciliary aspect of the matter, and in May, 1942, a Ministry of Health circular was issued confirming this contention. It was further stated that the local Medical Officer of Health should be the first recipient of all information necessary to initiate action, such as the inspection of premises, with, if necessary, the subsequent examination and cleansing or treatment of the persons concerned. In this connection it was suggested it was generally preferable that cases first coming to notice through the machinery of the County Council, *e.g.*, the School Medical Service or the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, should be reported to the local Medical Officers of Health for action in the way already indicated.

It was agreed that the distribution of functions between the County and District Councils should be that most convenient and effective in the particular County concerned.

The question of co-operation was first considered by the County Public Health Committee in April, 1942, when it was decided to make available to the District Councils who required them decontamination facilities at the First Aid Posts and Cleansing Stations without cost to the local rates. This concession was restricted to the use of the premises and supplies of hot water as it was thought that the local Councils should be responsible for materials and labour. As regards the latter, however, where the County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for a district applications for the services of the Health Visitors are favourably considered, providing the other circumstances connected with their work permit.

From the beginning of March to the end of 1942, 7 of the 35 local Councils required, and were granted, the facilities at the First Aid Posts in their districts, where, in total, 795 sessions were held for the cleansing of persons suffering from scabies, a session being considered any period up to 3 hours.

At the following meeting in June, the Ministry of Health circular already referred to having been received, in which it was also expressed that the responsibility for providing in-patient treatment would largely rest with the County Council, the Public Health Committee considered this aspect of the matter. They decided that from the 1st July they would accept financial responsibility for the institutional treatment of persons suffering from scabies whose condition definitely necessitated admission, and the local Medical Officers were informed that they could refer patients to the County Public Assistance Institutions on this understanding. They were also told that if treatment at any other hospital was found to be necessary, and it was thought the County Council could properly be expected to accept financial responsibility, the circumstances connected with the cases concerned should be reported to me for consideration. During the last six months of 1942, 120 patients were admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions, the Public Health Committee reimbursing the Public Assistance Committee the cost of maintenance.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The treatment scheme is administered by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis, whose Annual Report deals extensively with all aspects of the work. Nevertheless it is always interesting to record here one result of

the yearly survey of the sleeping accommodation of tuberculous persons, viz., the percentage of those with separate bedrooms. Fifteen years ago it was 25.1 only, but there has been a gradual improvement to 47.5 in 1942, which is a slight increase on the highest previous percentage of 47.3 during last year. I would again remind readers, however, that the present more satisfactory position may not be an occasion for congratulation, as wartime housing difficulties present a contradiction, and it may be of a temporary nature only due to depletion of families caused by various aspects of the national emergency. Housing, therefore, still remains a problem which must be adequately tackled at the earliest possible moment.

Given below are the 1942 statistics for the Administrative County.

The following table shows new cases of tuberculosis, including primary notifications and cases which came to notice otherwise than by formal notification, and deaths from the disease, classified according to age and sex :—

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	1	—	4	2	2	—	5	3
1—	10	4	21	16	3	—	9	10
5—	17	8	22	20	3	5	12	11
10—	11	15	25	13				
15—	40	64	12	12				
20—	50	71	4	8	114	109	16	15
25—	98	83	5	8				
35—	92	40	2	4				
45—	66	18	7	2	85	28	5	5
55—	42	14	—	4				
65 and upwards	4	4	2	2				
Totals	431	321	104	91	223	150	48	44

Three hundred and seventy-three persons died from pulmonary tuberculosis and 92 from other forms of tuberculosis, the death-rates being 0.48 and 0.12 per thousand of the population, respectively. The corresponding rates for 1941 were 0.51 and 0.15. In the general tables at the end of the Report the rates for each Sanitary District will be found.

The table which follows shows the death-rates in the Urban and Rural Districts of the County from 1914.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population			
	Phthisis		Other forms of Tuberculosis	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1914	0.89	0.54	0.31	0.20
1915	0.94	0.67	0.34	0.29
1916	1.01	0.80	0.40	0.29
1917	1.01	0.74	0.34	0.31
1918	1.03	0.88	0.31	0.28
1919	0.83	0.61	0.22	0.30
1920	0.75	0.56	0.30	0.21
1921	0.80	0.53	0.23	0.21
1922	0.80	0.55	0.24	0.17
1923	0.75	0.58	0.25	0.22
1924	0.73	0.58	0.22	0.20
1925	0.83	0.49	0.22	0.14
1926	0.74	0.50	0.22	0.11
1927	0.73	0.44	0.21	0.22
1928	0.64	0.48	0.14	0.13
1929	0.76	0.54	0.15	0.12
1930	0.72	0.54	0.15	0.13
1931	0.78	0.52	0.17	0.13
1932	0.64	0.42	0.16	0.14
1933	0.72	0.50	0.14	0.08
1934	0.67	0.43	0.11	0.16
1935	0.67	0.35	0.13	0.08
1936	0.53	0.34	0.11	0.08
1937	0.60	0.41	0.13	0.11
1938	0.56	0.29	0.13	0.11
1939	0.52	0.35	0.09	0.11
1940	0.51	0.29	0.11	0.06
1941	0.57	0.33	0.16	0.14
1942	0.52	0.34	0.13	0.10

NOTIFICATION.

The following are particulars of the primary notifications made from 1915 :—

1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
1233	1048	873	856	699	642	929	971	1029	974	1232	1400	1106	1194
1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
1017	1021	1129	1074	1011	929	825	831	858	789	726	669	788	830

In addition to the 830 primary notifications in 1942, 117 cases, compared with 112 in the previous year, came to knowledge from other sources, 46 of which were transfers from other areas. It

was found that 54 unnotified cases had died, and in 9 further instances notification was made after death. These 63 deaths give a ratio of 1 in 7.4 of the total deaths ; roughly, 6 out of 7 deaths were of cases notified under the Regulations before decease.

The total notifications are classified in a preceding table and the incidence in the sexes and age groups should be specially observed.

REGISTERS OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

At the end of the year the following cases were included in these registers :—

TOTAL CASES	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
7169	2549	2303	4852	1219	1098	2317

This indicates that there is one case of tuberculosis in every 109 persons, or 9.2 per thousand of the population. It also shows that, during the year, approximately one death occurred amongst 16 cases, which compares favourably with the expert opinion that for every death there are at least 10 persons suffering from the disease.

CANCER.

In the following table, the deaths from Cancer during 1942 in age and sex groups, in the Urban and Rural Districts of the County, are shown :—

Age Groups	Urban Districts			Rural Districts			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
0— ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
5— ..	—	3	3	2	—	2	5
15— ..	32	39	71	7	11	18	89
45— ..	195	191	386	55	61	116	502
65— ..	230	184	414	82	90	172	586
Totals ..	458	417	875	146	162	308	1183

As stated last year, the Registrar-General now classifies the deaths from cancer in four groups and the detailed totals are shown in the table which appears on page 12.

The number of deaths from cancer is the highest yet recorded and, this year, represents 14.8 per cent. of the total civilian deaths in the Administrative County. In previous Reports I have mentioned that, following a gradual increase over a long period, these deaths first exceeded one thousand in 1938, and the rise is still evident. From the preceding table it will be observed that 95 of the deaths only occurred in persons under the age of 45 years. In this connection I would call the reader's attention to the table on Page 13 of the Report which deals with general mortality and shows that the percentage of the total deaths represented by those occurring in persons of 45 and over has increased from 51.4 in 1920 to 73.5 in 1942 so that there is an increase in the age group more susceptible to the development of cancer.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the County Council scheme for the treatment of Venereal Diseases, agreements have been made with the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent; the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford; the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton; the Guest Hospital, Dudley; the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote; and the Walsall Corporation for the establishment of special clinics. A special arrangement also exists for the treatment of County cases at the Birmingham General Hospital, and there is an agreement with the Children's Hospital, Ladywood Road, Birmingham.

There is one whole-time Venereal Diseases Officer on the staff of the County Council who is responsible for the Clinics at Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent mentioned above. In addition, as a result of war-time staffing difficulties, by an arrangement between the County Council and the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation, he temporarily attends the Shelton Municipal Clinic.

The only treatment centres situated in the Administrative County are those at the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, and the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford, but the County Council are responsible for the one at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent. The arrangements which exist at Centres in the areas of neighbouring Authorities have already been mentioned, and in a later table the attendances of County patients at the various hospitals are detailed. It is, of course, known that the incidence of these diseases has increased since the war began, and Service cases are now treated at the Centres, but nothing has

yet transpired to indicate that our facilities which existed before the outbreak of hostilities have become inadequate. I would mention, however, that towards the end of 1941 the Ministry of Health indicated that an increase in Service infections had arisen at Lichfield during the preceding three months, and suggested that a General Practitioner Service be established in that City in view of the fact that the nearest Treatment Centre was ten miles away at Walsall. Although consideration of the various aspects of the matter did not lead to the conviction that such a venture would be successful, the Public Health Committee, at their meeting in January, 1942, agreed that the suggestion should be put into effect. Arrangements were then made to enlist the services of the five General Practitioners in Lichfield, who, for their own convenience, decided to interview and treat cases at the Victoria Hospital, no responsibility devolving on the County Council for the use of the accommodation there. The necessary equipment, drugs, etc., were ordered and the Service constituted in accordance with Circular 2226 of the 17th December, 1940, and duly approved by the Ministry of Health, was put into operation on the 30th March, 1942, under the supervision and control of the County Venereal Diseases Officer. From that time to the end of the year one patient only was dealt with under the scheme, and at the first attendance asked to be transferred to the Walsall Treatment Centre. The facilities are still in existence and the Venereal Diseases Officer keeps in touch with the General Practitioners at quarterly intervals.

Again this year the County Council decided to have a special winter propaganda campaign and £200 was allocated for the purpose. At the onset it was thought that on this occasion the Public Health Committee and the Staffordshire Insurance Committee might combine and include the hostels of a large factory in the activities. This, however, was found to be impracticable and after consultation with the Central Council for Health Education, who, on the 1st April, had taken over educational work for the prevention and treatment of venereal diseases from the British Social Hygiene Council, it was decided to concentrate on the northern areas of the County, it being understood that three County Borough Authorities in the south were arranging similar courses of lectures. Five centres were selected, viz., Cheadle, Kidsgrove, Leek, Stone and Uttoxeter, and three lectures were given at each place. Mixed audiences were invited to two of the talks, the sexes being divided for the other which dealt with the physiology of sex. The campaign was carried out at the end of the year, and the decision of the County Council was again fully justified, for it was extremely successful. At Leek the local

Medical Officer of Health subsequently asked whether, as the demand for seats had greatly exceeded the number available, the talks could be repeated, and appropriate arrangements were made early in 1943, the result being quite satisfactory.

During the year, 914 Staffordshire patients attended for treatment for the first time, and the following detailed table indicates where it was obtained. The attendances shown in the appropriate column, however, relate to all patients and include visits by those referred for treatment in previous years.

CLINIC	Syphilis	Soft chancre	Gonorrhœa	Non-Venereal	Total New Cases	Attendances (all patients)
Birmingham General Hospital	9	—	20	50	79	1426
Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary	2	—	3	9	14	110
Derby Royal Infirmary	—	—	5	6	11	159
Dudley Guest Hospital	17	1	22	81	121	2355
Southampton	—	—	—	—	—	3
Stafford (Staffordshire General Infirmary)	6	—	26	22	54	1247
Stoke-on-Trent (North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary)	45	1	51	94	191	7406
Stoke-on-Trent (Municipal Clinic, Shelton)	3	—	17	21	41	619
Stourbridge (Corbett Hospital)	4	—	8	3	15	657
Walsall (Manor Hospital)	11	—	37	76	124	2012
Wolverhampton Royal Hospital	37	—	77	150	264	5636
Totals	134	2	266	512	914	21630

Free samples of Salvarsan or its substitutes are issued to General Practitioners, who comply with the necessary requirements, for the treatment of Staffordshire cases in their practices. At the end of 1942 the names of 38 doctors appeared on the approved list, 3 of whom took advantage of the provision during the year.

The County Council have arrangements for the admission of patients from the Administrative County to Cleveland House, Wolverhampton, an institution for the reception of expectant mothers suffering from venereal disease. In 1942, eight such patients were treated, six of whom were admitted during the year.

W. D. CARRUTHERS,

County Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1943.

TABLES

Table showing Number of Persons per acre, Birth and Death-rates as well as the Death-rates at all ages and among Children under 1 year, and the Death-rates from Zymotic Diseases, Tuberculosis, Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, &c.

URBAN.

District	Number of persons per acre	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Zymotic Mortality						Per 1,000 of Population										
						Per 1,000 of Population						Per 1,000 live Births		Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Cancer	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory Diseases	Nephritis	Premature Birth	Congenital Malforma- tions, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases
						Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)											
Aldridge	..	2.6	22.0	0.74	8.4	51	—	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.04	3.8	0.41	0.12	1.32	0.45	0.37	0.04	0.12	0.21	0.41	
Amblecote	..	4.2	16.7	1.06	11.3	43	—	—	—	—	—	21.3	—	—	3.55	0.35	—	—	0.71	—	0.35	
Biddulph	..	1.5	22.8	0.71	10.5	58	—	—	—	0.20	—	—	0.51	0.10	1.52	0.30	0.20	—	0.20	0.91	0.10	
Bilston	..	16.4	20.9	0.46	9.5	56	—	—	—	0.07	0.03	17.1	0.49	0.23	1.24	0.85	0.55	0.03	0.29	0.26	0.33	
Brierley Hill	..	7.6	19.2	0.51	10.8	50	—	—	—	0.04	0.02	2.3	0.67	0.16	1.54	0.96	0.56	0.11	0.20	0.36	0.27	
Brownhills	..	3.2	21.5	0.65	11.4	62	—	—	0.10	—	0.10	2.3	0.79	0.05	1.69	0.74	0.50	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.45	
Cannock	..	4.6	20.6	0.83	9.9	52	—	0.03	—	0.03	0.19	6.5	0.51	—	1.31	0.56	0.43	0.08	0.35	0.43	0.32	
Coseley	..	9.2	21.6	0.49	9.6	58	—	—	—	0.13	0.03	9.1	0.49	0.23	0.99	0.66	0.99	0.10	0.13	0.26	0.33	
Darlaston	..	13.3	17.2	0.94	10.0	54	—	0.05	—	0.15	0.10	5.7	0.59	0.15	1.43	0.54	0.34	0.05	0.34	0.20	0.39	
Kidsgrove	..	3.5	19.4	0.99	12.1	47	—	—	—	—	0.07	3.6	0.35	0.42	0.92	0.42	0.42	0.28	0.21	0.07	0.35	
Leek ..	..	4.4	16.3	0.69	11.3	49	—	—	—	—	—	3.2	0.27	0.11	1.43	0.21	0.42	—	0.27	0.32	0.21	
Lichfield	..	2.7	21.8	1.22	11.3	47	—	—	—	—	—	9.3	0.20	—	2.14	0.71	0.92	0.31	0.41	0.20	0.10	
Newcastle	..	7.1	18.1	0.77	10.5	54	—	0.03	—	—	0.06	5.2	0.39	0.09	1.85	0.41	0.47	0.08	0.24	0.32	0.35	

URBAN—continued

District.	Zymotic Mortality										Per 1,000 of Population									
	Number of persons per acre	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Per 1,000 of Population					Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Per 1,000 live Births			
						Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Cancer	Bronchitis	Pneumonia								Other Respiratory Diseases	Nephritis	Premature Birth
Rowley Regis ..	11.9	19.0	0.64	9.2	56	—	—	—	0.04	0.22	4.6	0.55	0.09	1.45	0.64	0.57	0.18	0.11	0.35	0.31
Rugeley ..	2.8	20.3	1.00	10.5	25	—	0.25	0.13	—	0.25	—	0.38	0.13	1.38	0.25	0.75	0.13	0.50	—	—
Sedgley ..	5.5	15.7	0.47	11.0	36	0.05	—	—	0.05	0.09	6.0	0.66	0.28	1.33	0.76	1.09	0.09	0.19	0.09	0.24
Stafford ..	7.3	18.1	0.49	10.2	52	—	—	—	—	0.03	1.5	0.43	0.14	1.54	0.30	0.35	0.08	0.30	0.43	0.41
Stone ..	4.3	16.9	0.57	13.2	67	—	—	—	—	—	16.8	0.28	0.14	1.70	0.43	0.57	—	0.14	0.28	0.14
Tamworth ..	4.7	15.5	1.03	9.3	67	0.08	0.08	—	—	—	—	0.32	0.08	1.59	0.40	0.40	0.24	0.32	0.16	0.40
Tettenhall ..	2.8	17.0	1.15	10.2	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.43	—	2.17	0.58	0.14	0.14	—	0.14	0.14
Tipton ..	16.4	21.2	0.76	12.1	74	0.03	0.06	—	0.14	0.11	14.6	0.79	0.08	1.66	0.67	0.76	0.06	0.36	0.39	0.42
Uttoxeter ..	2.1	18.7	1.13	10.8	53	—	—	—	—	—	22.6	0.14	0.14	1.55	0.42	0.98	—	0.14	0.14	0.14
Wednesbury ..	15.9	19.6	0.90	10.1	49	—	—	0.03	0.06	0.03	7.9	0.59	0.16	1.40	0.74	0.40	0.06	0.31	0.19	0.25
Wednesfield ..	6.1	24.9	0.59	9.5	53	—	—	—	0.07	0.07	5.3	0.72	0.07	1.64	0.13	0.66	—	0.33	0.26	0.52
Willenhall ..	10.1	20.3	0.63	9.6	72	—	—	—	0.07	—	10.3	0.73	0.07	1.46	0.84	0.52	0.10	0.14	0.49	0.31
Totals and Averages ..	5.8	19.5	0.71	10.3	55	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.07	6.7	0.52	0.13	1.50	0.58	0.55	0.09	0.25	0.31	0.32
126 large towns in England ..	—	17.3	0.66	13.3	59	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.06	7.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
148 smaller towns, resident Population 25,000–50,000	—	18.4	0.62	12.1	46	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	4.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

RURAL

DISTRICT.	Zymotic Mortality										Per 1,000 of Population									
	Mean Area per Person in acres	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	Still-births, Rate per 1,000 of Population	Crude death-rate per 1,000 of Population	Mortality in children under one year per 1,000 registered live births	Per 1,000 of Population					Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Cancer	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory Diseases	Nephritis	Premature Birth	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases
						Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria										
Cannock ..	2.5	17.9	0.52	10.3	24	—	0.09	—	—	0.09	2.4	0.57	0.09	1.57	0.48	0.44	0.17	0.22	0.09	0.09
Cheadle ..	1.9	17.2	0.82	10.5	42	—	—	—	0.03	0.03	1.8	0.41	0.09	1.90	0.41	0.28	0.03	0.51	0.25	0.35
Leek ..	4.6	19.4	1.14	11.2	49	—	—	—	—	—	3.3	0.38	0.06	1.46	0.51	0.51	—	0.13	0.44	0.38
Lichfield ..	2.5	18.7	0.61	9.7	37	—	0.03	0.03	—	0.03	4.9	0.42	0.21	1.54	0.61	0.36	0.15	0.12	0.33	0.15
Newcastle ..	2.4	15.9	0.91	11.1	76	—	—	—	—	0.06	3.8	0.18	0.12	1.51	0.48	0.42	0.12	0.48	0.42	0.36
Seisdon ..	2.1	19.5	0.66	10.0	49	—	—	—	0.05	—	2.6	0.30	0.10	1.52	0.66	0.25	0.15	0.30	0.51	0.35
Stafford ..	5.5	19.3	0.61	10.5	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.34	0.07	1.84	0.61	0.27	—	0.14	0.27	—
Stone ..	3.6	12.2	0.41	7.6	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.17	0.06	1.51	0.35	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.17	0.12
Tutbury ..	2.3	16.7	0.58	11.1	52	—	—	—	—	0.07	4.3	0.22	—	1.31	0.44	0.36	0.22	0.58	0.07	0.29
Uttoxeter ..	5.6	15.5	0.40	9.4	52	—	—	—	—	—	6.5	0.10	—	1.20	0.40	0.60	—	0.40	0.30	0.40
Totals and Averages ..	3.0	17.4	0.68	10.1	41	—	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	2.9	0.34	0.10	1.58	0.50	0.35	0.10	0.29	0.29	0.24

Table showing the Attack-Rates per 1,000 of the population of certain Infectious Diseases notified in each sanitary area during the 52 weeks ended 2nd January, 1943.

URBAN

DISTRICT	Small-pox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Puer-peral Pyrexia	Cerebro-spinal Fever Cases	Poliomylitis Cases	Encephalitis Lethargica Cases
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate			
Aldridge ..	—	—	7.21	4.49	1.15	0.78	3.96	1.77	0.08	7	—	—
Amblecote ..	—	—	5.67	1.06	1.77	—	0.71	—	0.35	4	—	1
Biddulph ..	—	1.10	3.34	3.24	0.71	1.01	16.69	2.83	—	5	—	—
Bilston ..	—	—	4.92	4.40	0.88	0.16	3.03	2.45	0.07	9	—	—
Brierley Hill ..	—	—	1.34	3.14	1.27	0.51	1.72	0.78	0.22	5	—	—
Brownhills ..	—	—	10.82	0.74	3.52	0.99	7.25	2.58	0.10	1	—	—
Cannock ..	—	—	2.01	1.39	3.48	0.16	13.77	0.24	0.29	1	—	—
Coseley ..	—	—	2.82	2.56	1.58	0.36	3.68	2.96	0.03	—	—	—
Darlaston ..	—	—	7.19	2.86	1.28	—	1.82	1.18	0.10	1	—	—
Kidsgrove ..	—	—	1.55	2.05	0.35	1.06	7.55	2.54	0.28	2	—	—
Leek ..	—	—	2.34	0.48	0.90	0.05	1.11	0.48	—	—	—	—
Lichfield ..	—	—	2.04	0.31	1.74	0.10	0.41	—	1.02	2	—	—
Newcastle ..	—	—	3.84	0.84	1.86	0.13	8.64	0.74	0.05	8	—	—

URBAN—continued

District	Small-pox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro-spinal Fever Cases	Poliomyelitis Cases	Encephalitis Lethargica Cases
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate			
Rowley Regis ..	—	—	1·67	1·03	0·70	0·07	8·34	0·88	0·04	3	—	—
Rugeley ..	—	0·13	1·50	2·13	3·25	—	10·38	1·13	0·13	1	—	—
Sedgley ..	—	0·19	2·46	0·52	1·66	0·66	0·38	1·47	0·14	—	—	—
Stafford ..	—	—	2·54	1·62	0·51	0·22	1·54	1·11	0·16	2	1	—
Stone ..	—	—	1·28	0·71	0·57	0·14	0·57	0·71	—	1	—	—
Tamworth ..	—	—	1·19	0·24	0·16	0·40	5·88	2·15	—	1	—	—
Tettenhall ..	—	—	1·88	5·05	0·58	—	1·15	1·15	0·14	—	2	—
Tipton ..	—	—	2·84	5·53	2·86	0·70	11·99	3·73	0·20	5	—	1
Uttoxeter ..	—	—	1·69	—	0·28	0·14	1·13	—	—	—	—	—
Wednesbury ..	—	—	5·49	4·16	1·05	0·31	1·18	1·58	0·16	3	—	—
Wednesfield ..	—	—	7·28	2·82	2·43	0·46	1·64	1·51	0·20	—	—	—
Willenhall ..	—	—	6·80	3·14	1·29	0·17	1·57	0·84	0·10	4	—	—

RURAL

DISTRICT	Small-pox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Puer-peral Pyrexia	Cerebro-spinal Fever Cases	Poliomylitis Cases	Encephalitis Cases
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate			
Cannock ..	—	—	3.19	1.88	1.62	0.17	17.44	1.44	0.09	3	1	—
Cheadle ..	—	—	1.39	0.79	0.60	0.41	3.16	1.42	0.16	2	—	—
Leek ..	—	—	3.49	0.82	0.06	0.13	2.09	0.63	—	1	—	—
Lichfield ..	—	0.24	2.54	0.57	1.21	0.18	3.12	1.24	0.09	4	—	—
Newcastle ..	—	—	1.69	4.10	0.72	0.24	9.11	0.18	0.12	2	1	—
Seisdon ..	—	0.05	2.68	1.82	1.16	0.15	1.97	0.61	0.15	2	1	1
Stafford ..	—	—	1.22	1.50	0.34	0.61	0.68	0.82	0.27	5	—	—
Stone ..	0.06	—	1.62	0.06	1.33	0.12	1.74	0.58	0.12	—	—	—
Tutbury ..	—	—	2.18	1.75	0.73	0.29	5.68	0.87	0.29	1	—	—
Uttoxeter ..	—	—	0.70	0.40	—	0.10	0.30	—	0.10	2	—	—