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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

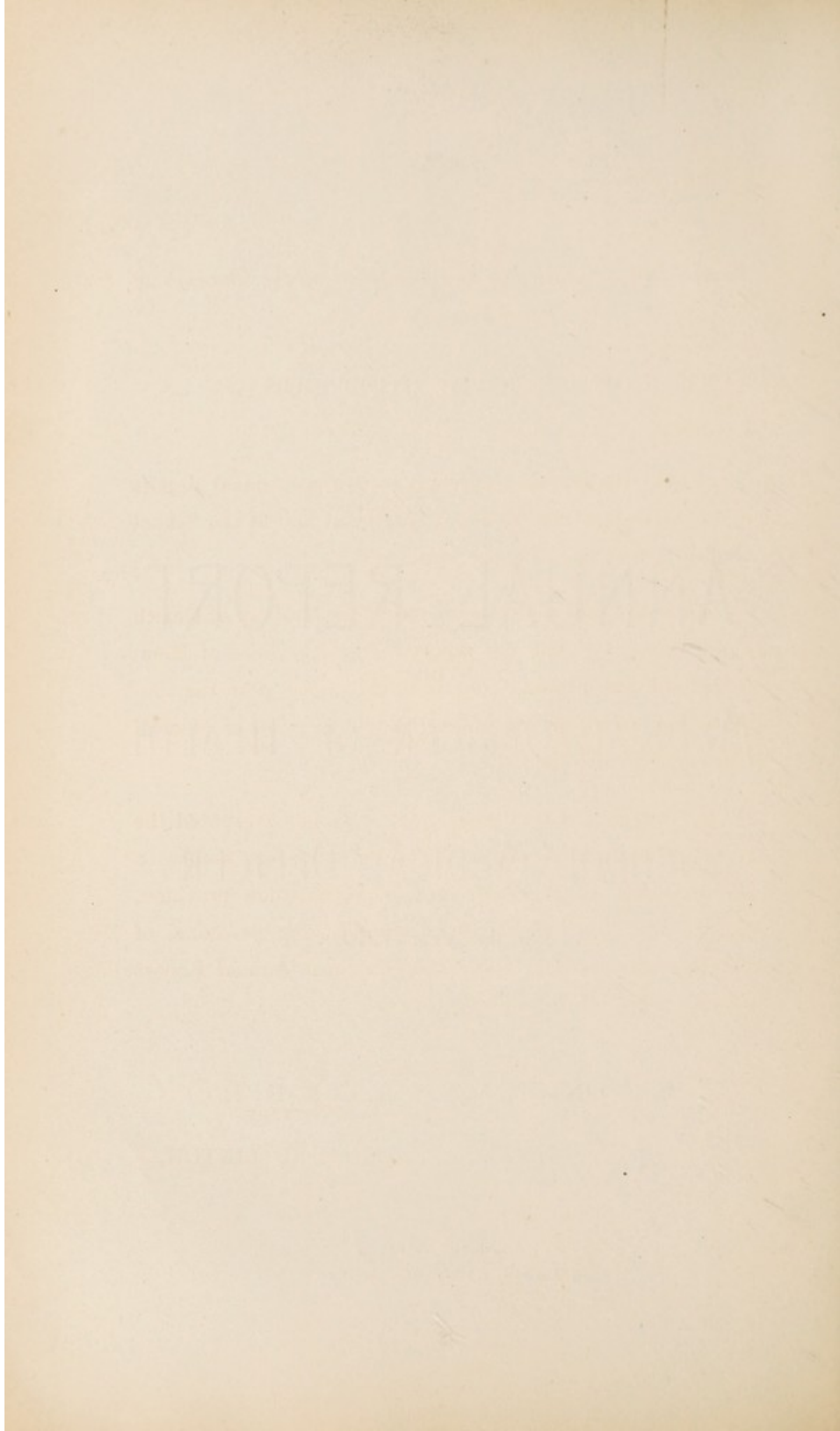
For the Year 1919.

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F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Tunbridge Wells :  
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR WORKS.



To the *Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of  
Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the work of the Health Department and of the School Medical Department for the year 1919.

In accordance with the circular of the Ministry of Health dated January, 1920, the report follows the lines of Mem. 9-Med. of the Ministry containing directions as to the contents and arrangements of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1919.

It is regretted that pressure of work has prevented the report from being ready at an earlier date, but, thanks to the assistance at School Medical Inspections now provided, and to the re-establishment of the Clerking personnel of the Department, it is hoped that the next Annual Report may be prepared at an earlier season.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.



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# BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



## Health Committee:\*

Mr. Alderman CARPENTER (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Councillor H. A. Latimer, M.D.)

Mr. Alderman CALEY.

Councillor Col. SLADEN.

Mr. Councillor T. EDWARDS.

Mr. Alderman SNELL.

Mr. Councillor THORPE.

Councillor Miss POWER.

## Education Committee:\*

The Ven. Archdeacon A. T. SCOTT, M.A. (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Councillor H. A. Latimer, M.D.)

Mr. Alderman ELWIG.

Mr. Alderman SILCOCK.

Mr. Councillor BERWICK.

Mr. Councillor BLOXHAM.

Councillor Col. HUNTER, C.S.I.

Councillor Miss POWER.

Councillor Miss SCOTT.

Mr. Councillor STAMFORD.

Mr. Councillor WESLEY SMITH.

Mr. Councillor THORPE.

Mr. Councillor WILLMOT.

Mrs. ABBOTT.

Miss ROBERTS.

The Rev. Canon D. J. STATHER

HUNT, M.A.

The Rev. W. USHER, M.D.

Mr. A. I. KING.

## Staff of the Public Health and School Medical Departments:

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JAMES CAVE, A.R.S.I., A.R.I.P.H.

Inspectors:

E. J. WELLS, A.R.S.I.

W. P. CAVE, A.R.S.I.

Clerk:

F. HICKS.

Junior Clerk:

Miss M. FERMER.

School Nurses and Health Visitors:

Miss L. ORAM.

Miss M. RIDDLE.

Matron of the Isolation Hospital:

Miss E. BROCKLEHURST.

Public Analyst:

A. H. M. MUTER, F.I.C.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and  
Bacteriologist:

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

\* The present constitution of Committees is given above.





## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1919.

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Population Estimated to the middle of the Year, for Birth-rate 35,859, and for Death-rate 34,423.

Area of the Borough, 3,991 acres.

Rateable Value, £306,830.

CENSUS 1911.	{	Population, 35,703.
		Number of Inhabited Houses, 7,671.
		Average Number of Persons per House, 4.6.
		Density of Population, 8.9 Persons per acre.

Number of Deaths 479 (473 in the Borough, 74 inward transfers <sup>1</sup>, and 68 outward transfers <sup>2</sup>).

Crude Death-rate per thousand, 13.9. Average for previous ten years, 13.6. Death-rate corrected for age and sex constitution, 12.07.

Number of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, 7. Death-rate from Zymotic Diseases, 0.2 per thousand of the population.

Death-rate from Phthisis, 0.87 per thousand living.

Death-rate from Tuberculosis, all forms, 1.16.

Number of Births: Boys, 229; Girls, 250; total, 479.

Birth-rate per thousand, 13.4. Average for the previous ten years, 14.6.

Infantile Mortality, 66.8 per thousand born. Average for the previous ten years, 74.8.

Mean Annual Temperature, 48.0°.

Total Rainfall, 29.24 inches.

Hours of Bright Sunshine, 1,394 hours, 48 minutes.

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<sup>1</sup> Inward transfer, means death of person belonging to Borough who died in district beyond the Borough.

<sup>2</sup> Outward transfer, means death of person belonging to district beyond the Borough who died within the Borough.

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## A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

### (1.) *Population.*

The Census population of 1911 was 35,703. The population for 1919 as estimated by the Registrar-General was for Birth-rate 35,859, and for Death-rate 34,423.

### (2.) *Physical Features and General Character.*

The Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells is charmingly situated on a range of low hills and valleys sloping mostly towards the hollow in which the historic mineral springs take their origin. It lies in the extreme south-west corner of Kent,  $34\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London, one parish being actually situated in the County of Sussex, though taken for administrative purposes along with the rest of the Borough as belonging to Kent. The altitudes vary from 200 feet in the Springs valley to 500 feet at Pembury Road. The variations in altitude and in aspect render the climate comparatively bracing or comparatively sheltered according to the situation selected.

The sub-soil is composed of a layer chiefly sandy, though intermixed with a certain amount of clay. This gives rise to great variety in vegetation, from the heather, birch and pine trees of sandy soils to the broad-leaved trees of clay soils.

The area of the Borough, 3,991 acres, is large on account of the number and extent of open spaces, chief amongst which are the wide rolling gorse-clad common in the centre of the town and Rusthall Common to the westward.

**Meteorological Notes.**—The records of the Municipal Meteorological Station, which is one of the official auxiliary stations reporting to the Meteorological Office, are kept

by the staff of the Health Department and have been so kept since 1st July, 1914. The instruments are situated in the Calverley Park with the exception of the Sunshine Recorder, which is established on the roof tower of the Earl's Court Hotel, Mount Ephraim. The readings are taken by Mr. E. J. Wells and Mr. W. P. Cave, the Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

The total amount of sunshine recorded was 1,394 hours 48 minutes. The mean is 1,617 hours 48 minutes. The most sunny day was June 16th, when 14 hours 42 minutes were recorded. There were 98 sunless days, 60 being the average.

The highest temperature in the sun was 142 degrees, on August 17th.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year was 48.0 degrees, the average being 49.0.

The mean daily range was 14.7, the average being 14.6 degrees.

The temperature in the shade, four feet above the ground, was highest, 84.2 degrees, on August 10th, and lowest, 16.8 degrees, on February 8th.

The temperature in the shade first reached :—

60 degrees on April 7th.

70 „ „ May 9th.

80 „ „ August 2nd.

last reached—

80 „ „ September 11th

70 „ „ September 18th.

60 „ „ October 20th.

The hottest night was August 20th when the temperature did not go below 62.7.

The last frost in the air in spring was on April 28th and the first in the autumn was on September 20th. The last on the grass in spring was on June 27th and the first in the autumn was on September 20th.



The rainfall amounted to 29.24 inches, the average being 29.73 inches. It fell on 175 days, the average being 173.

The most rain that fell on one day was 1.34 inches on April 27th.

The wind at 9 a.m. was N. 52 days, N.E. 35 days, E. 16 days, S.E. 29 days, S. 33 days, S.W. 90 days, W. 57 days, N.W. 53 days.

The mean amount of cloud at 9 a.m. was 6.4, 6.8 being the average ; ten representing overcast. There was thunder and lightning on ten days.

There were four fogs, and it was slightly foggy on 36 other mornings.

## METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature.		Temperature Underground.			
	In Inches.		In shade, 4ft. above ground.		One Foot.		Four Feet.			
	1919.	21 Year Average.	1919.	42 Year Average	1919.	29 Year Average	1919.	19 Year Average	5 Year Average	
January ...	Hrs. 29 Mins. 24	Hrs. 53 Mins. 0	5.21	2.51	°F 37.1	°F 37.8	°F 40.8	°F 39.2	°F 44.7	°F 43.8
February ...	54 48	75 0	2.06	2.31	35.9	38.9	38.3	33.6	41.4	42.2
March ...	72 18	122 24	4.02	2.29	40.1	41.6	41.7	41.2	42.9	42.6
April ...	112 6	163 36	3.27	1.96	45.2	46.4	45.1	46.1	44.4	44.4
May ...	240 54	214 48	0.22	1.89	55.9	52.9	54.5	54.0	49.7	50.3
June ...	216 36	201 12	0.83	2.12	58.0	57.8	59.3	60.1	55.4	55.7
July ...	102 0	210 42	2.06	2.30	57.2	61.2	58.7	63.2	56.4	57.8
August ...	225 18	201 36	2.85	2.56	63.0	60.9	62.1	62.9	58.9	59.8
September ...	154 36	163 36	1.12	2.35	57.0	56.8	59.2	58.3	58.9	59.1
October ...	123 18	103 54	0.65	2.79	45.8	49.8	50.3	52.1	54.1	55.3
November ...	40 42	67 0	2.77	3.37	39.6	43.3	43.6	44.9	48.4	50.2
December ...	22 48	41 0	4.18	3.28	41.7	40.0	43.3	41.5	45.2	46.2
WHOLE YEAR	1,394 48	1,617 48	29.24	29.73	48.0	49.0	49.8	50.2	50.0	50.6



- (3.) *Social Conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants ; the influence of any particular occupation on the public health ; vital statistics ; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous relief are utilised.*

The Borough is largely a residential Borough, in which persons of means and leisure spend the later years of their lives. It is also a popular holiday resort.

There are no large factories or works in Tunbridge Wells ; it is because of the beauty and diversity of the scenery of the town and its environment, as well as to the pure atmosphere, unpolluted by the smoke of factory chimneys, that it is so greatly sought after for residential or holiday purposes. As regards industries, Tunbridge Wells is a shopping centre for a wide district and consequently tradesmen and their employees form an important section of the population. There are several laundries, employing a considerable number of women workers. The remainder of the working class population consists largely of gardeners, chauffeurs, servants and farm labourers.

#### *Vital Statistics of the District.*

The estimated population of the Borough in the middle of the year was 35,859 for birth-rate and 34,423 for death-rate. The area of the Borough is 3,991 acres, and the number of persons per acre is 9.0, and the number of inhabited houses is 8.021, the average number of persons per house being 4.4.

**BIRTHS.**—The total number of births registered in the district was 469 ; by adding to this the births properly belonging to the Borough which occurred outside, and by subtracting the births belonging to other districts which took place in the Borough, the corrected number obtained is 479 (229 Males, 250 Females). This corresponds to a rate of 13.4 per thousand as compared with 11.9 per thousand in 1918.



DEATHS.—473 deaths were registered in the Borough during 1919, and there were 68 outwardly transferable deaths and 74 inward transfers,\* thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 479, the births and deaths are thus exactly equal, there being 479 of each.

Owing to the age and sex constitution of the population of Tunbridge Wells, the death-rate, 13.9, has to be corrected to 12.1 to make it correspond with the death-rate at different ages in the country generally. The figure for correction as supplied by the Registrar-General is 0.8683 of the recorded rate.

\* Figures of births and deaths for transference are supplied by the Registrar-General.

Population, Birth and Death Rates from 1909 to 1919.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Infantile Mortality.	Zymotic Death-rate.
1909	35,873	17.2	13.2	59.8	0.5
1910	36,173	16.3	11.3	75.8	0.2
1911	35,778	15.8	11.5	86.4	1.0
1912	36,038	15.8	11.0	43.8	0.3
1913	36,298	15.0	12.1	66.0	0.2
1914	36,460	13.8	13.8	79.2	0.9
1915	33,430	15.2	16.6	91.7	0.4
1916	32,316	14.2	15.1	61.8	0.5
1917	30,751	11.1	15.1	81.6	0.2
1918	32,297	11.9	16.8	102.1	0.6
10 Years' Average		14.6	13.6	74.8	0.5
1919	34,423	†13.4	13.9	66.8	0.2

† Estimated Population 35,859.

Quarterly Death-Rate per thousand per annum for a period of  
Five Years.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
1st Quarter ...	23·2	17·5	21·5	17·2	19·5
2nd Quarter ...	16·0	15·0	13·0	13·0	11·4
3rd Quarter ...	11·9	13·6	10·1	11·1	10·3
4th Quarter ...	15·4	14·2	15·8	26·0	14·4

Number of Deaths :—

First Quarter ...	168	} Quarterly death-rates worked out on a population of 34,423 for all the year.
Second Quarter ...	98	
Third Quarter ...	89	
Last Quarter ...	124	
	479	

Showing the Number of Deaths at Ages beyond Sixty years.

Over 90 years of age ...	14
Under 90 and over 80 ...	85
Under 80 and over 70 ...	123
Under 70 and over 60 ...	64
	Total ... 286
(Deaths at all ages, 479.)	



Showing the Mortality at Several Ages for a period of Five Years.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Deaths at under 1 year	51	31	31	44	32
„ 1 and under 2	7	6	6	9	5
„ 2 and under 5	11	6	3	21	8
„ 5 and under 15	20	16	18	22	10
„ 15 and under 25	12	17	16	32	17
„ 25 and under 45	43	38	33	83	43
„ 45 and under 65	121	104	117	117	106
„ 65 and upwards	291	269	241	216	258
Totals ...	556	487	465	544	479

In considering the death-rate it will be noticed that the first quarter's mortality was high. This is in part due to the outbreak of influenza, which accounted for 13 per cent. of the deaths during the first quarter of the year. It is noteworthy also that of the total deaths, 54 per cent. were deaths of persons over 60 years of age. Cancer has claimed a large number of victims, accounting for over 13 per cent. of the total deaths during the year, mostly in the later years of life.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—32 deaths of infants below one year of age occurred, giving a mortality of 66.8 per thousand births. Premature birth accounted for 47 per cent. of these deaths.

The number of births during the year is still considerably below the average for the ten years 1910 to 1919 (see footnote to accompanying table). It is to be hoped that now that war conditions, involving absence of a considerable portion of the young adult population, have disappeared, the birth-rate may be restored to something like its level of ten years ago, which was at least 16 or 17 per thousand of population.

Our nation has more than ever need of its young life, and in Tunbridge Wells it will be a welcome sign of reviving vigour if the birth-rate again shows an ample margin over the death-rate, a true sign of a vigorous and prospering community.

**Causes of Infantile Mortality 1910—1919.**

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	Total Deaths, 10 years	Rate per 1000 Births.
Marasmus ...	7	2	3	11	6	3	6	2	2	3	45	8.8
Premature Birth ...	15	9	7	5	6	11	7	10	14	15	99	19.4
Bronchitis ...	4	6	...	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	23	4.5
Pneumonia ...	2	3	2	2	2	9	1	5	5	3	34	6.7
Convulsions ...	1	2	1	...	2	5	2	2	2	1	18	3.5
Congenital Defects ...	1	3	5	1	3	5	3	...	2	...	23	4.5
Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	5	11	...	1	3	3	1	...	...	1	25	4.9
Whooping Cough ...	3	5	...	...	8	1	2	...	3	1	23	4.5
Overlaying ...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	4	0.8
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	5	1.0
Non-Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	5	1.0
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0.6
Tuberculous Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2	4	...	10	2.0
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ...	4	6	6	12	6	6	6	7	7	7	67	13.1
<b>Total Deaths below 1 year ...</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Rate per 1,000 Births...</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>...</b>

The number of Births during the 10 years (1910—1919) was 5,106.



**Causes of Death during the Year 1919, in Tunbridge Wells.**

Figures supplied by the Registrar-General.

Civilians only, all Causes ... ..	Males. 209	Females. 269
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	1
Diphtheria or Croup ... ..	2	2
Influenza ... ..	14	16
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	13	17
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	3	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	2	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	21	43
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	—	—
Meningitis ... ..	—	—
Organic Heart Disease ... ..	27	40
Bronchitis ... ..	10	12
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	14	14
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	6	2
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	3	1
Alcoholism ... ..	—	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	5	6
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—
Congenital Debility, etc. ... ..	11	9
Violence, apart from Suicide ... ..	8	4
Suicide ... ..	1	1
Other defined Diseases ... ..	66	96
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ... ..	18	14
<b>TOTAL BIRTHS</b> ... ..	<b>229</b>	<b>250</b>
Legitimate ... ..	208	214
Illegitimate ... ..	21	36

POPULATION FOR DEATH RATE ... 34,423

,, ,, BIRTH RATE ... 35,859



**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and Previous Years.**

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- Residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1914	36,460	496	505	13.8	494	13.5	52	62	40	79.2	504	13.8
1915	33,430	544	556	15.2	537	16.1	50	69	51	91.7	556	16.6
1916	32,316	480	502	14.2	480	14.9	53	60	31	61.8	487	15.1
1917	30,751	396	380	11.1	440	14.3	73	98	31	81.6	465	15.1
1918	32,297	417	431	11.9	538	16.6	79	85	44	102.1	544	16.8
1919	34,423	469	479	13.4	473	13.7	68	74	32	66.8	479	13.9

**TABLE II.**  
**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1919.**

Notifiable Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.							Total Cases Notified in each locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the District.				Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.					
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	57	...	8	33	10	6	...	10	7	15	25	56
Erysipelas	18	...	...	...	1	8	7	5	4	4	5	1
Scarlet Fever	65	...	5	48	8	4	...	15	17	13	20	64
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	2	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	...	...
Pneumonia	60	1	4	6	8	12	18	20	8	16	16	...
Malaria	30	...	...	...	8	21	1	3	1	6	20	12
Dysentery	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	40	...	...	3	8	21	6	11	8	10	11	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	...	...	3	2	4	5	4	2	3	5	2
Measles	28	3	11	10	3	1	...	10	6	7	5	...
German Measles	14	...	1	9	2	2	...	3	3	6	2	...
Totals	338	11	29	112	54	80	37	85	59	84	110	144

The Accommodation provided for the treatment of Infectious Diseases is as follows:—

THE SANATORIUM (The Tunbridge Wells Isolation Hospital) situate in Tunbridge Wells...	Scarlet Fever	40 Beds.
THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, situate in Tunbridge Wells (the Authorities are under an Agreement at a contract price to treat cases of Enteric Fever)	Diphtheria	17 Beds.
THE DISLINGBURY HOSPITAL for Small-pox and Plague, situate at Capel in the Tunbridge Rural District, belonging to the Joint Hospital Board of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation, the Tonbridge Urban District Council, the Southborough Urban District Council, and the Tonbridge Rural District Council	All Beds required.	20 Beds.



TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of residents or non-residents in Institutions in the District
				All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)			
All Causes { Certified ...	473	30	4	8	10	17	43	106	255	...			...
Uncertified ...	6	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...			...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	4	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...			4
Influenza ...	31	1	2	...	2	3	10	13	...	...			2
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...			...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	29	...	...	2	6	8	9	4	...	...			1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...			1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	7	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	...	...			3
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	64	...	...	...	1	3	26	34	...	...			19
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...			2
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			1
Organic Heart Disease ...	47	1	...	...	...	2	14	50	...	...			3
Bronchitis ...	18	1	...	...	...	...	2	15	...	...			...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	23	3	1	1	1	5	8	4	...	...			6
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	9	...	...	...	1	1	6	1	...	...			2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			2
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...			4
Alcoholism... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	12	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	...	...			4
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	22	19	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...			1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	11	1	1	...	1	4	1	3	...	...			8
Suicide ...	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...			...
Other defined Diseases ...	186	5	1	2	2	1	8	21	146	...			30
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
Totals ...	479	32	5	8	10	17	43	106	258	94			

TABLE IV.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

1919. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes	Certified ...	15	3	1	3	22	3	1	1	3	30
	Uncertified	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
{ Small-pox ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Chicken-pox ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Measles ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Scarlet Fever ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Whooping-cough ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
{ Diphtheria and Croup ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Erysipelas ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Tuberculous Meningitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Abdominal Tubercu-		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ losis ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Tuberculous		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diseases ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Meningitis (not Tuber-		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ culous) ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Convulsions ...		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
{ Laryngitis ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Bronchitis ...		—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ...		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
{ Diarrhoea ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Enteritis ...		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
{ Gastritis ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Syphilis ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Rickets ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Suffocation (overlying)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Injury at Birth ...		2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
{ Atelectasis ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Congenital Malforma-		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ tions ...		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
{ Premature Birth ...		12	1	1	1	15	—	—	—	—	15
{ Atrophy, Debility and		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Marasmus ...		2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
{ Other causes ...		—	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	4
Totals ...		16	3	1	3	23	4	1	1	3	32

NETT BIRTHS IN THE YEAR—

Legitimate ... 441

Illegitimate ... 38

NETT DEATHS IN THE YEAR OF—

Legitimate Infants ... 28

Illegitimate Infants ... 4



**Medical Charities.**—Tunbridge Wells is richly supplied with Institutions for the relief of suffering and sickness.

There is a large General Hospital which serves the wants of the Borough and of a wide area around.

It is fully equipped with up-to-date appliances, having a department for electrical massage, light (both X-ray and Finsen light installations are employed), and radium treatment.

During 1919 the number of In-patients was 960, as compared with 917 in 1918. The Out-patients numbered 4,425, making 43,421 attendances; as compared with 3,889, making 38,430 attendances in the previous year. Of these treatments nearly 10,000 were treatments given in the new electrical department to men who received injury in the war. There is an urgent need for increased accommodation as there is a long list of cases awaiting admission.

**THE EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL.**—The number of Out-patients treated during the year was 2,257, and there were 4,621 attendances. The In-patients numbered 317, including soldiers. 273 Operations were performed and there were 131 administrations of anæsthetics. During 1919, 815 pairs of spectacles were supplied to poor people, with the help of the Spectacle Fund and the Surgical Aid Society.

**THE HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.**—One hundred and thirty patients were admitted and treated in the In-patients' department of this hospital during 1919, and Out-patients made 3,168 attendances at the Dispensary during the year, an average of 60 per week.

**THE PROVIDENT DISPENSARY** had 1,788 members on its books, showing a decrease of 50 on the previous year's figures; of these, 1,124 are above the age of 16, and 664 are under that age.

**THE DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.**—The number of cases undertaken in 1919 was 422, the Superintendent and Nurses of the Association paying 10,991 visits during the



year. The staff has now been raised to its pre-war strength of four nurses.

**THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND DISTRICT PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE.**—The Service was established a few years ago by the Dental Practitioners in the Borough to enable persons who are not in a position to pay the usual fees to Dentists in their private practices to have treatment for a small fee. This service has done a great deal of useful work in the past ; and during 1919, 1,596 new patients were treated, making 4,758 attendances.

The local branch of the ROYAL SURGICAL AID SOCIETY continues to do valuable work ; 701 patients, of whom 475 were women and children, were supplied with 889 appliances ; and in addition, 599 Special Letters, representing a sum of £156 19s. 0d., were distributed in urgent cases during the year 1919.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY during the year dealt with 97 cases and disbursed in pensions and for special cases the sum of £650 14s. 8d.

THE INVALID CHILDREN'S AID BRANCH OF THIS SOCIETY gave assistance amounting to £47 7s. 5d. to 17 children during the year.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Secretaries of the various Societies for furnishing the above information.

## **B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

### *Water.*

The water supply of Tunbridge Wells is a constant one drawn from springs and Artesian wells, and as these springs are situated in unfrequented woodland areas, in which inhabited buildings are few and distant, the risk of pollution is well guarded against. For roughly one half of the year the supply of water from the springs suffices for the Borough requirements. During the remaining portion of the year

Artesian bore wells, six in number, give an ample and pure supply of water to supplement the flow from the springs. The Artesian wells are situated at Pembury, where there is a large reservoir, capable of holding 42,000,000 gallons. The iron contained in solution in this deep well water is effectively removed by the use of Candy Oxidising Pressure Filters, six in number.

The Artesian wells are bored through the Wadhurst clay and take their water supply from the Ashdown sands ; the nearest point at which the Ashdown sands reach the surface is some miles distant from the bore wells. The water enters six open filter beds at Pembury, having an area of about one acre.

A recent chemical analysis, made by the Borough Analyst, reads as follows :—

<i>Determination.</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	... None.
Albuminoid Ammonia	... 0.0050
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	0.0050
at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	... 0.0127
Nitric Nitrogen	... 0.36
Chlorine	... 2.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	4.1
Total Solid Matter (dried at 180° C.)	17.0
Temporary Hardness	... 1.7
Permanent Hardness	... None.
Appearance in two foot tube	... Colourless and clear.
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron)	Trace of iron.

(Signed) A. H. M. MUTER.

It will be observed that the iron contained in solution in the sample, which was taken from the 15in. main in Pembury Road, is reduced to a trace, and that the general results indicate that the water is remarkably pure.

There are approximately 95 miles of water mains in the Borough. The average daily supply per head is 23



gallons, and during the year 14 additional houses were supplied with town water.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—All the water courses in the Borough are small in volume, and periodic inspections of these showed them to be in a satisfactory state.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough sewage drains towards two sewage farms, one at the northern end of the town and the other at the southern. The North Sewage Farm is 187 acres in extent, and the South Farm 197 acres. At the South Farm a portion of the sewage is dealt with by means of percolating bacteria beds. Analysis of the sewage effluents of both farms are frequently made and give satisfactory results.

A portion of the sewage, mainly from the northern slopes of the Mount Ephraim and Rusthall ridge, is dealt with by pumping across to join the sewage which proceeds to the Southern Farm.

MAIN SEWERS, NEW HOUSES, ETC.—The Borough Surveyor informs me that main sewers in the following streets have been repaired :—

Kirkdale Road, Grove Hill Road, Camden Park, Broadwater Down, Prospect Road, Dudley Road, Warwick Park, Outfall Sewers, Stone Street, Calverley Park, Boyne Park and Lower Green Road.

All flat gradients are flushed periodically from manholes. Fifteen road gullies have been repaired or rebuilt.

*Closet Accommodation and Scavenging.*

There are no privies in the Borough and a very small number of earth closets, chiefly in connection with gardeners' cottages in outlying districts. Water closets are gradually being modernised, but there is still in existence a large number of the boxed-in type, now being replaced wherever possible by pedestals.

There are a few isolated houses draining into cesspools ; these are emptied by the owners at special hours, as required

by bye-laws ; the emptying and disposal is superintended by the Sanitary Staff.

Re-construction of house drains and sanitary fittings are subjected to tests under the supervision of the Sanitary Staff, and full particulars of work so done are kept.

There are in the town about 9,800 W.C.'s with water laid on, about 60 hand flushed and about 40 pail earth closets. There are no vault or privy middens or waste water closets. There are about 43 houses whose occupants share W.C. accommodation with others.

Domestic house refuse is collected and removed in covered carts from all premises about once a week and at a few places where necessary a daily collection is made. The refuse is conveyed to refuse tips situated at the High Brooms Bricks Works Pit, the Forest Brick Works, and near the Rusthall Allotments.

It is well to bear in mind that the system of tipping refuse is far from satisfactory, as the tips, even when well attended to, breed large numbers of flies and give rise to unpleasant odours which carry for long distances when the wind is blowing from them towards adjacent houses. A refuse destructor is a much more satisfactory arrangement for promoting cleanliness and health

#### *Sanitary Inspections of District.*

The staff has done useful work in routine inspections, which were necessarily somewhat abridged by a reduction from three to two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

In interviewing persons responsible for abating a nuisance or default, persuasive methods have generally proved successful, as is shown by the small number of notices served. During the year under review, 84 houses, drains and sanitary fittings have been inspected and in consequence 151 interviews with agents and owners have taken place ; two statutory notices and 17 informal notices have been



served and the results of the interviews and notices served are shown in the appended table of works carried out.

There is in the Borough a small number of occupiers of cottage dwellings whose habits are greatly in need of improvement. These are frequently visited by the Medical Officer of Health, his Health Visitors and his Sanitary Staff, and every opportunity is taken to convince them of the desirability of improving the cleanliness of their homes and persons.

Much time has been devoted to combined drainage, and no one but those engaged on this work can realise the difficulties that have to be contended with when carrying out negotiations. The present legal position is complicated and it is to be hoped that amendments simplifying the existing law may be introduced.

### Sanitary Inspections of District.

These Tables present a summary of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1919.

- 64 Complaints received and investigated.
- 2 Premises in respect of which statutory notices have been served.
- 17 Premises in respect of which informal notices have been served.
- 84 Houses, drains and sanitary fittings inspected.
- 410 Visits of re-inspection or to work in course of progress.
- 11 Drains re-constructed.
- 18 Drains repaired.
- 32 Choked drains cleared and cleansed.
- 16 Inspection chambers constructed.
- 8 Inspection chambers repaired.
- 3 Drain ventilation shafts erected or repaired.
- 6 Soil pipes erected.
- 5 Soil pipes repaired.
- 16 W.C.'s re-constructed and provided with flushing apparatus.
- 24 Flushing apparatus repaired.
- 43 Efficient traps substituted for inefficient ones.
- 21 Rain-water and waste pipes disconnected from drains or repaired and made to discharge over properly trapped gullies.
- 28 Yards and areas paved or paving repaired.
- 5 New w.c. buildings and apparatus constructed.
- 26 W.C.'s cleansed and repaired.
- 7 New sinks provided.
- 3 New lavatory basins provided.
- 12 Old sinks provided with new waste pipes.
- 38 Eaves gutters repaired.
- 37 Windows repaired.
- 22 Floors repaired.
- 7 Air inlets under floors provided.
- 29 Roofs repaired.
- 2 Rooms ventilated to the outer air.
- 2 Food cupboards ventilated to the outer air.

- 1 New food cupboard provided.
- 14 Houses provided with sufficient supply of water.
- Samples of water submitted for analysis.
- 64 Rooms cleansed and limewashed.
- 21 Dustbins provided or repaired.
- 40 Various improvements.
- 62 Hours' observation work.
- 383 Special inspections of back yards and premises.
- 183 Inspections of stable yards and manure pits.
- 10 Offensive accumulations removed.
- 2 Pigs removed.
- 2 Stables paved and drained.
- 61 Visits *re* destruction of rats.
- 65 Inspections of slaughter houses.
- 71 Inspections of cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops.
- 26 Inspections of common lodging houses.
- 458 Inspections of food shops.
- 413 Parcels of food examined.
- 20724 lbs. food unfit for human consumption seized and destroyed.
- 151 Visits, interviews, etc., *re* work to be carried out.
- 28 Special inspections of urinals at licensed premises.
- 19 Workrooms limewashed.
- 2 Workroom measured up for air space.
- 159 Visits to workshops.

**Works carried out under the Infectious Diseases Acts during 1919.**

- 127 Visits to infected houses.
- 149 Rooms disinfected.
- 3280 Articles of clothing disinfected.
- 3 Loads of bedding removed to the steam disinfecter and returned to the respective owners.
- 2 Visits to disinfect public buildings.
- 6 Visits to disinfect St. John Ambulance and private vehicles.
- 4 Visits to disinfect wards at Sanatorium, General Hospital, etc.
- 2 Loads of bedding destroyed.
- 6 Visits to Sanatorium to disinfect clothing, etc.
- 11 Visits to flush W.C.'s and drains.

**SANITARY CERTIFICATES.**—The drainage and general sanitary condition of properties of an aggregate rateable value of £1,208 were surveyed and reported upon as a result of applications made for Sanitary Certificates. Fees from this source amounted to £30 16s. 6d.

*Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by bye-laws and regulations.*

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—At the end of 1919 there were 75 persons on the register, namely, 16 owners of cow sheds, 10 of dairies and 49 of milkshops or as purveyors. 71 inspections have been made in order to see that the bye-laws are complied with, several cases of neglect to limewash, or to remove manure owing to shortage of labour, were dealt with and remedied.



SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are six private slaughter houses in the town, namely, five that were established before 1847 and are simply registered, and one which was built during 1907, and is licensed annually.

Frequent inspections (65) have been made of these premises both by day and night, in order to inspect so far as possible the carcasses of animals slaughtered, to see that offal was promptly removed and cleansing and limewashing carried out in accordance with the bye-laws.

The five registered slaughter houses are old buildings and in three instances in close proximity to dwellings, and for this reason are somewhat objectionable, but, however this may be, the owners must be given credit for having kept them in a cleanly condition.

The provision of a Public Abattoir where slaughtering and dressing meat for human consumption would be carried out under supervision is most desirable, but the system would be useless unless it were universally adopted. A butcher may, at the present time, surrender meat found to be diseased or unsound to the local authority, and on a certificate being given by its officer, the Government bear the loss and not the butcher as hitherto. This is a great protection and one which should be maintained as it prevents any unsound meat being put on the market.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are three on the register (one exclusively for women and children) providing accommodation for eighty-six persons. Twenty-six visits have been made to see that lime-washing and cleansing was carried out in compliance with the bye-laws. No case of notifiable infectious disease occurred in any of the houses.

#### *Schools.*

The drainage of the Elementary Schools of the Borough discharges in sewers, with one exception, viz.: Rusthall Boys' School, which discharges to cesspools. The water supply is, in every instance, taken from the main.



In order to prevent the spread of infection, three School closures took place in the early part of the year, when influenza and mumps were prevalent in the Borough.

A large amount of bacteriological work has been done by the Health Department in connection with the school children, for instance, in the swabbing of contacts with diphtheria cases, and visiting of schools by the Medical Officer of Health in the event of infection occurring amongst school children. The School Medical Officer's report is embodied in this Annual Report.

### C.—FOOD.

*Administration in connection with the Public Health  
(Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912.*

MILK SUPPLY.—Inspections were made by the Medical Officer of Health of all cowsheds in the district, and of a considerable number of dairies. These were in addition to routine inspections by the Sanitary Inspector and his staff. The conditions found were on the whole satisfactory, though at certain cowsheds manure was stored much too close to the living shed. This was remedied in each case upon representation. In some of the milkshops greater care is needed in the matter of storing the milk in the coolest and most dust-free places, and with suitable covering of the vessels in which it is kept. It was noted that coverings were always present, but frequently not in use. Forty-three samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst and the results are reported in a table which follows on page 32.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1918.—Orders were given to 18 persons for periods varying from one to three months for the supply of milk, generally quantities of one pint daily, and in a few instances the person benefiting under the Act was requested to pay half the cost.

*Sale of Food and Drugs Act, Etc., and Food Inspection.*

One hundred and seven samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst, and were reported upon as follows :—



**Result of Analyses of Food Samples submitted to the Public Analyst  
during 1919.**

Description of Samples.	No. of Samples.	Analyst's Report.	Proceedings.
Milk ... ..	<div> <div>37</div> <div> <div>3<sup>Nos. 6</sup></div> <div>7 &amp; 8</div> </div> <div>43</div> <div> <div>1 No. 30</div> <div>1 No. 50</div> <div>1 No. 51</div> </div> </div>	<div>Genuine</div> <div>11.50 added water</div> <div>11.00 deficient in fat</div> <div>7.00 added water</div> <div>9.00 deficient in fat</div>	See note in text.
Bread ... ..	8	Genuine	
Butter ... ..	2	"	
Margarine ...	3	"	
Jam ... ..	10	"	
Olive Oil	8	"	
Chocolate ...	1	"	
Rice ... ..	10	"	
Corn Flour ...	3	"	
Baking Powder	1	"	
Pork Sausage ...	1	"	
Camphorated Oil	2	"	
Beer ... ..	10	"	
Vinegar... ..	5	"	

(a) MILK.—Samples Nos. 6, 7, and 8 were obtained from the same source of supply, on information received from the vendor in regard to an employee, who was discharged from the vendor's service before formal samples (which were found to be genuine) were obtained. The circumstances in regard to informal sample No. 30 were somewhat complicated. The vendor was cautioned and further samples taken proved to be genuine. The action taken in regard to samples Nos. 50 and 51 was to obtain formal samples, all of which proved to be genuine. It may be said that informal sample No. 50 contained 3.95 of milk fat and No. 51, 8.99 of milk solids other than milk fat. The average solids of the 43 milks submitted (including the six returned as adulterated) were as follows:—

Milk fat	...	...	3.94
Non-fatty solids	...	...	8.56

All the samples were submitted to the Public Analyst by the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. James Cave), who is the officer specially appointed to carry out the provisions of the Acts.

One hundred and one samples were informal and six formal. Series sampling was resorted to on several occasions and the service of deputies generally employed. No action was taken under the Margarine Act, 1887, the Butter and Margarine Act, 1907, or the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

(b) OTHER FOODS.—Nine and a quarter tons of food were seized and dealt with as follows:—7,259 lbs. of beef (3,250 lbs. of which were tuberculous), 68 lbs. of liver, 32 lbs. kidney, 245 lbs. mutton, 53 lbs. pork, 5,121 lbs. bacon, 122 lbs. sausages, 108 lbs. corned beef, 72 lbs. tripe, 56 lbs. rabbits, 9 lbs. duck, 6 lbs. chicken, 1 lb. tinned salmon, 1 lb. tinned sheep tongue, 91 lbs. butter, 23 lbs. margarine, 2,016 lbs. carrots, 4,535 lbs. dates, 240 lbs. milk, 5 lbs. condensed milk and 660 lbs. eggs.

No action was taken beyond the disposal, no attempt having been made to sell the goods for human consumption.

#### **D.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

On the opposite page will be found a summary of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred during each month of the year 1919. From this it will be noted that Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases were distributed with a fair amount of uniformity throughout the year, there being a slight increase in both diseases during the autumn months.

Of the diseases notifiable throughout the year, 192 were notified, and in addition, from those notifiable from March 1st onwards, 92 notifications were received, totalling 284.



Seasonal Incidence of Acute Infectious Diseases, 1919.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever.	Acute Polio- myelitis.	Encephal- itis lethargica.	Measles.	German Measles.	Pneu- monia. *	Malaria. *	Dysentery *
January ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
February ...	3	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
March ...	3	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	32	5	—
April ...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	4	—
May ...	6	2	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	—
June ...	3	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	4	1
July ...	10	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	2	—	3	1
August ...	2	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	8	2	2	5	—
September ...	5	9	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ...	8	6	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	—
November ...	11	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—
December ...	8	8	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	2	—
Total ...	65	57	—	18	7	3	—	—	—	28	14	60	30	2

\* Notifiable from 1st March, 1919.

**Scarlet Fever.**—There were 65 cases of this disease notified during the year, the largest number, viz. 11, occurring in the month of November. The type was mild and no deaths occurred. There was one return case.

**Diphtheria.**—There were 57 cases during the year 1919, Some of these were of severe type and four were not under treatment sufficiently early to save them from succumbing to the poison. Three of these deaths occurred in the latter part of November within a week of each other.

The mortality amongst the cases was 7 per cent., as compared with an average mortality of 6 per cent. over the past ten years.

The arrangements made by the Corporation for dealing with Diphtheria are as follows :—

(1.) Anti-toxin is supplied free of charge to any medical man who has a suspicious case of diphtheria.

(2.) Specimens from suspicious cases are examined for the Diphtheria Bacillus by the Medical Officer of Health, who is thus in a position to take immediate steps to deal with any case found positive.

(3.) It is my practice to visit the house and arrange personally about moving the case to hospital; I thus have an opportunity of tracing any source of infection amongst members of the family and of arranging steps to prevent spread of infection until the inmates of the house can be certified as clear.

In addition to the above cases it was considered advisable in the interests of others to isolate ten carriers of Diphtheria germs at the Sanatorium until cultures showed them to be free from infection.



**Comparison of the Fatality, Incidence, and Mortality of Diphtheria  
in Different Years.**

Year.	Estimated Population	No. of Cases.	Deaths Registered	Fatality per cent.	Attack- Rate per 1,000 Population	Death- Rate per 1,000 Population	Rainfall in inches.
1890	28,148	20	5	25.0	0.71	0.18	—
1891	27,984	16	4	25.0	0.57	0.14	—
1892	28,345	24	5	20.8	0.85	0.17	—
1893	28,705	41	9	21.9	1.40	0.31	26.05
1894	29,065	40	5	12.5	1.37	0.17	36.58
1895	29,535	44	8	18.2	1.49	0.27	26.69
1896	29,895	67	14	20.9	2.24	0.46	30.07
1897	30,255	117	10	8.5	3.86	0.33	27.65
1898	30,615	278	31	11.2	9.07	1.01	23.39
1899	30,975	120	7	5.8	3.87	0.23	28.10
1900	31,335	82	3	3.6	2.61	0.10	31.28
1901	33,443	31	1	3.2	0.92	0.03	24.84
1902	33,773	23	2	8.7	0.68	0.06	25.19
1903	34,073	9	0	0.0	0.26	0.00	42.41
1904	34,373	12	1	8.3	0.34	0.03	29.32
1905	34,673	17	0	0.0	0.49	0.00	27.05
1906	34,973	10	0	0.0	0.28	0.00	32.74
1907	35,273	27	6	22.2	0.76	0.17	28.55
1908	35,573	29	2	6.9	0.81	0.06	29.53
1909	35,873	11	3	27.3	0.31	0.08	35.14
1910	36,173	15	1	6.6	0.41	0.03	35.14
1911	35,778	69	8	11.6	1.92	0.22	35.19
1912	36,038	91	10	11.0	2.52	0.28	38.18
1913	36,298	129	4	3.1	3.5	0.11	...
1914	36,460	154	1	0.6	4.2	0.03	30.91
1915	33,430	83	5	6.0	2.5	0.15	35.15
1916	32,316	53	7	13.2	1.6	0.22	35.69
1917	30,751	40	1	2.5	1.3	0.03	31.38
1918	32,297	23	1	4.3	0.8	0.03	28.95
1919	35,859	57	7	12.3	1.6	0.20	29.23

**Diarrhœa and Enteritis.**—The number of deaths due to these conditions was one. The summer was on the whole favourable, as the temperature of the soil, 4 feet below ground level, did not exceed 60 degrees throughout the year, though this figure was reached on four successive days during the latter part of August.

**Small Pox.**—There have been no cases in the Borough since the year 1903. Persons who had either been in contact, or had run the risk of being in contact, with cases of Small Pox on board ship or at infected ports, were in every case visited and suitable precautions were taken to avoid possibility of spread of infection.

**Erysipelas.**—Eighteen cases of this disease were notified, one proving fatal.

**Whooping Cough.**—This disease was not prevalent in 1919 and only one death was recorded.

**Enteric Fever.**—There were no cases notified during the year. The continued paucity of cases in the Borough is a tribute to the excellence of the water supply, the drainage, and the general sanitary precautions taken, as the presence of Enteric Fever cases is, perhaps, above those of any other disease, an index of the sanitary conditions prevailing in a locality.

**Puerperal Fever.**—Three cases of this disease occurred in the Borough during the year, none of which proved fatal.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—Seven cases occurred in 1919. These were visited in every case and medical attention arranged for at once, where not already obtained. All made good recoveries.

**Dysentery.**—Two cases of this disease were notified and visits were paid to ensure that proper precautions should be taken against spread of infection.

**Malaria.**—Thirty cases were notified from 1st March, the date on which the disease became notifiable. None were indigenous, but, at the same time, it should be pointed out that the mosquito *Anopheles Maculipennis* exists in this neighbourhood and has been caught by myself in the autumn of 1919 on the walls of my own house in Rusthall. This insect is a Malaria carrier and can be recognised by the long fine central proboscis protruding from its head, and its spotted wings, and also from its habit of resting at an angle to the wall or ceiling, *i.e.*, with its nose to the wall and not parallel with the wall like the common house mosquito or the housefly. Its favourite resting-place during the summer months, when it sucks human blood, is a dark corner of the ceiling during the day-time, when it seldom or never bites, but at dusk and during the night it becomes active until it



has fed. In the winter months the female (which alone sucks blood, the male being harmless in this respect) lives chiefly in the roof, thatched or otherwise, of ill-ventilated stables, descending occasionally at dusk to feed on the blood of the horses. I give these details because this insect can, by biting a person in the feverish stage of malaria, become infected with malaria parasites, which some 16 to 20 days later are in the salivary glands of the mosquito, and on its biting a healthy person at this stage that person in turn becomes infected by the malaria parasite and will some twelve days later have his first attack of fever. The distribution of this insect in the Borough is a matter for further inquiry, and I shall welcome the bringing, for purposes of identification, to the Health Offices of any insects which are killed in the Borough on suspicion of being Anophelines. Note should be taken of the date, time and place at which such insects are killed.

*Investigation of other Diseases.*

Of the 479 deaths occurring amongst the inhabitants of the district, 258, that is to say almost 54 per cent., occurred at the age of 65 years and upwards. Of the 31 deaths from Influenza, 14 were amongst persons of 65 years and upwards.

**Cerebro-spinal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis Lethargica.**—There were no cases of these diseases notified during 1919.

**Measles.**—Twenty-eight cases were notified during the year. The number is trivial and shows that the disease was not prevalent. No deaths occurred.

**German Measles.**—Fourteen cases occurred during the year.

It should be noted that these diseases ceased at the end of the year to be notifiable.

**Influenza and Pneumonia.**—Influenza was prevalent in the early months of the year, and with a view to getting in

touch with severe cases Pneumonia was made notifiable as from 1st March, 1919. There were notified from 1st March to 31st December, 1919, 60 cases of all forms of Pneumonia, 32 of these in March and 11 in April, that is, during the prevalence of Influenza. A table is attached which shews the deaths which occurred from Influenza from week to week throughout the year. It will be seen that the highest number, viz. 6, occurred in the week ending 22nd February, and presumably the cases of Influenza and Pneumonia were more numerous during February than in March, when it became notifiable.

Table showing deaths that occurred in the Borough (of Residents only) from Influenza weekly for 1919, with age and sex distribution as specially requested by the Ministry of Health.

WEEK ENDING—			Under 1 year.		1 and under 2 yrs.		2 and under 5 yrs.		5 and under 15 yrs.		15 and under 25 yrs.		25 and under 45 yrs.		45 and under 65 yrs.		65 and up-wards		TOTALS.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Jan.	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
"	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	—	
"	18 to Feb. 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
Feb.	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	—	2	
"	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
"	22	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	4	
Mar.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	—	3		
"	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	3		
"	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	—		
"	22	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1		
"	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	—		
April	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	—		
"	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—		
"	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	—	1		
"	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1		
May 3 to May 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
"	17	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	—		
"	24 to Oct. 18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
Oct.	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	—		
Nov.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1		
"	8 to Nov. 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—		
"	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1		
"	29 to Dec. 31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—		
TOTALS	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	2	1	4	5	6	8	14	17	

TOTAL ... 31.



*Precautions taken on occurrence of Infectious Disease.*

Notices are sent to both week-day and Sunday schools, informing the Superintendents of infection in the case of children attending from schools and requesting them not to allow the attendance of scholars from the house for a stated period. Notices are also sent to public libraries so as to obviate infection by means of books returned from infected houses. Schools and libraries are again notified when it is presumed the houses are free from infection. Premises which are the site of infection are inspected, the drains and sanitary fittings are tested when the infection is such that it may be due to sanitary defects.

*Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.*

Most of these are heard of by Head Teachers of schools, who report immediately to the School Medical Officer. The school nurses visit the house and exclude from school for the necessary period both the actual sufferers from the disease and such contacts as it is desirable to exclude.

*The Zymotic Death-rate.*

That is the number of deaths per thousand of the population due to the seven Zymotic diseases mentioned in the following table. This death-rate is low for 1919, being only 0.2 per thousand as compared with 0.6 in 1918.

## MORTALITY FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES FOR TEN YEARS.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Erysipelas ... ..	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ... ..	0	8	10	4	1	5	7	1	1	4
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea & Enteritis .	0	18	2	2	4	4	5	1	0	1
Small-pox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	1	3	1	0	8	1	1	2	10	0
Whooping Cough ...	3	8	0	2	21	3	5	0	6	1
Total number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases	8	38	14	9	34	15	18	7	18	7
Percentage upon deaths from all causes ...	1.9	9.1	3.5	2.4	6.7	2.7	3.7	1.5	3.3	1.5
Zymotic Death Rate per thousand living ...	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.2

**Tuberculosis.**—Forty fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. (See Table II.) The age distribution as usual shows that the majority of the sufferers are persons in the best wage-earning years of life, viz., 25 to 45 years of life.

## Deaths from Tuberculosis During the Last 5 Years.

Year.	Estimated Population	Phthisis.	Phthisis Death-rate	Other Forms of Tuber- culosis.	Totals.	Tuber- culosis Death-rate	Average Tuber- culosis Death-rate.
1915	33,430	29	0.87	11	40	1.11	1.31
1916	32,316	27	0.87	12	39	1.24	
1917	30,751	33	0.97	11	44	1.40	
1918	32,297	38	1.11	17	55	1.64	
1919	34,423	30	0.87	10	40	1.16	



I attach a table which expresses the average death-rate for periods of five years since 1890.

1890 to 1894	-	Average 1.77 per 1,000 of population.				
1895 to 1899	-	„	1.60	„	„	„
1900 to 1904	-	„	1.24	„	„	„
1905 to 1909	-	„	1.18	„	„	„
1910 to 1914	-	„	1.00	„	„	„
1915 to 1919	-	„	1.31	„	„	„

The interruption to the gradual diminution in mortality is obviously due to war conditions: the highest mortality occurring in 1917 and 1918, and a diminution occurring during the year under consideration, viz. 1919.

The arrangements for dealing with cases of Tuberculosis are under the control of the Kent County Council. A Tuberculosis Dispensary exists at No. 34, Calverley Street, the Medical Officer attending to see patients on Mondays at 5.15 p.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m. o'clock.

The procedure adopted by this Department on receipt of a primary notification is, in the first place to send a leaflet recommending precautions to prevent the spread of infection, and subsequently a member of the staff calls at the house to intimate that in the event of any change of address, immediately on notice being given, the room which has been occupied by the patient will be disinfected. Personal visits are paid by the Medical Officer of Health in the event of cases occurring in neighbourhoods in which it seems desirable to investigate the surroundings, and where circumstances seem to demand it, further visits are paid from time to time. In the event of death occurring, disinfection is undertaken, and further measures are recommended if necessary, *e.g.*, the stripping of the walls of the room, etc.

**Venereal Diseases.**—The arrangements for treatment are in the hands of the County Council. The Borough Health Department has facilitated the work by co-operating as far as its opportunities have allowed; for instance, posters

prepared by the County Medical Officer have been placed in suitable positions giving information as to treatment centres in the county and the hours of attendance at these. A few examinations of specimens have been made in the Borough Laboratory, and persons applying for information have been assisted in every way.

### **E.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

**1. Midwives Act, 1912-1918.**—Inspection of Midwives is under the control of the Kent County Council. Transference of this supervision to the local Health Department would be of undoubted benefit in administering the Maternity and Child Welfare Act in the Borough.

**2. General Arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant mothers and children under five years of age.**—The Infant Consultation Centre, which started work in 1914, has expanded to meet as far as possible the further duties included under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, pending the carrying into effect of the recommendations which I made in a report to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee immediately upon my return to civil duties in April, 1919. In this report the two chief needs of the Borough were emphasised, viz. :—(a) The establishment of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and suitable premises at which expectant mothers and infants and children up to five years of age could receive advice and treatment, apart from such treatment as requires medical attention at their homes. (b) The establishment of a Lying-in Home to which mothers living in unsuitable surroundings could be transferred for confinement on payment of a small fee according to their social circumstances. Many premises were inspected and numerous disappointments occurred in trying to arrange for the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, but at last it was found possible to acquire a house at No. 5, Calverley Parade, which will suit this purpose, and it is now



being put into order. An additional nurse has also been obtained to superintend the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and to visit children under school age as well as mothers and infants.

With regard to the Lying-in Home, a committee of ladies has taken this matter up and is endeavouring to raise a sufficient sum to start the home under the administrative supervision of the Borough Medical Officer of Health. The two Health Visitors paid a large number of home visits under the Notification of Births Act, and investigated all Stillbirths and infant deaths. Special care was taken to keep in touch with unmarried mothers and their children, and it is gratifying to know that the death-rate amongst illegitimate children is much lower than is usual, being only 70 per thousand, as compared with 66.4 per thousand legitimate births.

The following are details of the visits and re-visits paid by the Health Visitors to houses in which infants were born.

To Infants under 1.	First Visits ...	...	409.
„	Second Visits	...	1320.
„	Total Visits ...	...	1729.
To Infants, 1 to 5	Total Visits ...	...	732.

In addition a few visits were paid to expectant mothers, and concerning children 1 to 5 years of age 732 visits were made. The Municipal Infant Welfare Centre was open every Friday afternoon, the Medical Officer holding 468 consultations with babies and their mothers or guardians, an average of nine per session.

**3. Co-ordination of the School Medical Service.**—The School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and adjoining premises, next door to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, are being taken over as a School Medical Centre, so that the work may be co-ordinated under one roof.

**4. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—In each of the seven cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum which occurred, immediate



steps were taken to ensure adequate medical treatment, either at home or at the Eye and Ear Hospital, for the baby's eyes, and no permanent injury has been sustained in any of these cases. The three cases of Puerperal Fever were treated at home by their medical attendants and all recovered. Arrangements have been made for the nursing of such cases as Measles, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis, etc., as required by the nurses of the District Nursing Association, to which a fee is payable by the Corporation for these services. There were no deaths from Measles in 1919, and only one from Whooping Cough.

#### **F.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.**

There is a Chief Sanitary Inspector and two Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances engaged in sanitary work. There is a night attendant, who assists with disinfection of premises, and also receives specimens after office hours and prepares media for use in the Laboratory.

**Hospital Accommodation.**—The Borough has its own Fever Hospital, with seven acres of ground, situated some 500 feet above sea level, in the Frant Forest neighbourhood, almost at the southern boundary. The site is an excellent one, airy and open with a southern exposure and wide view over valleys and woodland. There are 57 beds for the treatment of infectious diseases, but it should be remembered that part of the staff has to be accommodated in one ward-block, owing to the accommodation of the administrative block being very restricted. Plans for its enlargement were made and sanction for a loan for this purpose from the Local Government Board was obtained in 1914, but war conditions have hitherto hindered the carrying out of this necessary improvement. It is to be hoped that this will be put in hand at as early a date as possible. As regards the staff, there is a general trained and fully qualified Matron, and one sister also general trained, in addition to a varying



number of nurses. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Officer to the Institution. With one exception in each case, all cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria which were notified during the year were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Provision is made for possible cases of Small Pox or Plague at the Dislingbury Hospital, Capel, which has 20 beds. It is a joint hospital under the administration of a Board representing Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Southborough. No cases occurred in Tunbridge Wells in 1919.

**The Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890.** Of this Act, parts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 12 have been adopted. These sections deal with Water Supply, Sanitary Provision of Buildings and Streets, Common Lodging Houses, Infectious Diseases, Slaughter Houses and Public Baths. Of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, the following sections have been adopted: Sections 1-14, part 2; Sections 17, 21-24, 26-30, and 31-33.

**Chemical and Bacteriological Work.**—There is a well-equipped laboratory in the Health Office and the work of examining bacteriological specimens is undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health. Prior to my return from military service, such specimens were sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, for examination and report. The following table records the examinations performed by me :—

Laboratory work, 11th April to 31st December, 1919.

			Positive.	Negative.
Swabs (for Diphtheria) ...	...	695	107	588
Swabs (for Vincent's Angina) ...	...	2	1	1
Blood (for Malaria) ...	...	1	—	1
Sputa (for Tubercle) ...	...	15	3	12
Hairs (for Ringworm) ...	...	62	46	16
Spinal Fluids (for Meningo Coccus)		2	—	2
Five Specimens (for Gonococcus)		5	2	3
		<hr/> 782	<hr/> 159	<hr/> 623

I have to express my indebtedness to the County Medical Officer of Health for reporting upon the specimens during the early part of the year and also during my absence on holiday.

Chemical examinations of specimens of water, milk, etc., are made by the Public Analyst, and these are reviewed either under the Food and Drugs Act, or have already been referred to under the remarks upon water and sewage effluent.

### G.—HOUSING.

**1. General Housing Conditions.**—The total number of houses in the district is 8,021, the number for the working classes being 4,557 (viz. : at a rateable value of £20 or under). The population, apart from the annual influx of summer visitors, is nearly stationary, nor is any important change anticipated in the near future.

**2. Overcrowding.**—There are a few hundreds of houses occupied by two families, leading in some instances to overcrowding of individual sleeping-rooms. It is hoped that the housing scheme of the Corporation will serve to relieve at least the most congested of these houses. Such overcrowding as exists is found in the poorest houses, where there is as a contributory cause the inability to pay rentals for portions of larger premises even if these were available.

Owing to the lack of alternative accommodation, it has not as a rule been possible to take action other than by the re-distribution of the sleeping accommodation so as to make the best of the room available.

**3. Fitness of Houses.**—The general standard of houses in the district is good and such defects as have been found to exist have been minor in character. Eighty-four house drains and sanitary fittings were inspected by the Sanitary Staff, apart from the Medical Officer of Health's personal visits to houses reported by the Health Visiting Staff as being in a dirty condition.

In December, 1919, notice was given to the owners



of three houses whose demolition had been ordered in 1914, that the work must now be proceeded with, and since the end of the year this has been carried out. During the year a statutory notice was served in one case of overcrowding, and in another case because of defective drainage. Both these matters were attended to. No fresh closing orders or demolition orders were made during the year. Detailed reports upon houses examined are made by the two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors, and visits are paid by the Medical Officer of Health and by the Chief Sanitary Inspector as occasion requires.

**The Factory and Workshop Acts.**—A register is kept of all workshops situate within the district. The schedule of the register records the following information :—Date, name and address of occupier, situation of workshop, nature of work carried on and amount of moving power, number and description of workers, cubic capacity, sanitary accommodation, and means of escape from fire. To keep this register complete is a very difficult matter, by reason of the opening and closing of different premises, the changing of outworkers and alteration of proprietorship.

During the year 159 visits of inspection have been made, in order to secure observance of the provisions of the law in regard to cleanliness, ventilation, overcrowding, drainage of floors, sanitary accommodation, and proper means of escape from fire. Twenty-six defaults were discovered, and means taken to remedy the same.

The majority of the workshops in the town are provided with a system of maintainable ventilation. The system recommended generally is the provision of a fresh air inlet on an outside wall so constructed as to prevent actual draught to the workers, and an outlet in the chimney breast or other suitable place.

As time permits the workshops are measured up and the air space ascertained, and tickets stating the cubic

capacity and the number of persons that may be employed therein during day time and overtime are fixed in each room. This is in addition to the provisions provided for in the prescribed abstract of the Act.

Particulars in respect of 16 workshops were reported by H.M. Inspector, which had been formally reported to him by the occupiers. Four complaints were received from the Home Office during the year, referring to neglect as to limewashing, which received immediate attention.

No certificates for means of escape from fire have been given, there having been no new factory or workshop established employing over 40 persons.

The means of escape provided in existing workshops employing over 40 persons is considered satisfactory.

The work in connection with outworkers and home work steadily increases. The Home Office Orders include over 30 different trades, and all persons connected with such trades are required to keep on the premises lists of names and addresses of outworkers employed by them, and to forward copies of the same to the Sanitary Authorities on or before the 1st of February and the 1st of August in each year. Every Authority must cause the lists to be examined, and furnish the name and place of employment of every outworker included in any such list whose place of employment is outside its district to the Council of the district in which his place of employment is.

The register of outworkers is always examined when a notification of infectious disease is received, in order, if necessary, to stop work being given out to any person who may be in contact with infection.

There have been 38 lists of outworkers sent in during the year by persons trading within the Borough, containing the names and addresses of 109 persons.

Six names and addresses of outworkers have been received by us from various Councils.



A Form for the return of "outworkers" has been prescribed by the Secretary of State, and may be obtained from His Majesty's printers at a nominal cost. In Tunbridge Wells these forms are supplied free (in duplicate), but even with this facility considerable difficulty is experienced in getting the employers to send in the lists on the date required.

# Report to the Education Committee

BY

DR. F. C. LINTON,

*School Medical Officer.*

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report upon the work of the School Medical Department during the year 1919.

On December 31st, 1919, there were within the area of the Borough no provided schools and 18 non-provided schools, including 26 departments, with recognised accommodation for 5,100 children. The average attendance during last school year was 3,841.

Many changes of Staff have occurred during this year. Drs. Dyer and Riley continued to act as School Medical Officers until my return from Military Service in the month of April.

I cannot allow this occasion to pass without referring with deep regret to Dr. Riley's sudden death later in the year, a loss much felt by the Town generally.

As regards the nursing staff, Nurse Whyte and Nurse Brocklehurst ceased their school duties, the former going to America early in the year and the latter continuing duty under the Corporation as Matron of the Isolation Hospital; each had been in your service for five years.



After a short period of duty by Nurse Stanton, the work has been well carried on by Nurses Oram and Riddle, your present School Nurses.

As regards the Clerical work, this was carried out by temporary clerks during the continued absence of Mr. Hicks, on Military Service.

The only members of the Staff who continued their work throughout the year, without a break, were Dr. Davies, Ophthalmic Surgeon, and Mr. Price Evans, Dental Surgeon.

Despite difficulties, a larger number of children were medically inspected, both in the Code Groups and at the School Medical Centre, than on any previous occasion. It is hoped, with the assistance which you have now approved, that the three Code Groups will be fully inspected during the course of 1920.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

### MEDICAL INSPECTION.

An inspection was held in each department of each school during the year, and in some cases on two occasions.

Sixty-four per cent. of the children inspected were accompanied by a parent or guardian, this percentage being the same as that of 1918. Such attendance is a valuable opportunity for calling attention to minor defects and points of hygiene.

The Clothing was in no case found to be deficient in quantity, though the tendency to overclothing still exists. Parents would do well to direct more attention to the importance of changing wet boots and stockings, and securing adequate ventilation of rooms in the home. Footgear was found to be defective in one instance.

Malnutrition was present in 83 cases, or 6.25 per cent. of children examined. This number includes cases of malnutrition not only from insufficient or unsuitable diet, but also those arising from ill-health.

A number of special visits were paid by the School Nurses during 1919, for the object of inspecting the children's heads; 4,403 heads were inspected and 41, or less than 1 per cent., were found to be infected with vermin, and 571, or 13 per cent., with nits. The figures for 1914 were as follows: 2,104 heads, of which 61, or 3 per cent., were infected with vermin, and 398, or 19 per cent., with nits. This comparison shows a gradual though slow improvement in cleanliness.

The Statistics of Eye Disease, Ear Disease, Nose and Throat Disease and the various other disabilities found are set out and can be seen in Table II. attached.

### MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Six reports were made during 1919 on cases under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and during the year there were



in Special Institutions five children, two of these being fresh cases sent during 1919.

It should be noted that, under the 1918 Act, it is now the duty of Local Education Authorities to provide for the care of Physically Defective as well as of Mentally Defective children.

TABLE I.—Number of Children inspected 1st January, 1919, to 31st December, 1919.  
A.—“CODE” GROUPS.

Age.	Entrants.						Intermediate Group. 8.	Leavers.				Grand Total.	
	3.	4.	5.	6.	Other Ages.	Total.		12.	13.	14.	Other Ages. Total.		
Boys ...	10	85	108	62	26	291	139	162	72	7	—	241	671
Girls ...	8	66	123	79	29	305	90	196	52	1	—	249	644
Totals ...	18	151	231	141	55	596	229	358	124	8	—	490	1316

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN “CODE.”

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	(2)	Special Cases.†	(3)	Re-Examinations (i.e. No. of Children Re-Examined).	(4)
Boys ...		6		265	180	
Girls ...		9		220	213	
Totals ...		15		485		393

†Under this head are included all special cases which were medically inspected during the year, whether the inspection took place in the schools or at the inspection Clinic, and from whatever source the cases were derived.



## ABBREVIATED FORM OF TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection  
in 1919.

[DEFECT OR DISEASE.]	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not re- ferred for treat- ment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not re- ferred for treat- ment.
Malnutrition ... ..	1	59	23	—
Uncleanliness:				
Head ... ..	12	128	33	1
Body ... ..	5	—	5	—
SKIN—				
Ringworm:				
Head ... ..	—	—	23	—
Body ... ..	—	—	21	—
Scabies ... ..	—	—	55	2
Impetigo ... ..	4	4	77	2
Other Disease ... ..	—	3	30	12
EYE—				
Defective Vision and Squint .	76	74	3	—
External Eye Disease ...	8	—	12	—
EAR—				
Defective Hearing ... ..	6	20	5	1
Ear Disease ... ..	12	17	9	—
TEETH—				
Dental Disease ... ..	145	31	23	1
NOSE AND THROAT—				
Enlarged Tonsils ... ..	23	143	15	8
Adenoids ... ..	20	46	7	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	18	—	4	1
Defective Speech ... ..	—	2	—	—
HEART AND CIRCULATION—				
Heart Disease:				
Organic ... ..	11	53	1	2
Functional ... ..	9	18	—	—
Anæmia ... ..	8	1	1	—
LUNGS—				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis:				
Definite ... ..	—	—	—	—
Suspected ... ..	3	2	3	—
Chronic Bronchitis ... ..	2	4	2	1
Other Disease ... ..	1	22	1	—
NERVOUS SYSTEM—				
Epilepsy ... ..	—	1	—	—
Chorea ... ..	2	3	3	—
Other Disease ... ..	1	4	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:				
Glands ... ..	6	—	2	—
Bones and Joints ... ..	—	3	1	—
Other Forms ... ..	—	—	2	—
Rickets ... ..	3	4	2	1
Deformities ... ..	10	19	3	—
Other Defects or Diseases ...	14	38	42	10

**TABLE III.—Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children  
in the Area in 1919.**

			BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
BLIND (including partially blind).		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	—	1	1
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind ... ..	1	—	1
		Not at School ... ..	1	—	1
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially deaf).		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	7	5	12
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf ... ..	1	1	2
		Not at School ... ..	—	—	—
MENTALLY DEFICIENT	Feeble Minded ...	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	1a	2	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ... ..	1	—	1
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	—	2	2
		Not at School ... ..	—	—	—
	Imbeciles ...	At School ... ..	—	—	—
		Not at School ... ..	—	—	—
	Idiots ...	— ... ..	—	—	—
Epileptics.		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	1	1	2
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ... ..	1	—	1
		Not at School. ... ..	—	—	—
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..	—	—	—
		Not at School ... ..	4b	5c	9
	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	18	13	31d
		Not at School ... ..			
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..	—	—	—
	Cripples, others than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	5	1	6
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..	1a	—	1
		Not at School ... ..	1	—	1
	Dull or Backward.e ...		Retarded 2 years ... ..	39	16
Retarded 3 years ... ..			18	21	39

a Same boy, both physically defective and feeble minded.

b One left the Borough in 1919.

c Of whom two died in 1919.

d These have been notified during several years: most attend School, but seven are excluded.

e Judged according to age and standard. Figures supplied by Teachers.



TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919.

CONDITION.									
No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of Defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Per-centage of defects treated.
From Previous Year.	New*	Total.			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing ...	—	7	7	—	7	5	2	—	100
Footgear ...	—	11	11	—	11	5	6	—	100
Cleanliness of head ...	2	148	150	—	149	10	37	12	99
Cleanliness of body ...	—	8	8	—	8	8	—	—	100
Nutrition ...	—	68	68	5	63	33	30	—	93
Nose and throat ...	5	236	241	25	183	129	34	20	76
External eye disease ...	—	15	15	1	12	10	2	—	80
Ear disease ...	—	6	6	1	5	2	3	—	83
Teeth ...	—	265	265	21	166	126	25	15	63
Heart and circulation ...	—	16	16	1	15	8	7	—	94
Lungs ...	—	38	38	10	28	10	17	1	74
Nervous system ...	—	4	4	—	4	1	3	—	100
Skin ...	36	163	199	3	196	171	19	6	98
Rickets ...	—	3	3	—	3	—	3	—	100
Deformities ...	—	58	58	1	57	—	52	5	98
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary ...	1	4	5	—	5	—	2	3	100
Speech ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental condition ...	—	7	7	—	7	—	7	—	100
Vision and squint ...	—	160	160	—	146	10	88	48	91
Hearing ...	—	29	29	2	27	17	10	—	93
Miscellaneous ...	—	33	33	11	22	17	5	—	67
Total ...	44	1279	1323	81	1114	652	352	110	84

\* The return should show comprehensively all defects found during the year, from whatever source derived, which required treatment.

**TABLE V.—Inspection, Treatment, &c., of Children  
during 1919.**

(1.) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child)	1330	at School.
	477	at Clinic.
	1807	TOTAL
(2.) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	576	at School.
	37	at Clinic.
	613	TOTAL
(3.) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	278	at School.
	328	at Clinic.
	606	TOTAL
(4.) The number of children in (3) who received treat- ment for one or more defects (excluding un- cleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	199	at School.
	328	at Clinic.
	527	TOTAL



## Number of Children Medically Inspected at each School.

SCHOOL.	GRADE.	BOYS.	GIRLS.
Basinghall ... ..	Infants ...	68	48
Rusthall ... ..	"	64	67
" ... ..	Boys ...	65	—
" ... ..	Girls ...	—	22
St. Mark's ... ..	Infants ...	9	5
" ... ..	Mixed ...	12	14
Christ Church ... ..	"	11	17
Murray House ... ..	"	10	53
King Charles ... ..	Boys ...	66	—
Royal Victoria ... ..	"	26	—
Holy Trinity ... ..	Girls ...	—	51
St. Peter's ... ..	Boys ...	21	—
" ... ..	Girls ...	—	18
" ... ..	Infants ...	37	44
St. James' ... ..	Boys ...	59	—
" ... ..	Girls ...	—	73
" ... ..	Infants ...	58	69
St. John's ... ..	Boys ...	30	—
" ... ..	Girls ...	—	22
Down Lane ... ..	Infants ...	21	17
Grosvenor ... ..	Mixed ...	21	23
St. Augustine's ... ..	"	16	9
St. Barnabas' ... ..	Boys ...	28	—
" ... ..	Girls ...	—	34
" ... ..	Infants ...	40	37
St. Luke's ... ..	"	15	30
		677	653

	Total ... ..	1330
Re-inspected	Cured ... ..	8
	Improved ... ..	87
	Stationary ... ..	44
	Worse ... ..	5
	TOTAL	144

**Work done by the School Nurses and Health Visitors  
during 1919.**

Apart from attending the School Medical Officer, Ophthalmic Surgeon and Dental Surgeon during their sessions at the School Clinic, the Nurses have carried out treatment of minor ailments, such as Ringworm, Impetigo, etc., at the Clinic; in addition, the following Table sets out the work they have done during 1919.

Visits to Houses where the following Diseases have occurred.	SCHOOL CASES.		TOTAL.	REMARKS.
	1st Visits.	2nd Visits.		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	—	3	
Diphtheria ... ..	4	16	20	
Measles ... ..	8	34	42	
German Measles ... ..	10	13	23	
Mumps ... ..	65	148	213	
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	21	25	
Chicken Pox ... ..	71	165	236	
Sore Throat ... ..	96	123	219	
Ringworm (scalp) ... ..	4	32	36	
„ (body) ... ..	1	—	1	
Verminous Heads ... ..	4	3	7	
Verminous Bodies ... ..	—	—	—	
Impetigo Contagiosa ... ..	2	1	3	
Scabies ... ..	3	11	14	
Infectious Eye Disease ... ..	—	—	—	
Other Diseases ... ..	54	11	65	
Totals ... ..	329	578	907	
	1st Visits.		2nd Visits.	
Visits paid to Elementary Schools for Medical Inspections ... ..	65	—	—	
Number of Children prepared for Medical Inspection—				
Newly Inspected ... ..	1340	—	—	
Re-inspected ... ..	228	—	—	
Specially Inspected ... ..	6	—	—	
Other Visits to Elementary Schools	36	—	—	
Home Visits arising out of Medical Inspection ... ..	336	—	—	
Home Visits for other information	86	—	—	
Dental Inspections at Schools ..	33	—	—	



### SCHOOL CLINIC.

477 Children were medically examined at the School Clinic for various ailments, making 1,339 attendances.

See the following Table :—

NUMBER OF AILMENTS DISCOVERED.

Ringworm (scalp).	Ringworm (body).	Sore Throat.	Impetigo.	Ver. Heads.	Ver. Bodies.	Otorrhoea.	Scabies.	Sundry Defects.	Total.
30	20	42	86	41	2	6	56	229	512

DAILY ATTENDANCES FOR ADVICE OR TREATMENT.

Ringworm (scalp).	Ringworm (body).	Impetigo.	Ear, Nose and Throat.	Scabies.	Sundry Defects.	Total attendances for treatment.
1451	100	290	115	203	439	2598

### WORK OF THE OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon spends two hours each Thursday in attendance at the School Clinic, to examine and prescribe treatment for eye defects or diseases of the School children.

The Work done in 1919 is tabulated below :

Fresh Cases.	Glasses ordered for	Glasses obtained by	Daily Attendances for Atropine.	Total No. Examined.
146	88	88	637	677

The following figures refer to the work carried out by the School Dentist during the year.

Dentist's Visits to Schools for Dental Inspection	33
Number of Children Inspected in School .. ...	501
Number of Children Re-inspected in School ...	1,272
Total Inspected ... ..	1,773

#### TREATMENT AT THE DENTAL CLINIC.

	Extractions with gas.	Extractions without gas.	Fillings.	Dressings.
Children treated ...	80	625	53	—
Number of teeth treated	134	1004	65	5



The following figures refer to the work carried out by the School Dental during the year.

1,173	Total inspected
1,312	Number of Children Inspected in School
601	Number of Children Inspected in School
572	Number of Children Inspected in School

TREATMENT AT THE DENTAL CLINIC

Number of Children	Number of Teeth	Number of Fillings	Number of Extractions
1,173	1,312	601	572

