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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

No 1746

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1929.

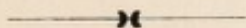
F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Tunbridge Wells :
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR WORKS,
1640/30.





BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



ANNUAL REPORT

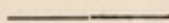
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1929.



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



TUNBRIDGE WELLS :

C. BALDWIN, GROSVENOR PRINTING WORKS.

1640/6/30.



BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Mr. Councillor HEMPSON (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman SNELL).

Mr. Alderman CALEY.

Mr. Alderman CARPENTER.

Councillor Miss BAKER.

Mr. Councillor HARGREAVES.

Mr. Councillor OATEN.

Councillor Miss POWER.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :

Mr. Alderman CARPENTER (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman SNELL).

Mr. Alderman CALEY.

Councillor Miss BAKER.

Mr. Councillor HARGREAVES.

Mr. Councillor HEMPSON.

Mr. Councillor OATEN.

Councillor Miss POWER.

Mrs. PAYNE.

Miss SCOTT.

Mrs. HAMMOND.

STAFF :

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

H. T. TAYLOR, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Inspectors :

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

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

E. J. A. BETTLE

Clerk :

F. HICKS.

Second Clerk :

Miss C. CORDEROY. *From 1/1/29 to 31/5/29.*

Miss D. SHARPE. *From 1/6/29 to 31/12/29.*

Health Visitors :

Miss J. DONALDSON.

Miss E. RICE OXLEY.

Miss M. MACLAREN.

Miss E. A. MEAKINS.

Matron of the Isolation Hospital :

Miss E. BROCKLEHURST.

Public Analyst :

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

Medical Officer for Ante-Natal Clinic :

MARGARET EMSLIE, M.B., CH.B.

Medical Officer for Orthopædic Clinic :

C. A. HORDER, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

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

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

REPORT UPON THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF
THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR 1929.

This Report is the sixteenth submitted since my appointment as Medical Officer to the Borough.

Briefly stated, the leading features of the year were as follows :—

Influenza was fairly widespread in spring, and in type resembled that of 1927, causing a number of deaths of elderly persons. Infectious diseases were less prevalent than usual, with the exception of mumps, which was wide-spread towards the end of the year. The ten cases of diphtheria notified, is as low a number as any during the past forty years, and is the lowest recorded since laboratory tests for this disease were commenced.

Rainfall exceeded the average, though for the first nine months of the year almost every month was below the average. More than 20 inches fell in the last three months, out of a total fall of 31.1 inches.

Bright sunshine—1,913 hours 42 minutes—easily exceeded anything previously recorded at the Corporation's Meteorological Station. Tunbridge Wells was again first in respect of sunshine amongst inland health resorts in these islands.

In comparison with 1928, the birth-rate rose from 11.7 to 12.7 per thousand : the death-rate from 11.0 to 11.5 per thousand.

Fresh premises were taken over by the Committee of Management of the Maternity Home : it is hoped these will be in occupation before the close of the present year.

I take the opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks to all members of the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation and assistance in disposing of the many tasks and problems which had to be met in the course of the year.

The Department has felt severely the loss which it has recently sustained through the death of its able Chairman and friend, Mr. Councillor Hempson, whose wide experience and enthusiasm were an inspiration to the whole staff.

The help and encouragement continuously given by all members of the Committees with which my duties associate me, have been greatly valued.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

1.—General Statistics.

CENSUS 1921.	{	Area (acres), 3,991.
		Population, 35,568 (preliminary figure).
		„ 34,270, corrected for holiday population by Registrar-General.
		Number of structurally separate sets of premises intended or used for habitation, 8,178.
		Number of separate occupiers, 8,774.

Population, mid-year, 1929, 35,040 (Registrar-General).

Number of houses intended or used for habitation ... 8,899*

Number of inhabited houses ... 8,792*

Rateable value, £408,614.

Sum represented by a penny rate :—

On General Rate ... £1,633

Mean annual temperature, F. 50.3

Total rainfall, 31.1 inches.

Hours of bright sunshine, 1,913 hours, 42 minutes.

* These figures include flats for the first time, and represent the number of separately occupied premises, instead of as hitherto, structurally separate premises.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Births—Legitimate ...	417	221	196
„ Illegitimate ...	28	17	11
Still Births ...	18	14	4

Birth rate (Registrar-General)

12.7 per thousand.

Deaths ... 552 222 330

Crude death rate—15.8.

Death rate corrected for age and sex constitution, 11.5 per thousand (factor for correction, 0.731).

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth—
—from sepsis, 0 ; from other causes, 1.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate, 36.0 ; Illegitimate, 107.1. Total, 40.4.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—	—	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	1	—
„ „ Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years of age) ...	—	—	—

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

1.—Population.

The population at mid-year in 1929, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 35,040, as compared with the estimate of 34,820 in 1928. During the year 97 houses have been built in Tunbridge Wells. I estimate the population at 36,000 approximately. The birth and death rates are calculated upon the Registrar-General's figure, so that uniformity may be maintained with returns throughout the kingdom.

2.—Physical Features and General Character.

The Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells covers 3,991 acres. It is built upon hills, the altitude above sea level varying from 220 feet at the bottom of the valley in which the historic mineral spring is situated, to 500 feet at the Blackhurst Collecting Reservoir ; most of the houses stand at a level between 300 and 450 feet. Its climate is therefore breezy and bracing, with sheltered spots for those who live in the valleys. It lies in the extreme south-west corner of Kent, $34\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London. The sub-soil is mostly sandstone, the geological layer known as Tunbridge Wells sands predominating. The water supplies for the Borough are drawn from a deeper sandstone layer known as the Hastings sandstone : the supply is pure and soft. During the year 1926, sanction was obtained from the Ministry of Health to open a new borewell so as to increase the amount

available; this work is now well in progress and samples taken from the trial borewell in September, 1928, and again in May, 1929, gave satisfactory results on testing, chemically and bacteriologically.

3.—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, and the Standard Barometer, kept in the Health Office.

The readings are taken by Mr. W. P. Cave and Mr. E. J. A. Bettle, members of the Staff of the Health Department.

The annual inspection of the station by an inspector of the Meteorological Office took place on 4th April and the report on the station was satisfactory.

The total amount of sunshine recorded was 1,913 hours 42 minutes. This again constitutes a record since readings have been taken at the present station (1914). The mean amount is 1,565 hours 24 minutes. The most sunny day was 15th July, when 14 hours 48 minutes were recorded. There were 62 sunless days, 70 being the average.

The highest temperature in the sun was 143 degrees, on 24th July.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year was 49.1 degrees, 49.3 degrees being the average.

The mean daily range was 15.3, the average being 14.6.

The temperature in the shade four feet above the ground,

was highest, 87 degrees, on September 4th, and lowest, 10 degrees, on 15th February.

The temperature in the shade first reached :—

60 degrees on 8th March.

70 ,, ,, 30th March.

80 ,, ,, 11th July.

last reached—

80 ,, ,, 9th September.

70 ,, ,, 28th September.

60 ,, ,, 17th October.

The hottest night was on 21st July, when the temperature did not go below 62 degrees.

The last frost in the air in spring was on 1st May, and the first in the autumn was on 20th October. The last on the grass in spring was on 5th June, and the first in the autumn was on 19th October.

The rainfall amounted to 31.10 inches, the average being 30.62 inches. It fell on 127 days, the average being 173.

The most rain that fell on one day was 1.51 inches on 16th August.

During the years 1922-29, rainfall has accumulated 21.75 inches above the 49 years average. This will affect favourably the supply from our springs.

The wind at 9 a.m. was N. 28 days, N. E. 65 days, E. 18 days, S. E. 33 days, S. 35 days, S. W. 105 days, W. 44 days, N. W. 27 days.

The mean amount of cloud at 9 a.m. was 5.9, 6.8 being the average ; ten representing overcast sky. Thunder and lightning occurred on 11 days.

There were 20 fogs, and it was misty on 47 other mornings.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1929.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall. In Inches.		Mean Temperature. In shade, 4ft. above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
							One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	1929.	15 Year Average.	1929.	49 Year Average.	1929.	39 Year Average.	1929.	29 Year Average.	1929.	15 Year Average.
January ...	Hrs. Mins. 32 48	Hrs. Mins. 48 48	1.17	2.58	°F 34.3	°F 38.5	°F 34.0	°F 39.6	°F 42.5	°F 44.0
February ...	79 42	70 30	0.55	2.30	31.9	39.4	36.1	39.5	40.2	43.0
March ...	198 42	117 18	0.05	2.33	43.9	41.8	40.5	41.9	40.3	43.6
April ...	155 12	140 12	1.14	1.99	44.2	46.4	45.8	46.6	45.2	45.9
May ...	249 36	220 24	1.92	1.90	52.9	52.9	52.9	54.1	49.2	50.5
June ...	215 18	204 12	1.07	2.00	56.5	57.7	58.4	59.8	55.0	55.7
July ...	283 36	205 48	1.77	2.32	62.2	61.4	62.8	63.1	58.4	58.7
August ...	219 0	185 12	2.86	2.39	61.5	62.4	62.0	62.6	59.7	60.3
September ...	211 24	154 48	0.40	2.20	63.4	57.1	62.2	58.7	57.4	59.1
October ...	121 24	110 12	4.04	3.68	49.9	50.1	52.7	52.6	56.4	56.0
November ...	78 0	65 0	8.39	3.46	44.8	43.2	46.1	45.5	50.2	50.7
December ...	69 0	43 0	7.74	3.47	43.1	40.1	43.3	41.8	47.1	46.0
WHOLE YEAR	1913 42	1565 24	31.10	30.62	49.1	49.3	49.7	50.5	50.1	51.1

4.—Social Conditions.

Tunbridge Wells is a residential town to which many persons retire from business to spend the latter part of their lives ; it also serves as a residential town for London business men, for whom there is a good train service to town in the morning, and back in the evening ; and it is a large shopping centre. The occupations of the inhabitants are governed by these conditions ; there are no large factories, but there are numerous motor works and garages ; house painters, builders, builders' labourers, gardeners, drivers and conductors of motor chars-a-banc, and for the female population, laundries and domestic service. There are also many shop assistants of both sexes, as Tunbridge Wells is a shopping centre for a considerable area. Some of the inhabitants are employed at the Tunbridge Wells Brickworks situated just outside the Borough boundary ; the Photochrome Works employ a number of girls.

5.—Recreations.

The large and breezy Commons in the centre of the town form a perpetual source of pleasure and of interest to visitors and inhabitants alike. Numerous healthful recreations are provided ; in Calverley Park, situated in the centre of the town, the Corporation provides an attractive pleasure ground in which tennis courts, a miniature golf course and a bowling green are all available. Bands play daily during the summer season. In addition, facilities for tennis and bowls are provided in other public parks. There are two golf courses within the Borough boundary, viz. :—the Culverden (18 holes) and the Spa (9 holes), and a third, Nevill Golf Course (18 holes), is situated within easy access just outside the Borough boundary. There are ample facilities for football and cricket, county matches being played here during Cricket Week in June. Facilities for swimming are provided at the Indoor Baths and at the Open-Air Bath.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—From figures supplied by the Registrar-General the total numbers of births *registered* as properly belonging to Tunbridge Wells is 445 (238 males, 207 females). This corresponds to a rate of 12.7 per thousand, as compared with 11.7 per thousand in 1928. Seventeen males and 11 females were born out of wedlock, giving an illegitimate rate of 6.3 per cent. as compared with 6.8 per cent., in 1928.

The births *notified* during the year as occurring in the Borough numbered 525 and consisted of 287 males and 238 females ; of these, 18 males and 8 females were stillborn.

The excess of notifications over registrations of births is accounted for by births in the Maternity Home, which caters for a wide district around Tunbridge Wells, as well as for the Borough itself.

Deaths.—550 deaths were registered in the Borough during 1929, and there were 111 outwardly transferable deaths and 113 inward transfers, thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 552. This gives a crude death rate of 15.8 per thousand.

The Registrar-General has supplied the proper correction figure (0.731) as obtained from the last census returns, and the true or corrected death rate is thus seen to be 11.5 per thousand ; this is a correction for age and sex distribution of the population. In the case of a health resort attractive to elderly persons and to invalids, it is necessary that the *corrected* death rate should be used in making comparisons with the death rate in the country generally. The uncorrected rate in the case of a town in which so many old people reside naturally gives a false impression of the health value of the locality. Table I. on page 19 compares the births and deaths rates, etc., for England and Wales and various groups of towns, Tunbridge Wells figures being inserted below. The

Borough death rate, 11.5, compares favourably with 13.4, the figure for the kingdom generally.

The death rate of 11.5 is fractionally higher than that of 1928, but the increase is not so great as that obtaining in the country generally. The proportion over 65 years of age is greater than ever, being now $62\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total. Under 55 years of age there were but 22.6 per cent. of the total. These results tend to confirm my remarks in last year's report, when I stated that the larger accumulation of elderly persons resulting from increased longevity will inevitably tend to raise the death rate, without affecting the gradual reduction in the mortality amongst the young.

Table showing the average number of Deaths at several ages for consecutive periods of five years.

	1896 to 1900.	1901 to 1905.	1906 to 1910.	1911 to 1915.	1916 to 1920.	1921 to 1925.	1926.*	1927*	1928*	1929*
Deaths at under 1 year ...	72	57	46	40	36	23	28	21	20	19
" 1 and under 2 } ...	25	29	23	16	{ 6	3	6	4	6	7
" 2 " 5 } ...	21	11	10	16	{ 9	5	3	8	4	5
" 5 " 15 ...	20	13	14	12	15	6	6	7	9	7
" 15 " 25 ...	121	141	141	145	21	10	8	11	8	17
" 25 " 45 } ...	121	141	141	145	{ 47	36	44	37	36	30
" 45 " 65 } ...	154	178	205	234	{ 107	104	104	119	138	122
" 65 and upwards ...	154	178	205	234	245	276	268	323	301	345

* The Mortality for 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1929 is inserted for comparison.

Infectious Diseases.—Influenza was prevalent in the spring months, thirty-four deaths being attributed to this disease. Chicken-pox and Whooping Cough diminished somewhat and Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were less than usual. An outbreak of Mumps in the autumn has continued into 1930. No classes or schools were closed for infectious illness. One infant school was closed for one day on account of complete stoppage of the water supply after hard frost. The infant death rate fell from 48.9 to 40.4, one of the lowest

yet recorded. Ten of the 18 deaths of infants under one year occurred during the first four weeks of life.

A table is appended shewing the actual number of deaths from different causes in five-yearly periods from 1886 onwards.

DEATHS FROM

Five-Yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tubercu- losis.		Infec- tious Diseases.	Vio- lence.	In- fluenza.
		Pul- mon- ary.	Non- Pul- mon- ary.			
1886 to 1890 ...	139	201	69	98	45	*
1891 „ 1895 ...	158	174	103	110	44	*
1896 „ 1900 ...	170	131	91	179	62	84
1901 „ 1905 ...	226	167	61	104	45	67
1906 „ 1910 ...	251	154	48	90	35	87
1911 „ 1915 ...	260	133	46	110	49	60
1916 „ 1920 ...	310	150	62	59	50	178
1921 „ 1925 ...	328	111	32	27	65	64
1926 ...	79	26	3	4	8	4
1927 ...	77	20	3	4	11	37
1928 ...	76	20	6	3	13	12
1929 ...	77	19	4	9	19	34

* Reliable figures not available.

Infant Mortality, 1929.—Eighteen deaths of infants below one year of age occurred, being 40.4 per thousand born, as compared with an infant mortality of 74 per thousand in England and Wales generally; the still births numbered 18. The average infant mortality in Tunbridge Wells during the previous ten years was 55.2 per thousand. It is noteworthy that amongst the 18 infants who died, only four were over three months of age; this means that the majority of deaths were due to causes operating during the period of expectant motherhood.

In Table IV. is given in detail a list of the causes of infant deaths in 1929.

Table I.
Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1929.

(Provisional figures). The rates for England and Wales and for Tunbridge Wells have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1929, but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1928. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.					
	Live Births.	Still-Births.	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P. M.	No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	16.3	0.68	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.15	0.08	0.74	0.55	8.1	74	91.5	6.1	1.5	0.9	0.9
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	16.6	0.69	13.7	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.19	0.09	0.76	0.50	10.9	79	91.8	5.8	1.9	0.5	0.5
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	16.0	0.71	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.15	0.07	0.71	0.45	5.9	69	92.6	5.4	1.0	1.0	1.0
London ...	15.7	0.53	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.26	0.08	0.69	0.56	10.7	70	89.5	6.8	3.7	0.0	0.0
Tunbridge Wells ...	12.7	0.51	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.09	0.97	0.54	0.0	40	93.3	4.9	1.8	0.0	0.0

Table II.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR YEAR 1929.

[illegible]

Poor Law Relief.—The approximate amount of Poor Law Relief in the Parish of Tunbridge Wells for the year ending 31st March, 1930, was £5,034 16s. 8d.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF.

The Tunbridge Wells General Hospital caters for the population of Tunbridge Wells and for a wide district around. Funds are being raised for transferring the Hospital from its cramped and noisy position to a fresh site on the Mount Ephraim ridge, where more airy and extensive premises can be built, subject to less disturbance from passing heavy traffic. The in-patients in 1929 numbered 1,539, theatre operations numbered 686, and operations performed in the out-patients' department under a general anaesthetic numbered 602, out-patients numbered 5,554, making 50,538 attendances. There is a large and well-equipped electrical department which offers radiant heat, radiant light, X-ray and radium treatment, also massage and electrical treatment. An orthopaedic centre allowing of remedial exercises treatment has been established and children attending the Infant Welfare Centres and Elementary Schools in the Borough continued to take advantage of such treatment in 1929. Payment has been made by the Corporation to the Hospital for such treatment, subsequent to 1st April, 1928.

MASSAGE, ELECTRICAL, RADIANT HEAT, ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT, X-RAY AND RADIUM TREATMENTS.

				Patients. Treatments.	
Massage	...	...	...	565	9,214
Exercises	...	...	...	215	4,102
Electrical Treatments	...	...	...	346	5,753
				1,126	19,069
				112	1,388
Sunlight Treatments	...	...	...

Nine General Anaesthetics, nine minor operations and 500 dressings in connection with above treatments.

X-Ray diagnosis and screen examinations	...	2,004
X-Ray treatments	... ..	24
Radium	... ..	15
Bismuth Meals	... ..	279

REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

34 Patients.

1,300 Treatments.

The Tunbridge Wells Eye and Ear Hospital deals with a greatly increased number of patients since the advent of an aural surgeon, in addition to an ophthalmic surgeon. The following Table speaks for itself in this respect :—

Year.	Out-Patients.	Attendances.	In-Patients.	Theatre Operations.
1921	2,339	5,115	303	284
1922	2,144	4,718	282	257
1923	2,105	4,736	289	265
1924	2,303	7,314	391	348
1925	2,615	8,917	478	476
1926	2,702	9,390	556	522
1927	2,675	9,927	713	666
1928	2,891	11,927	814	748
1929	2,966	11,900	773	745

This Hospital will be amalgamated with the General Hospital when the hospital extension scheme is completed.

At the **Homoeopathic Hospital**, which has 22 beds, there were 225 in-patients in 1929, and 143 theatre operations were performed. Three thousand, nine hundred and seventy-four attendances took place in the out-patients' department.

The Local Branch of the **Royal Surgical Aid Society** continues its useful services to the community. In 1929, 683 appliances were supplied at a cost of £1,468 1s. 11d. I desire to make grateful acknowledgment to this Society for extending to me the privilege of sending school children whose parents are unable to afford glasses when ordered by the ophthalmic surgeon, to the optician, with the Society's

letters, initialled by myself as School Medical Officer. Such letters are only given after due enquiry into the home circumstances and the optician does not accept letters for school children unless thus initialled.

The Provident Dispensary, 106, Upper Grosvenor Road. The number of members of this institution for the year 1929 was as follows :—Above the age of 14 years, 640 ; under the age of 14 years, 249 ; total, 889.

Tunbridge Wells Central Aid Society.—This Society performs a most useful work, of which the following gives some indication :—

The amount disbursed in pensions and special cases during 1929 was £698 2s. 2d., as compared with £682 12s. 7d. expended in 1928 ; the cases assisted numbered 92.

The Invalid Children's Aid Association.—This Association keeps in close touch with the School Medical and Child Welfare Services. It has rendered valuable service during the year. Fifteen school children in need of treatment were sent through its good offices to convalescent homes. Twenty-one children were given additional nourishment, and glasses were provided in eight instances. The cost of the assistance given in 52 cases was £76 17s. 2d.

Members of the School Nursing and Child Welfare Staff of Nurses have been appointed honorary members of the Committee of the Invalid Children's Aid Association : they attend to bring to the Association's notice any cases requiring assistance. Thus co-ordination is thorough.

The Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association has a staff of six nurses, one of whom is resident in the outlying parish of Rusthall. A subsidy is paid by the Corporation for the services of this nurse in the capacity of midwife. The

subsidy in 1929 amounted only to £21 15s. 0d. ; £48 5s. 0d. being paid in fees by patients. In all, the nurses of the Association attended 167 maternity cases, and dealt with 598 other cases during the year. The total number of visits paid was 16,149, of which 12,878 were general, 2,517 maternity and 754 ante-natal. The Corporation also has an arrangement with the District Nursing Association whereby the services of a nurse may be obtained for visiting in the case of certain specified diseases, ophthalmia neonatorum, measles or whooping-cough with broncho-pneumonia, where, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, the home conditions require such services. The nurse acts under the direction of the Medical Attendant, a fee being paid to the Association for her services.

Maternity Home, Upper Grosvenor Road. The work of this Home, which has now been open for five years, has so far increased that during 1929, it was necessary to refuse admission to 70 patients, owing to lack of accommodation. The Home has 10 beds :—4 in the large ward on the first floor, 2 in the ground floor front room, and 2 in the second floor front room, with, in addition, 2 beds in the waiting ward on the ground floor back room. One hundred and sixty-eight confinements took place in the Home in the year ending 31st December, 1929. Eighty-nine of the mothers were Tunbridge Wells residents, representing 21 per cent. of births for the year ; the remainder came from surrounding districts. Under the agreement entered into between the Tunbridge Wells Corporation and the Committee of the Maternity Home, payment was made in 2 cases recommended by the Borough Medical Officer.

Larger premises have been acquired at 10-12, Calverley Park Gardens. These have been approved by the Minister of Health, and will enable all applicants for admission to be suitably accommodated.

Co-ordination with the work of the Home is well maintained, as the Borough Medical Officer of Health serves on the Committee of Management, and also acts as Administrative Medical Officer for the Home.

Other Homes in Tunbridge Wells.—There is a branch of Dr. Barnardo's Home in Park Road, Hurstleigh Holiday Home in Bishops Down, and a Convalescent Home at Hawkenbury, in which a residential open-air school for L.C.C. children has been established.

These institutions deal almost entirely with children from London. There is also a small Rescue and Preventive Home in Upper Grosvenor Road.

There is also St. Christopher's Nursing College where children's nurses are trained and in which a number of children reside.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Kent County Council has a branch Dispensary for tuberculous cases at 34, Calverley Street. The attendances at this Dispensary during 1929 numbered 1,396, and were as follows :—

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Insured.		Uninsured.	
198	118	468	612

Tunbridge Wells and District Public Dental Service.—This is an association of legally qualified dental practitioners. Persons who are unable to afford large fees are treated here for small sums. The number of new patients attending in 1929 was 150, and the total number of attendances, 2,470.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH.

SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

1.—**Fever.**—The Borough has its own Fever Hospital

which is situated on its southern boundary, 450 feet above sea level. The site is an excellent one, airy and open, with a southern exposure and wide view over valleys and woodland. There is accommodation in the wards for 38 adults and 6 children, allowing 12 feet wall space, and 144 square feet floor space for each adult, and slightly less for each child. Sixty beds and cots are available, and as most patients are children, this number can be accommodated without overcrowding. The Wards have each a central heating stove and hot water circulation for baths. There is electric lighting throughout, and heating by electric fires is now being installed.

The Hospital has a large garden which supplies vegetables for most of the year for the patients and staff, also a fairly large amount of fruit in summer time, thus saving expense in catering.

2.—Smallpox.—A conjoint Smallpox Hospital is situated at Capel some four and a half miles from Tunbridge Wells. It has accommodation for 16 adult patients and is under the administration of a Board representing Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Southborough Urban Districts and the Tonbridge Rural District. The situation of this Hospital is an excellent one for the purpose, being well away from human habitation in the midst of open and high lying country. A caretaker and his wife live in the house on the premises and are responsible for keeping the Hospital in good order and ready for use in case it should be required. SENTRY stoves and hot water circulation have now been installed in both blocks, thus providing hot water for baths, etc., whenever required. Hot water formerly had to be taken by hand labour from the laundry copper to the ward, an unsuitable arrangement for a Smallpox Hospital as hot baths are of paramount importance in treating the disease. Additional facilities for staff bathing before leaving the Wards for the cottage are now being introduced.

No case of Smallpox occurred in South West Kent during 1929.

3.—Tuberculosis.—There is no hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells. The County Council makes arrangements for the treatment of suitable cases in hospitals situated in other parts of the county.

4.—Maternity.—The treatment of maternity cases is undertaken by arrangement with the Voluntary Home already mentioned, situated in Upper Grosvenor Road.

5.—Children.—No children's hospital is provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council in Tunbridge Wells. Children are treated in the General Hospital, Eye and Ear Hospital, and Homoeopathic Hospital. Fees are paid by the Local Authority to these hospitals in the case of operative treatment upon elementary school children for enlarged tonsils and adenoids: practically all now go for operation to the Eye and Ear Hospital, where the services of a Specialist are available.

6.—Provision for Unmarried Mothers.—No special institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children. The Infirmary of the Poor Law Union, situated at Pembury, deals with most of these cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) **For Infectious Cases.**—During 1929, a second-hand motor ambulance was purchased for use in removing cases to the Fever Hospital. It is a great boon both to patients and staff, as the time spent in journeys is now small. There is

thus little interference with Ward work, and much less journey risk to patients seriously ill.

(b) **For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.**—The Borough Police Force has a motor ambulance which proves of great service for cases of this type. In addition, the St. John Ambulance Brigade has an ambulance which can be hired for removal of sick persons, etc.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at 35, Calverley Street, provided by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, consisting of a detached house with seven rooms. The main waiting room is large, consisting of two rooms made into one. There is a branch centre at Rusthall where meetings are held in the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Rusthall Section) Room.

Day Nurseries.—There are none in Tunbridge Wells.

School Clinics.—The School Clinic is at the Public Health Offices, Calverley Parade. The premises consist of four rooms provided by the Borough Education Committee.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—The Tuberculosis Dispensary is provided by the County Council and consists of a detached house at 34, Calverley Street, next door to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; its accommodation is similar to that of the Child Welfare Centre.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases.—Venereal Diseases are treated at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, there being one consultation day per week for men and one for women. The arrangements are under the control of the Kent County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of the staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of this Report.

In addition to the regular members of the Public Health Department mentioned on the front page of the Report, Dr. C. Elliott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., is appointed to take holiday duty during the Medical Officer's annual leave.

All four of the nursing staff act for one-fifth of their time as Health Visitors.

Miss D. Sharpe took up duty as Junior Clerk on 1st June, 1929, in place of Miss C. Corderoy, resigned.

Contributions are made :—

- (a) Under the Public Health Act towards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Sanitary Inspectors.
- (b) By Exchequer grants towards the salaries of the School Medical Officer, Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dental Surgeon, School Nurses, and Chief Clerk of the Health Offices, whose time is equally divided between health and school medical duties. There is also a contribution towards the part-time services of Dr. C. Elliott, who assists with school medical inspections up to the number of one thousand routine inspections annually.
- (c) By Exchequer grant towards the salaries of the Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Nurses.
- (d) By Exchequer grant towards the fees of the Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—The Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Association and supported by voluntary contributions,

undertakes home nursing when required. A report of its work has already been given.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—So far as the Borough Council is concerned, an arrangement is made whereby the services of a District Nurse can be obtained for attending in the homes of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, whooping-cough, etc., under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918. It is in the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health to call for these services as required; one call was made during 1929.

(c) **Midwives.**—In May, 1928, one of the midwives belonging to the Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association took up residence as a nurse-midwife in Rusthall, a subsidy being paid by the Borough Council in order that this out-lying district might be supplied with a skilled midwife whose services would be more quickly available than in the past. The subsidy is payable for midwifery services only. The control of midwives in the Borough is vested in the Kent County Council; the Child Welfare work, Ante-Natal work and supervision of Nursing Homes are duties of the Borough Council.

The number of midwives practising in the Tunbridge Wells area during the year was stated by the Kent County Council to be nine; notifications of births were, however, received from 13 practising midwives amongst whom were 7 of the 9 on the list of the Kent County Council.

BOROUGH BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE.

The number of specimens examined in the Borough Laboratory during 1929, viz.:—407, shews a considerable decrease in comparison with the numbers examined in 1928. The nature of the examinations is set out in the following table:—

Specimens examined for presence of Diphtheria				
Bacillus	...	...	...	382
				Positive. Negative.
From Isolation Hospital				
cases	...	...	36	59
From outside sources	...		12	275
Hairs examined for presence				
of Ringworm	...	...	9	9 18
Other specimens examined				7
				—
Total	...	...	...	407
				—

In addition to the above, specimens were examined at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone, as follows :—

			Positive.	Negative.
107 specimens for Tubercle Bacillus			20	87
22 Blood Examinations for Typhoid				
or Para-Typhoid	...		7	15
12 Faeces for ditto	...	...	3	9
38 Swab Examinations for Diph-				
theria	...	...	1	37
4 Virulence tests for Diphtheria	...		—	4
1 Stool for Dysentery	...	...	—	1
			—	—
			31	153
			—	—

Chemical Work.—Chemical analyses of specimens of water, milk, and other forms of food, and drugs, are carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. A. H. Mitchell Muter, of the South London Laboratories. The work done is reviewed under the Food and Drugs Acts.

LEGISLATION.

The Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act of 1890, to which Royal assent was given on 14th August, 1890, is in force.

Parts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12 relate to Public Health, dealing with water supply, sanitary provision of buildings and streets, common lodging-houses, infectious diseases, slaughter-houses and public baths.

The Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.—Of this Act, which was declared to be in force within the Borough on 3rd April, 1911, the following sections have been adopted :—

Part	I.	Sections	1-14.
„	II.	„	17, 21-24, 26-30, 32 and 33.
„	III.	„	34-42, 45, 47-51.
„	IV.	„	52-66, 68.
„	V.	„	69-75.
„	VI.	„	76, 77.
„	X.	„	93 and 95.

By an Order of the Home Secretary, the following additional sections of the above Act were put into force in the Borough during the year 1928 :—

Part	VII.	Sections	80, 81, 83, 85 and 86.
„	VIII.	„	87-90.
„	IX.	„	91.

By reason of the operation of these sections, sections 122 and 291 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, are repealed.

The following parts of the **Public Health Act, 1925**, were adopted and put into force on 1st March, 1926 :—Parts II., III., IV. and V. (with the exception of sections 14, 20, 29, 34 and 35).

Fresh Bye-Laws relating to Slaughter-houses came into force in the Borough in March, 1925. Under these, use of the humane killer for slaughtering all animals is obligatory.

A Bye-Law relating to the Fouling of Footways by Dogs, which came into force for one year from 1st August, 1927, was made permanent as from 1st August, 1928.

In December, 1928, the Town Council passed a resolution deciding to prepare a Town Planning Scheme. The Minister for Health has since notified his approval of this resolution.

The Tunbridge Wells Electricity (Extension) Order, 1928, became operative on 26th February, 1929.

The Tunbridge Wells Corporation Act, 1929, received the Royal Assent on 10th May, 1929.

The Bye-laws with respect to **Nursing Homes** were allowed by the Minister of Health on 10th September, 1929.

Water Supply.—The water supply of Tunbridge Wells is a soft water, drawn from springs issuing from the stratum known to geologists as the Tunbridge Wells Sandstone. The 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 meets the requirements of the Borough. During the remaining portion of the year, artesian borewells, seven 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. From this reservoir the water is pumped to a distributing reservoir at Blackhurst, Pembury, over 500 feet above sea level. Thence it is distributed through the mains by force of gravity to the areas supplied. A certain amount of 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 supply from the underlying Ashdown Sands ; the nearest point at which the Ashdown Sands reach the surface is some miles distant from the borewells. The water enters six open

filter beds at Pembury, having an area of about one acre. An analysis, made by the Borough Analyst, reads as follows :—

Specimen from 15in. Main in Pembury Road.

Chemical Analysis.

<i>Determination.</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	<i>None.</i>
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0010
Oxygen absorbed { in 15 minutes ...	0.0039
{ in 4 hours ...	0.0078
at 80° F.	
Nitric Nitrogen	0.11
Chlorine	2.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride ...	4.1
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 180° C.) ...	24.0
Temporary Hardness	5.12
Permanent Hardness	<i>None.</i>
Appearance in two-foot tube	<i>Colourless and Clear</i>
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron) ...	—

Remarks.

Free Carbon-dioxide	3.90
Carbonate of Soda	7.15
Iron (as Fe)	0.006

The results of both chemical and bacteriological analyses show the water to be remarkably pure and to be a drinking water of excellent quality. Until the dry season of 1921, the sources of water supply already mentioned fully sufficed to meet all needs, not only of the Borough, but of the neighbouring villages of Langton, Speldhurst, Stockland Green, and part of Pembury. Further consideration of the supplies after 1921 has resulted in the selection of a fresh site for boring an artesian well at Saint's Hill, between Fordcombe and Penshurst, the layer to be tapped being the same as at Pembury, viz. :—the Ashdown Sands, but at a point about seven miles distant, on the opposite side of the boundary. The application made to the Ministry of Health for this pur-

pose was sanctioned early in 1926, and this work is now well in hand. The water supply is a constant one and the number of dwelling-houses supplied is 8,899 in the Borough and 543 outside.

Rivers and Streams.—All the water courses in the Borough are small in volume, and periodical inspections have shown them to be in a satisfactory state.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The Borough sewerage drains towards two sewage farms, one at the northern end and the other at the southern end of the town. The North Sewage Farm is 187 acres in extent, and the the South Farm 197 acres. At the South Farm a portion of the sewage is treated by means of percolating bacteria beds. The effluents from both Sewage Farms are frequently analysed and give satisfactory results. Sewage from a portion of the town lying north of Mount Ephraim is dealt with by pumping across to join the sewage which proceeds to the South Farm.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no privies in the Borough. Six pail closets are in use in houses situated in the rural outskirts of the Borough. Seventy-four water closets are connected to properly constructed cesspools, all the rest being connected to the public sewers.

Scavenging.—Refuse, both domestic and trade, is collected and removed in motor vehicles or covered carts once weekly. Trade refuse is collected daily from premises where this is necessary. Covered dustbins are very largely in use and where fixed brick receptacles are found to be defective, efforts, usually successful, are made to abolish them and substitute galvanised iron bins of which 1,216 have been provided in the past three years. Refuse is conveyed to tips situated near High Brooms Brickworks, and at Forest Road Brickworks. Modern motor dust collectors are now largely used in substitution for the antiquated covered carts formerly

in use and which never proved satisfactory from a sanitary point of view.

Disposal of Refuse.—There has been a marked improvement in the condition of the two refuse dumps since the visit of the Ministry of Health's representative in November, 1926. The method adopted at the City of Bradford was studied on the spot by the Corporation's Superintendent of Refuse Disposal, who has since proceeded to carry it out in the best manner in which local conditions here would allow. The layers of refuse are deeper than those recommended in the Bradford Report, but apart from this the method is closely adhered to, with the result that no nuisance now arises at either dump.

Schools.—All schools in the area are supplied with town water, and—with the exception of Rusthall Boys' School, which drains to a cesspool in private grounds—are connected to the public sewers.

There was no closure of schools or classes on account of infectious disease in 1929.

One school was closed for a day owing to total failure of its water supply after severe frost.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.—In 1929 an exhaustive survey of the poorer housing property in the Borough was made by the Medical Officer and Senior Sanitary Inspector. A selection of 238 houses was finally made and these were inspected by a joint Sub-Committee of the Health and Housing Committees appointed for this purpose. Action was taken in accordance with the recommendations made subsequent to these visits.

Attached is the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. T. Taylor, from which it will be seen that 741 dwelling houses were inspected for housing defects. Sixteen were

Inspection of Houses.

The inspection and recording of houses under the Housing Act, 1925, has proceeded systematically throughout the year, detailed inspection being made of 285 houses, of which number 255 were found not to be in all respects in a reasonable state of repair. Notices were served in respect of these 255 houses, and at the end of the year the majority of the defects had been remedied. An outstanding feature was the inspection and scheduling of all the oldest houses in the Borough which were afterwards visited by yourself and later by a special Sub-Committee comprising members of the Health and Housing Committees. Arising out of this, no fewer than 242 houses were inspected and these were scheduled as follows :—

Houses in area for which clearance schemes are to be considered	16
Houses to be considered as being obstructive	7
Houses which are considered to warrant Closing Orders	16
Houses to be further inspected and repairs effected	126
Houses needing no further action at present	73
Action postponed	4
	<hr/>
	242
	<hr/>

Representation in respect of 16 houses considered to be unfit for human habitation was made early in January, and at the time of writing this report, the orders had been made by the Council and notice of same given to the respective owners of the unfit houses. Notice of appeal against the orders has been given in the case of three of the houses.

During the year 1928, representations were made in the case of three houses upon which the owner undertook to close the houses. One house was closed at the end of that year and the remaining two became unoccupied during the year under review and to prevent them again becoming occupied, Closing Orders were made by the Council and notices of same served on the owner.

In addition to the aforementioned, 214 houses were inspected for various reasons such as complaints, notices from builders and infectious cases, while 464 houses were visited

at the request of the Borough Surveyor with a view to improved dustbin accommodation being provided. It will therefore be seen that the total number of houses visited during the year was 1,105. Arising out of these inspections defects numbering 3,257 were remedied, a tabulated statement of which is given hereunder :—

Defects Remedied.

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Houses at which drains were repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspection chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New vent pipes fixed to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
New soil pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Soil and vent pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
New glazed gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Defective bell traps removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Obstructions removed from drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
New W.C.'s constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Defective W.C. pans and traps removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
W.C.'s provided with water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Rain-water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rain-water pipes and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Paving to yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Galvanized dust-bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	348
Ashpits discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Rooms stripped and distempered or re-papered	...	...	...	...	...	...	326
Ceilings cleansed and distempered	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Rooms and bedding cleansed (tenant)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Wall repaired (internally)	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Wall repaired (externally)	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Space under ground floors ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
New sash cords fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	242
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Slaughter houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	452

To obtain the remedying of these defects, 311 informal and 7 formal notices were served respecting 651 houses.

I am convinced that there is a marked improvement in the state of much of the property in the town and also in the manner in which the tenants keep their houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1929.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	97
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(1) By the Local Authority	32
(2) By other bodies or persons	9

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	634
(In addition 364 houses were inspected respecting ashpit accommodation.)	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	285
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	16
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	634
(In addition 356 houses were found to be without proper ashpit accommodation.)	

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	304
---	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C. *Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Representation in three cases made in 1928).	19
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

During the year 159 inspections of factories, workshops and workplaces were made; eleven defects were found to exist all of which were remedied without delay. Bakehouses also received periodical visits, arising out of which it was necessary to call for the limewashing of the walls and ceilings in five instances. On the whole there was an improvement in the manner in which the majority of the bakehouses were kept, but in one or two instances the occupiers are not so observant of the laws of cleanliness as they should be.

The following matters received attention :—

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	7	9
Overcrowding	—	—
Other nuisances	1	2
Sanitary accommodation insufficient ...	—	—
" unsuitable ...	3	5
" not separate for sexes ...	—	—
Breach of bakehouses requirements ...	5	5
	16	21
	==	==

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of visits made to these premises was not so great as in previous years, being 121 compared with 189 in 1928, this being accounted for by the fact that more of my time was taken up in connection with the Housing Survey. On the whole the dairies and milkshops were kept in a satisfactory condition, but in the case of certain farms it was

necessary to keep them under constant supervision to ensure their being kept anywhere near a decent standard. At the end of the year steps were being taken to compel improvements being made at a farm, as the cowshed is so old that extensive repairs are now necessary. I regret that, owing to the lack of means of transport, I was unable to visit the farms at times of milking as often as I should do. To ensure a clean milk supply, it is essential that visits be made during milking times, particularly during the early hours of the morning, and this I find it difficult to do.

One vendor was proceeded against for carrying on the trade of a dairyman and purveyor of milk without having been registered. He was convicted, and fined £2.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

The work under this heading takes up a considerable time of the inspectorate staff, particularly the supervision of slaughterhouses, as these are visited as often as practicable at times of slaughter. A few years ago, only a small percentage of carcasses were inspected at times of slaughter, but now the reverse is the case. The number of slaughter-houses remains the same, viz., five—four being registered, and one licensed.

Two hundred and thirty-eight notices of intention to slaughter were received during the year, these being in addition to the standing notices as to slaughtering taking place on appointed days.

Five hundred and ten visits were paid to slaughter-houses, and 367 visits to other food premises, making a total of 877 visits during the year, compared with 828 for the preceding year. These figures do not include bakehouses, milkshops, etc.

Food weighing 2 tons 11 cwts. 1 qr. 16 lbs. was condemned

and destroyed as being diseased, unsound or unfit for human food, this comprising :—

Beef (home killed) ...	2,085 lbs. of which 2,083 lbs. was tubercular.
Beef offals (home killed) ...	635 " " 504 " " "
Mutton	695
Veal	33
Pork (home killed) ...	147 " " 89 " " "
Pigs' heads (home killed) ...	157 " " 148 " " "
Beasts' livers (home killed) ...	413
Other offals (home killed) ...	467 " " 29 " " "
Imported beef	843
Imported offals	264
Fish	17
Total	5,756

Also 216 jars of meat extract ; 400 tins of sardines ; 120 lbs. of apple-rings ; 108 jars of lemon curd ; 1,064 packets of baking powder.

The major part of the home-killed meat and organs were detected during visits which took place while slaughtering was in progress, which emphasises the advantage of frequently visiting the slaughterhouses.

One magistrate's order for the destruction of certain unsound meat was obtained during the year, but no police court proceedings were instituted.

During the year Mr. W. P. Cave was successful in passing the special examination for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, held by the Royal Sanitary Institute, so that Mr. Cave, Mr. Bettle and myself have now passed this examination.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The work under the Food and Drugs and kindred Acts again received most careful consideration with a view to preventing adulteration of, and the addition of foreign matter to, articles of food and drugs.

Milk, being the easiest adulterated article of food, was the most sampled of any article, the majority of samples being purchased in the streets, and I am glad to say the number of defective samples was below that for the previous year. Nine samples were found to be below the standard laid down

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1929—continued.

Name of Article.	Examined.		Adulterated.		Remarks.
	Formal.	Informal Total.	Formal.	Informal Total.	
Brought forward	63	40	7	4	11
Lard ...	—	3	—	—	—
Coffee ...	—	3	—	—	—
Pepper ...	—	2	—	—	—
Tapioca ...	—	1	—	—	—
Cornflour ...	—	1	—	—	—
Jam ...	—	1	—	—	—
Sweets ...	—	4	—	—	—
Ice Cream ...	—	6	—	—	—
Mincemeat ...	—	2	—	—	—
Camphorated Oil	—	2	—	—	—
Eucalyptus Oil...	—	2	—	—	—
	63	67	7	4	11
		130			

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

During the year several complaints were received as to premises being infested with rats, and in each case advice was given as to best methods that should be used for extermination; and in several instances assistance was rendered, although this is no actual part of my duty under the Act. Notwithstanding the steps that were taken throughout the year, the rats seem to be on the increase, and are not confined to any one part of the town. It has surprised me to receive complaints from the better class districts, where one would expect every step to be taken to destroy the rats without action having to be taken by me. In many cases a vast amount of good could be done if people, in areas found to be infested, would take concerted action, instead of trying to place the blame on each other.

The sewers were well baited with poison baits during the year, as, although many people object to poison, this is the only practicable way of dealing with the rats in sewers.

I would like to express my thanks to you for your ready assistance and co-operation in any matters which I have brought to your notice.

HARRY T. TAYLOR,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A summary follows of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred during each month of the year 1929. One hundred and ninety-four cases were notified during the year, as compared with 205 in 1928.

Notifications of pneumonia increased from 46 to 77, and diphtheria dropped from 45 to 10. Scarlet fever notifications decreased from 80 to 66.

Seasonal Incidence of Acute Infectious Diseases, 1929.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever Group.	Erysip- elas.	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Dysen- tery.	Puer- peral Fever and Pyrexia.	En- cephal- itis Lethar- gica.
January	4	2	—	—	—	—	10	1	—	—
February	—	1	—	2	—	—	20	—	—	—
March	4	—	—	2	—	—	23	—	—	—
April	7	1	—	2	—	—	9	—	2	—
May	11	1	1	6	—	—	1	—	1	—
June	7	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—
July	6	—	7	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
August	4	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
September	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1
October	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	2
November	12	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—
December	5	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Total ...	66	10	8	19	3	1	77	1	6	3

Diphtheria.—The attack rate per thousand population was 0.3. Glancing at the Table appended it is noticed that in the years 1896 to 1900, Diphtheria was prevalent in the Borough; again in the years 1911 to 1915, it was prevalent, though not on so extensive a scale. Arguing from these figures the disease should again be rife in the period 1926 to 1930.

No rise occurred in 1926; in 1927 the number of cases rose from 15 to 42, in 1928 from 42 to 45. In 1929 the number dropped to 10, the lowest recorded since bacteriological tests for the disease were commenced in the Borough Laboratory ten years ago.

The Corporation provides anti-toxin, free of charge, for use by medical practitioners practising in the town. This anti-toxin can be obtained at the Public Health Offices at any hour. Specimens taken from suspicious cases are examined at the Public Health Offices and speedy reports of the examinations are given. Carriers, if found, are treated until the germ of Diphtheria has either disappeared or lost its poisonous

properties. Nine of the 10 patients were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Fatal cases still occur: the dangers attached to this disease should be kept fully in mind by members of the medical profession, and by all who have children in their care. Anti-toxin is ready, free of charge, for immediate use in any suspicious case: it should be given without awaiting bacteriological reports wherever the suspicion of diphtheria is entertained: waiting till the next day may mean the loss of a life.

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	22	7	31.8	0.71	0.18	—
1891	27,984	17	5	29.4	0.57	0.14	—
1892	28,345	27	8	29.6	0.85	0.17	—
1893	28,705	42	10	23.8	1.40	0.31	26.05
1894	29,065	41	6	14.6	1.37	0.17	36.58
1895	29,535	44	8	18.2	1.49	0.27	26.69
1896	29,895	68	15	22.1	2.24	0.46	30.07
1897	30,255	118	11	9.3	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	10	1	10.0	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	0.02	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	34,423	57	4	7.0	1.6	0.20	29.24
1920	35,795	64	3	4.7	1.8	0.08	25.13
1921	34,270	32	1	3.1	0.9	0.03	16.45
1922	34,360	26	0	0.0	0.8	0.00	30.82
1923	34,370	11	1	9.0	0.3	0.03	32.25
1924	34,330	11	1	9.0	0.3	0.03	36.42
1925	34,080	14	1	7.1	0.4	0.03	32.81
1926	34,430	15	1	6.6	0.4	0.03	29.78
1927	33,870	42	1	2.4	1.2	0.03	40.06
1928	34,820	45	0	0.0	1.3	0.00	33.88
1929	35,040	10	3	3.0	0.3	0.09	31.10

* Since 1912, mild cases diagnosed by bacteriological examination are included; prior to that year they were unrecognised as cases of diphtheria. The attack-rate per 1,000 population, before 1912, was calculated without the aid of this method of detecting the presence of diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever.—The type of this disease continued mild and the cases numbered 66, as compared with 80 in 1928. The difficulty of diagnosing mild cases of this disease is well known. The average number of cases per annum in the previous five

years was 48. Fifty-nine of the 66 cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital. The disease was most prevalent in the months of May and November respectively.

Enteric Fever.—Eight cases of Para-Typhoid Fever were notified in 1929; seven of these occurred in one household, the dates of onset being from 10th to 16th July. An exhaustive investigation failed to disclose the source which had infected this household; in the absence of other cases in the Borough or immediate neighbourhood, it remained a mystery.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Three cases were notified, one in September and two in October. Two of these were definite cases, the first proving fatal. The third was a doubtful case, the medical attendant believing it to be one of Encephalitis. A doctor and consultant regarding it as a disease of the central nervous system of the non-infective type. This case, that of an elderly man, proved fatal. There was no traceable connection between the three cases.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—No cases were notified in 1929.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—Six notifications were received, two as Puerperal Fever cases and four as Pyrexia during the puerperium. Of two pyrexias notified in April, one was influenzal, and the other, in which a toxic rash was present, was of a trivial nature, rapidly clearing. One notified as Puerperal Fever turned out to be a case of tuberculous disease of the sacro-iliac joint. The one genuine case of Puerperal Fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital four days after the baby was born: she responded well to treatment and was discharged cured sixteen days later. The last case notified was a slight constitutional disturbance producing pyrexia of a temporary nature. The sixth case was that of a patient from an outlying district in the Maternity Home, who had a slight rise of temperature unassociated with the birth of the child.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Three cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum occurred; two were treated at the Eye and Ear Hospital; in the third, a District Nurse was supplied under the terms of the agreement made between the Nursing Association and the Corporation. All three cases were cured.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Knowledge of these is chiefly obtained through schools in the first instance, and visiting at homes where school cases are notified enables the Health Visitors to discover cases amongst younger children.

An outbreak of Mumps occurred in the autumn of the year, 376 school children being attacked by it. Measles and German Measles were almost absent, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox were less prevalent than in 1928.

Influenza.—Influenza was fairly acute in the spring months and 34 deaths, almost wholly amongst old persons, were attributed to this cause as compared with 12 in 1928 and 37 in 1927.

Epidemic Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—Epidemic Diarrhoea was not at all prevalent; no deaths of infants were registered as being due to diarrhoea and enteritis.

Tuberculosis.—Under **The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924**, it is required that a register be kept of all tuberculous persons in the area, and that it be brought up to date each quarter when a statement of the number on the register is forwarded to the Health Authority of the Administrative County. The number of persons whose names were on the register at the close of the year 1928 was 111 Pulmonary and 50 Non-Pulmonary, and the number at the close of the year 1929, 100 Pulmonary and 47 Non-Pulmonary. The fresh cases and mortality during the year are set out in the accompanying Table.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1929.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
20	5	3	—	—	4	1	—	—
25	5	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Totals ...	13	8	1	4	14	5	1	3

It has not been necessary to take any action under the "Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925," and no action was taken under Section 62 of the "Public Health Act, 1925."

The death rate for the present year, 0.66, is with one exception the lowest rate recorded in 40 years. Undoubtedly this rate should decrease, and conditions which will favour its decrease are (1) Better housing accommodation with free access of light and air and with free use of the means of ventilation ; (2) better economic conditions with more regular employment and less under-nourishment prevailing ; (3) the spread of information upon the health-giving properties of sunlight and air and general teaching of personal hygiene ; (4) greater care on the part of the public to ensure a clean, healthy food supply for themselves.

Deaths from Tuberculosis During the Last 40 Years.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Phthisis.	Phthisis. Death-rate	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Totals.	Tuberculosis Death-rate	Average Tuberculosis Death-rates
1890	28,148	37	1.32	12	49	1.38	1.77
1891	27,984	40	1.43	17	57	2.03	
1892	28,345	30	1.06	18	48	1.69	
1893	28,705	31	1.08	22	53	1.84	
1894	29,065	39	1.34	16	55	1.89	
1895	29,535	34	1.15	30	64	2.16	1.60
1896	29,895	25	0.83	21	46	1.54	
1897	30,255	25	0.82	11	36	1.19	
1898	30,615	21	0.68	20	41	1.35	
1899	30,975	40	1.29	15	55	1.77	
1900	31,335	20	0.63	24	44	0.85	1.24
1901	33,443	35	1.04	15	50	1.49	
1902	33,773	29	0.89	17	46	1.36	
1903	34,073	32	0.93	10	42	1.23	
1904	34,373	36	1.04	8	44	1.28	
1905	34,673	35	1.01	11	46	1.32	1.18
1906	34,973	28	0.80	8	36	1.03	
1907	35,273	35	0.99	8	43	1.22	
1908	35,573	20	0.56	14	34	0.93	
1909	35,873	43	1.19	7	50	1.39	
1910	36,173	28	0.77	11	39	1.08	1.00
1911	35,778	21	0.58	6	27	0.75	
1912	36,038	24	0.66	7	31	0.86	
1913	36,298	32	0.88	14	46	1.26	
1914	36,460	27	0.74	11	38	1.04	
1915	33,430	29	0.87	8	37	1.11	1.23
1916	32,316	28	0.87	12	40	1.24	
1917	30,751	30	0.97	13	43	1.40	
1918	32,297	36	1.11	17	53	1.64	
1919	34,423	29	0.87	10	39	1.16	
1920	35,795	21	0.59	12	33	0.92	0.84
1921	34,270	25	0.73	7	32	0.93	
1922	34,360	21	0.61	11	32	0.93	
1923	34,370	30	0.88	4	34	0.99	
1924	34,330	19	0.55	6	25	0.73	
1925	34,080	17	0.50	4	21	0.62	
1926	34,430	26	0.76	3	29	0.84	
1927	33,870	20	0.59	3	23	0.68	
1928	34,820	20	0.57	6	26	0.75	
1929	35,040	19	0.54	4	23	0.66	

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Schemes.—Arrangements for *treating* tuberculous persons and those suffering from venereal diseases are in the hands of the County Council which has arranged times for consultations at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and at the General Hospital respectively.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.—A valuable addition to the Borough's health equipment was made in the year 1928, in the shape of a Public Cleansing Station. This is situated

in the Corporation Yard buildings behind the Technical Institute and consists of two rooms, one equipped with a bath, boiler and coke stove, while in the other is a steam sack disinfectant in which clothing is sterilized by steam whilst a disinfectant bath is being taken. There is in the same room, a disinfecting chamber in which larger articles, such as mattresses, can be disinfected by the use of formalin or other gas. Disinfection and disinfestation of premises, clothing and bedding is carried out mainly by the caretaker of the Health Offices, and partly by members of the Sanitary Staff. There is also a small disinfectant at the Sanatorium used in connection with fever cases. Bedding is disinfected after enteric fever cases and, on request, after certain cases of cancer.

Washing and boiling of bed linen and personal wear, thorough airing and scrubbing of rooms which have been occupied by infected persons are advised: stripping of wall paper and re-decoration of rooms vacated after prolonged use by sufferers from pulmonary tuberculosis is required.

Small-pox and Chicken-pox are the only diseases readily carried in the clothing: the chief method of spread of infectious diseases is by direct contact with the human carrier, and disinfection of rooms and clothing occupies a less prominent position than it once did. Attention to building up the patient's health, and to abolishing unhealthy conditions of the throat, nose or ears, avoidance of crowding and close atmosphere, do more to diminish the spread of infection than does the fumigation of rooms.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Council has made the following arrangements for administering the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts in the Borough:—

It has purchased and maintains a Centre at 35, Calverley Street. Leases the St. John Ambulance Brigade Room at Rusthall as a subsidiary Centre on Wednesdays. An addi-

tional room has been taken as a waiting room at this latter Centre because the number of attendances has increased since the new houses have been built at Rusthall. The staff employed is as follows:—Miss Rice Oxley devotes four-fifths of her time to Child Welfare duties, Miss Donaldson two-fifths and Miss Maclaren two-fifths. Many voluntary helpers assist on consultation days at the Centres; in Rusthall, these voluntary helpers are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade; at the main Centre, there are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and others.

Dr. Margaret Emslie attends once a month at Calverley Street for ante-natal consultations. Dr. Cecil Horder is employed to see any orthopaedic cases referred to him from the Centre and arrangements have been made with the General Hospital whereby treatment is obtained for such cases under his direction, and payment is made to the Hospital for such treatment. Mr. Fox, School Dental Surgeon, sees children under school age and expectant mothers at the School Clinic once a month, these being referred to him by myself, as I act as Medical Officer to the Centres on the two chief consultation days, viz.:—Thursday at Calverley Street, and Wednesday at Rusthall, or by Dr. Emslie from the ante-natal clinic meetings.

The attendance figures at the Centres during 1928 are as follows:—

	Rusthall.	Tunbridge Wells.
Infants under 1 year ...	168	1,619
Children 1 to 5 years ...	538	1,099
Expectant Mothers ...	24	71
Mothers	546	2,492
Dr. Emslie's Clinics ...	—	107

Total consultations with Medical Officer, 1,325 (excluding all ante-natal and orthopaedic consultations).

In the autumn a competitive examination on mothercraft was held, the subjects for competition being sewing of baby garments, cutting down clothing to fit small children, the making of toys, and a series of questions on mothercraft. A considerable number of fathers enter for the toy-making competition, producing better work than has been exhibited at any previous exhibition.

At the prize-giving ceremony, which took place in the Town Hall under the Chairmanship of His Worship the Mayor, the prizes were distributed by the Mayoress.

The visits paid by the nursing staff during the year were as follows :—

First visit to infants	...	...	...	404
Subsequent visits to infants	...	...	...	2,333
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	4,729
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	193
Visits where infants have died	...	...	...	21
Visits—found no one at home	...	...	...	359

A Sub-Committee of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee met each Monday morning at the Public Health Office in order to deal with applications for assistance under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders. Orders for 4,121 pints of fresh milk were granted. There were also issued free of cost :—12 lbs. dried milk, 59 lbs. cod liver oil and malt, 30 tins of Ovaltine, 75 pots of Virol, 23 pots Radio-Malt and small quantities of some other foods or drugs. The Medical Officer also issued 54 certificates for milk to be supplied through the Guardians.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE :

Mr. Councillor BURSLEM (Chairman).

Mr. Alderman SILCOCK.	Mr. Councillor STRANGE.
Mr. Alderman WESLEY SMITH.	The Rev. Canon A. W. OLIVER,
Councillor Miss BAKER.	M.A.
Mr. Councillor BOOTES.	The Rev. T. G. GILLING-LAX,
Mr. Councillor HARGREAVES.	M.A.
Mr. Councillor MCGILL.	The Rev. I. MALDWYN JONES, B.A.
Mr. Councillor OATEN.	Miss HAZLEWOOD.
Mr. Councillor PHILLIPS.	Miss MAUD ROBERTS.
Councillor Miss POWER.	Mr. J. A. PUNTON SMITH, M.B.E.
Mr. Councillor SAUNDERS.	Mr. C. A. PRESTON, M.A.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT :

Clerk (*part time*) :

F. HICKS.

Junior Clerk (*part time*) :

Miss C. CORDEROY (Resigned 31.5.29).

Miss D. SHARPE (Appointed 1.6.29).

School Nurses :

Miss E. A. MEAKINS.
(*four-fifths time*).

Miss J. DONALDSON.
(*two-fifths time*).

Miss M. MACLAREN.
(*two-fifths time*).

School Dental Surgeon :

T. F. FOX, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

CECIL A. HORDER, M.A., M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.

Aural Surgeon :

J. WALKER WOOD, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

D. DAVIES, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant to School Medical Officer (*part time*):

C. ELLIOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

School Medical Officer :

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

Report to the Education Committee

BY

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

School Medical Officer.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report upon the work of the School Medical Department during the year 1929 ; it is the sixteenth report since I commenced duty as your School Medical Officer.

On December 31st, 1929, there were within the area of the Borough no provided schools and 18 non-provided schools, including 22 departments, with recognised accommodation for 4,209 children. The average attendance during the year was 2,857, a hundred less than in 1928.

With regard to the Open-Air School, a suitable site has been obtained at Rusthall. Plans have been submitted to the Board of Education and are awaiting final approval after some small modification.

An experiment in dust prevention was tried in two of the schools, their floors being treated with an oil preparation which soaks into the woodwork. This has proved successful, and the Head Teacher of one of the schools informed me that this was the first winter in which he had not suffered from sore throat. The dust-allaying properties of this preparation seem excellent, and you have now approved the extension of this treatment to all the schools.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. LINTON.

1. STAFF.

On the first page of this Report are set out the names of the Staff. These remain as before, with one exception, viz. the appointment of Miss D. Sharpe, on 1st June, 1929, as Junior Clerk in place of Miss C. Corderoy, resigned.

Dr. Christopher Elliott was again appointed to assist in the work of routine medical inspections, his duties being limited to inspecting not more than one thousand children.

2. CO-ORDINATION.

(a) **Infant and Child Welfare.**—Two of the School Nurses also act as Maternity and Child Welfare Nurses; the School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres; satisfactory co-ordination of the work is thus achieved.

(b) **Nursery Schools.**—There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

(c) **The Care of Debilitated Children under School Age.**—Debilitated children under school age were assisted under the Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Rescission Order, 1921, either by supplying Milk or supplying Cod Liver Oil and Malt, free, or at cost price, according to circumstances; also by giving certificates for relief from the Guardians where, on medical grounds, additional nourishment was required: 54 such certificates were given by me during the year.

When a child, either of school age or under, is found by the Corporation Medical Staff to require a change of air, suitable arrangements are made in one of the following ways:—(i.) The parents may be able to take the child to the seaside, or to send him to relatives at the seaside or in the country. (ii.) Where such facilities do not exist the case is referred to the Local Invalid Children's Aid Association,

which makes the necessary arrangements with Convalescent Homes. A change of air has thus been obtained in every case in which it was recommended.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

3. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Some unsuitable buildings from the hygienic standpoint are still in use as schools, but these will shortly be disused in favour of a larger and more modern building for senior boys. Careful note will be taken of the lighting, ventilating, heating and cloak-room accommodation of the new building, so that their construction may conform to modern requirements.

4. MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Three age groups were inspected, viz. :—Entrants, Intermediates (8 to 9 years of age) and Leavers (12 years of age and upwards). The total number of Routine Inspections was 1,089. (See Table I. at end of Report.) In addition, 337 children were medically re-inspected in the schools. At the School Medical Centre, 1,488 special inspections and 610 re-inspections took place. The total number of inspections was therefore 3,524 (previous year 3,481).

The Board's Schedule of Medical Inspection was closely followed.

School inspections were held in the afternoons, arrangements being made for the inspection of 25 children at each session. The parents are invariably notified before an inspection and their presence is requested.

5. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) **Uncleanliness.**—Eight thousand, six hundred and sixty-seven heads were inspected in 1929, and of these only 2.2 per cent. shewed the presence of infestation with vermin or their eggs. This percentage compares very favourably with 14.7 per cent. in 1922, and is the lowest percentage yet recorded. These good results are chiefly due to the excellent work of the School Nurses ; they are also due to the efforts of many of the Head Teachers and to the spread of knowledge of what cleanliness means to health, amongst the school children themselves, and their parents. The total number of inspections for the presence of vermin was 8,840 ; of this total, 47 were re-inspections in school and 126 re-inspections made at the School Medical Centre. The Nurses themselves treated at the Centre 22 cases in which the parents for one reason or another found difficulty in clearing the children's heads from nits. Another factor which has tended to reduce the percentage of uncleanliness is the short hair fashion in vogue amongst the senior girls. This enables the hair to be much more easily kept free from infestation and to be cleared rapidly should it occur.

The following Table records the work done by the School Nurses at the routine head inspections, and the conditions found, as compared with the years 1928 and 1922, the year in which a vigorous campaign was started.

INSPECTIONS OF HEADS FOR YEAR 1929.

SCHOOL.	No. of Heads inspected.	No. in whom Nits only were found.	No. in whom Vermin found (head or body).	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1929.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1928.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1922.
St. James', Boys ...	444	—	—	0.0	0.0	5.2
" Girls ...	349	7	1	2.3	3.07	8.6
" Infants ...	501	4	—	0.8	0.51	5.8
St. Barnabas', Jun. M'd	693	9	—	1.3	3.1	—
" Infants ...	383	11	—	2.9	3.3	14.4
St. John's Jun. Mixed	577	9	7	2.8	2.3	—
Down Lane ...	292	5	1	2.1	3.1	8.9
St. Luke's ...	294	13	11	8.2	7.0	20.6
St. Augustine's ...	316	10	1	3.5	5.4	31.3
Grosvenor ...	380	1	—	0.3	0.0	7.7
Royal Victoria ...	329	4	—	1.2	1.5	4.7
Basinghall ...	375	7	2	2.4	2.5	15.6
Holy Trinity ...	240	16	3	7.9	6.8	24.9
St. Peter's, Jun. Mixed	422	9	4	3.1	3.1	—
" Infants ...	216	13	2	7.0	6.3	28.8
Rusthall, Boys ...	567	8	2	1.8	1.1	10.9
" Girls ...	500	10	7	3.4	5.6	28.0
" Infants ...	417	9	3	2.9	3.3	13.8
Murray House ...	297	—	—	0.0	0.8	4.7
King Charles' ...	359	—	—	0.0	0.0	1.3
Christ Church ...	487	3	2	1.0	2.4	34.2
St. Mark's, Jun. Mixed	188	—	1	0.5	2.5	19.3
Delicate Class ...	41	—	—	0.0	0.0	—
TOTALS ...	8,667	148	47	2.2	2.7	14.7

Every effort is made to advise and aid parents in getting children cleared of the trouble as soon as it is found. It was not found necessary to resort to prosecution in any case during 1929.

(b) **Minor Ailments.**—Under this heading, which includes cuts, abrasions, (e) skin disease and (f) external eye disease, 421 cases were seen during the year; of these, 159 were cases of skin disease and 55 were cases of external eye disease.

(c) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Four hundred and fifteen children were noted as having enlarged tonsils; 20 others

had adenoid growths, and 170 had enlargement of tonsils and adenoids, while 36 suffered from other conditions of the nose and throat. These large figures point to the continuance of unhealthy factors in the lives of the children tending to produce re-action and overgrowth of tissues normally small, in an attempt to deal with attacking poisons. I am of opinion that more fresh air and less dust both in the homes and in the school buildings, will go far towards diminishing the overgrowth of tissue in the breathing passages, though much of it is doubtless due to our moist climate, coupled with our use of dust-producing open coal fires for domestic heating. It is possible the dust-allaying floor treatment of the school buildings may result in benefit in the near future.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**—Five cases of tuberculosis were found amongst the children inspected, and of these one was a case of tuberculosis of the lungs. No suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were seen.

(g) **Vision.**—Ninety-eight cases of defective vision and 21 cases of squint were detected, all being referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for the necessary treatment.

(h) **Ear Disease and Hearing.**—Defective hearing was noted in 12 cases, disease of the middle ear in 42, and other diseases in 27 cases. These cases were referred to Dr. Walker Wood, the Aural Surgeon, who attended once each month at the School Clinic to see children referred to him.

(i) **Dental Defects.**—Six hundred and seventy-four children were noted to be suffering from dental diseases. A few of the most urgent of these were referred directly to the School Dental Surgeon, most of whose patients are selected by himself at the School Dental Inspections for treatment. Others were advised to have dental treatment elsewhere, facilities for such treatment being explained to the parents. At Routine Medical Inspections 610 out of 1,089 children inspected had defective teeth, a percentage of 56.

(j) **Crippling Defects.**—Twenty-seven children were found to be suffering from crippling defects. At the end of the year one of these was being educated at a Certified Residential School and 22 attended ordinary schools. One attended Tonbridge Special School and 3 were at no school or institution.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The accompanying Table records the incidence of various infectious diseases amongst school children during the year :—

Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Diphtheria.		German Measles.		Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Chicken Pox.		Mumps.	
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
12	16	—	—	—	3	11	5	2	2	45	58	58	56	206	170

Two school children died from Diphtheria during the year ; apart from an outbreak of Mumps, infectious diseases were not prevalent.

Action taken under 53 (b) of the Code.—Fourteen hundred and eight notices were sent from this department to the Head Teachers of schools, excluding children under Article 53 (b) and an equal number of freeing notices were sent in due course.

7. FOLLOWING UP.

The following up of children is undertaken chiefly by the home visits of School Nurses : also at the School Clinic, where children frequently come for re-inspection by the Medical Officer. The School Nurses' work in 1929 included the following :—

Visits to Houses where the following Diseases have occurred.	1st Visits.	2nd Visits.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	5	—	5
Diphtheria	2	5	7
Measles	3	4	7
German Measles	21	23	44
Mumps	342	347	689
Whooping Cough	65	129	194
Chicken Pox	118	176	294
Sore Throat	17	1	18
Ringworm (scalp)	1	10	11
" (body)	1	—	1
Verminous Heads	36	14	50
Verminous Bodies	—	—	—
Impetigo Contagiosa	22	12	34
Scabies	8	10	18
Infectious Eye Disease	9	6	15
Other Diseases	36	156	192
Totals	686	893	1,579

Visits paid to Elementary Schools for Medical Inspections	51
Number of Children prepared for Medical Inspections and Re-inspections	1,426
Number of Children prepared for Dental Inspection ...	1,730
Visits paid to Elementary Schools for Dental Inspections ...	24
Other Visits to Elementary Schools for Head Inspections ...	71
Other Visits to Elementary Schools	193
Home Visits arising out of Medical Inspections and for other information	2,572
Cultures taken	32
Number of Heads Inspected	8,840
" " found with Nits only	180
" " " " Vermin	51
Number of Children found with Body Vermin	0

8. MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) **Minor Ailments.**—Two hundred and forty-six cases of minor ailments amongst school children were treated during 1929 ; of these 228 were treated at the School Medical Centre, making 2,502 attendances ; the remaining 18 were treated elsewhere.

(b) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Two hundred and six children suffering from enlarged tonsils or adenoid growths or both, received operative treatment ; 166 of these operations were performed under the Local Education Authority's arrangements with the hospitals. The average sum paid for these operations by the parents was five shillings an

ninepence. The total number recommended for treatment was 308 ; 69 per cent. were actually treated, 206 by operation and five by other forms of treatment.

I am of opinion that the large number of children who now have their noses and throats freed from unhealthy conditions is a valuable factor in reducing the incidence of infectious disease. It is also bound to diminish the number and severity of catarrhal infections which sweep through the schools during the wetter months.

(c) **Tuberculosis.**—All suspected or definite cases of this disease are referred for medical treatment—mostly to the Tuberculosis Officer ; they are also carefully followed up to see that all obtain treatment. The number of cases was five.

(d) **Skin Disease.**—One hundred and fifty-nine cases of disease of the skin were found at Routine and Special Inspections as compared with 128 in 1928, 100 in 1927, 104 in 1926, and 103 in 1925. One hundred and forty-five of these were classed as requiring treatment, 105 being treated at the Clinic and six being known to have had treatment elsewhere.

(e) **External Eye Disease.**—Fifty-five cases as compared with 31 in 1928 and 21 in 1927 were detected, and of the 45 recommended treatment 30 were treated at the School Clinic.

(f) **Vision.**—Ninety-eight defects of vision and 21 cases of squint were found in the course of inspections. One hundred and thirteen of these were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon, from whom they received suitable treatment. At the School Clinic 608 attendances were made to see Dr. Davies ; in addition 302 attendances were made for atropine and other treatment for the eyes. Two children had operations at the Eye and Ear Hospital for squint.

(g) **Ear Disease and Hearing.**—All cases were referred to Dr. Walker Wood, who is in attendance at the School Clinic on the first Monday in each month. Urgent cases

were sent to see him at the Eye and Ear Hospital with a personal note. Minor defects, such as wax in the ear and eczema of the external channel, were treated at the School Clinic. One hundred and sixty attendances were made at the School Clinic to see Dr. Walker Wood, and six hundred and sixty-one attendances were made for treatment.

Appended is a report of the work done by the Aural Surgeon :—

REPORT OF AURAL SURGEON.

Total number of cases examined, 170.

Ear.

Sixty-one children were referred to me on account of deafness or other aural defects. This is an increase of eight over last year and does not include cases of simple "ear-ache" due to adenoids or cases of acute middle-ear trouble in school children treated at the Eye and Ear Hospital by operation.

The following is a tabulated list of cases treated :—

Discharging ears	25
Residua of old Tympani	5
External otitis	4
Eczema of meatus	2
Attic disease with polypus	1
Mastoid operation	1
Catarrhal Deafness (Earache, Deafness, etc.)	10
Eustachian obstruction	5
Cerumen	4
Acute Otitis Media	2
Eczema Auris	1
Furuncle of Meatus	1
	— 61

Nose.

Chronic rhinitis	9
Hypertrophic rhinitis	3
Nasal obstruction. Septum	2
Spine	1
Other causes	1
Epistaxis	1
	— 17

Throat.

Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	78
Adenoids only	...	...	...	10
				— 88

Various.

Adenitis. Glands of neck	...	...	3
Asthma	...	...	1
			— 4

 170

Refusal of treatment or operation, 4.

(h) **Dental Defects.**—The School Dental Surgeon devoted 24 half-days to inspections in the schools, and 134 half-days to treatment at the Centre. The total number of children inspected was 1,730, of whom 1,524, or 88 per cent., were found to require treatment. Eight hundred and thirteen were actually treated, making 1,699 attendances as compared with 808 treated the previous year. It is still difficult to persuade some parents whose children are not actually suffering from toothache that commencing decay needs attention, but the number of such parents has somewhat diminished; the percentage attending for treatment when notified was 53 in 1929, as compared with 50 in 1928. Fees charged for treatment at the Clinic are one shilling for gas administration and sixpence per child treated. The aim of the Dental Surgeon's work is to save teeth wherever possible, thus according with the aim of the Board of Education.

The details of the Dental Surgeon's work are given in Table IV., Group IV.

(i) **Crippling Defects and Orthopaedics.**—The Orthopaedic Clinic established on 1st April, 1928, continued throughout 1929. Owing to the General Hospital changing its Orthopaedic Surgeon, it was found most convenient to hold Dr. Horder's Clinic at the School Medical Centre, transferring the treatment

cards subsequently to the Hospital so that Dr. Horder could supervise the treatment carried out there. Fifteen children were treated under the Local Education Authority's scheme, five from the Child Welfare Centre, and ten school children. One of these children received treatment as an in-patient of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital for sixteen weeks and three days.

REPORT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON.

In the year 1929, thirty-two children attended the Orthopaedic Clinic. The total number of attendances was 92.

The 32 cases were as follows :—

Spinal Curvature	...	...	...	11 cases.
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	10 „
Rickets	...	...	...	4 „
Birth Injuries	...	...	...	2 „
Postural Deformities	...	...	...	2 „
General Muscular weakness	...	...	...	1 „
Congenital Club Foot	...	...	...	1 „
Flat feet	...	...	...	1 „

The cases of curvature of the spine were examined to watch their progress under Miss Russell, who gives them remedial exercises at the General Hospital. Steady improvement was noted in all cases.

Children with infantile paralysis were kept under observation ; operative interference advised where necessary ; and their irons were examined to ensure that they were adequate, and, if found necessary, the Royal Surgical Aid Society was asked to help in obtaining new ones. All these cases are having massage and electrical treatment at the General Hospital under the care of Miss Bradshaw. In the winter months most of them receive ultra-violet ray treatment. No fresh cases of paralysis from this cause were seen.

Of the four cases of deformities due to rickets, three were

cured by medicinal and dietetic treatment ; the fourth had to have an operation to correct bony deformity.

The number of out-patient attendances at the hospital for treatment recommended by the Orthopaedic Surgeon was as follows :—

		<i>Massage.</i>	<i>Electro-Massage.</i>	<i>Remedial Exercises.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
During quarter					
ended March	...	31	22	78	131
June	...	46	—	88	134
September		23	24	97	144
December		23	41	134	198
		—	—	—	—
		123	87	397	607
		==	==	==	==

Two crippled children were in residential institutions at the end of the year. Both of these, one boy and one girl, were receiving education and treatment at the Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey, Sussex.

9. OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

Pending the completion of the arrangements for the provision of an Open-Air School—referred to in the preface to this Report—Miss Tritton and her friends have continued to provide voluntarily for the instruction and care of a few of the more delicate amongst the school population ; these were under the tuition of Miss Wilson. Through the kindness of Mrs. Duncanson, the class met in “Bredbury,” Mount Ephraim, and was held daily from 10 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. Thirty-three children attended during the year—six throughout the whole year—and the remainder for a session or longer. All benefited in health, giving some indication of the extent of the improvement in this respect which it is anticipated true open-air conditions will bring about.

10. PHYSICAL TRAINING.

There is no specially appointed Director of Physical Training in Tunbridge Wells, and it is left to the Head Teachers to organise this branch of education to the best of their ability. So far, owing to the lack of any organised physical training arrangements, the work has not been closely associated with the School Medical Service. In every case in which a child's health is such as to impede or prevent his undertaking drill or severe physical exercises, notice to this effect is given to the Head Teacher at the time of inspection.

11. PROVISION OF MEALS.

No action was taken by the Education Authority in this respect, but suitable extra nourishment is provided in cases of malnutrition by supplying milk in school or by other methods; payment for the nourishment provided is made either from funds at the disposal of the Managers' Committee, or from a voluntary fund raised by the School Medical Staff. It has always been found possible to obtain the additional nourishment by one or other means when required.

12. SCHOOL BATHS.

The following are the arrangements made by the Baths Committee for School Children at the Tunbridge Wells Corporation Baths and at the Open-Air Baths during the summer months:—

Open-Air and Indoor Swimming Baths.—The Baths Committee of the Town Council have arranged to admit scholars from the Elementary Schools in the Borough when in charge of a teacher and bringing their own towels, free of charge to the Baths; the accompanying teacher is also admitted free of charge. For these privileges the Education Committee pays the Baths Committee a sum of ten shillings per week for the services of a swimming instructor and a payment of a half-penny in respect of each scholar admitted

to the Open-Air Bath during school hours, and a sum of one penny for each scholar admitted to the Indoor Bath during school hours, on any week day save Monday. The Open-Air Swimming Bath was temporarily not available in 1929. The number of attendances at the Indoor Bath was 13,802.

Tests are made, and elementary and proficiency certificates are given to scholars who pass the necessary tests to the satisfaction of the Baths Superintendent.

During 1929, 49 boys and 33 girls obtained the Elementary Certificate, and 23 boys and 11 girls the Proficiency Certificate.

13. CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Postcards are prepared in the Health Offices and are sent to the Head Teacher prior to the holding of a Medical Inspection, for address and distribution to the parents, requesting their attendance. The percentage of parents attending at the inspections was as follows:—86 per cent. (88 per cent. in 1928), attended at the inspection of infants; 61 per cent. (60 per cent. in 1928) at the inspection of senior boys; and 75 per cent. (73 per cent. in 1928) at the inspection of senior girls.

14. CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

(i.) MEDICAL INSPECTION.—The Head Teacher is present at Medical Inspections and is informed of all cases in which special care is required on account of the child's physical condition. The Head Teachers have evinced in many ways a keen interest in the health of the pupils committed to their charge and have co-operated accordingly with the School Medical Staff in endeavours to keep the general standard of health at a high level.

(ii.) FOLLOWING-UP.—The Head Teachers keep in touch with the School Nurses and frequently add their advice and

counsel to the parents in the matter of obtaining treatment where defects call for it.

(iii.) **MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE CHILDREN.**—The Head Teachers are all informed of the advisability of sending any child who appears to be below his usual state of health to the School Medical Centre in cases where the child is not already receiving private medical attention. The power to send children to the Centre is vested in the School Medical Staff, Head Teachers, School Attendance Officer or parents. In order to facilitate the recording of school attendances a card is issued to allow of the time spent at the medical treatment centre to be recorded for school attendance purposes. This arrangement is much appreciated by the teachers, as it dispenses with loss of attendance marks on such occasion.

15. CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER.

The School Attendance Officer whose office is situated at the Town Hall, keeps in constant touch with the School Medical Department and co-operation is cordial and complete.

16. CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

(i.) No call is made upon voluntary bodies in connection with the work of medical inspection.

(ii.) In following-up mentally defective children, the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare does useful work. The Occupation Centre established by the Association, met at the Belgrave Rooms, Goods Station Road, throughout the year on four days weekly from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Children of the imbecile class and a few low-grade feeble-minded children are taught some handwork and otherwise occupied there.

The following report from the Secretary records the year's work done by the Association :—

KENT VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL WELFARE.

REPORT ON WORK FOR THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS EDUCATION COMMITTEE CARRIED OUT FOR MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN DURING THE YEAR 1929.

The total number of children of school age under the supervision of the Association on January 1st, 1929, was 23. During the year one new case has been received from the School Medical Officer, and two cases were reported as ascertainments for examination, bringing the total to 26.

Of these cases the details are as follows :—

1. DISPOSALS.

Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Statutory Supervision	... ..	1
Transferred to County M.D. Committee, placed at Easry Poor Law Institution	... ..	1
Taken off list, no further visits necessary	... ..	1
		— 3

2. SUPERVISED FOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

(a) Under 16 years of age :—

Attending Elementary School	... ..	8
Attending Tonbridge Special School	... ..	9
Attending no School	... ..	4

(Of those attending no school, one has irregular employment, one is living at home, a great burden to his widowed mother, and one is a complete invalid). —21

(b) Over 16 years of age, at present supervised for Education Committee 2

(Both of these cases are in employment ; the boy at a garage and the girl in domestic service). — 2

26

=

Total number of children of school age under the supervision of the Association, December 31st,							
1929	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Reports and Visits.

Twenty-four reports have been rendered during the current year, including 21 Annual Reports, three Special Reports with recommendations that the cases should be notified to the County Mental Deficiency Committee for Friendly or Statutory Supervision ; and, in addition, numerous reports in letter form.

Visits by Members of the Staff and Voluntary Visitors.

Forty-five visits to the homes of the children and ten interviews with School Masters and Mistresses, when the children have also been seen, have been paid by members of the Staff, and approximately 25 home visits by voluntary visitors.

After Care.

The Association has continued to keep in touch with those cases either under or over 16 who are not attending any school and is glad to be able to report that two of the number are in regular employment, the lad appears to be giving satisfaction in his work at a local garage, he can be relied upon to clean cars and to repair tyres. The girl has been for nine months in a situation as between maid and is reported to be a willing, though slow, worker. In both cases a small wage only is paid but it has been pointed out to the parents that it is wise to accept this as regular employment is so very essential.

The Occupation Centre continues to be held at the Belgrave Rooms on four mornings a week and a regular average attendance of ten is made.

Guardianship Scheme.

The work in connection with the Guardianship Scheme has developed considerably during the past year. Some

difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable Guardians, the chief reason for this being that, owing to lack of institutional accommodation, many of the cases referred for Guardianship are of a very unsuitable type. It has been necessary to refuse to accept a certain number but of the 39 now placed, satisfactory progress can be reported.

It will be of interest to your Committee to know that the two cases from the Borough who have been placed under this Scheme are both doing well. The lad has been home for a holiday during the summer, and was able to pay his fare and have some money to spend as he had worked on several occasions for a local farmer. The girl has also been home for a holiday and she is happy with her Guardian and attends one of the Association's Occupation Centres regularly.

(iii.) The local branch of the Invalid Children's Aid Association is appealed to when it is desired to get a child to a Convalescent Home, and the arrangements are made by the Secretary of the I.C.A. This has been of great help in the medical treatment of invalid children, and I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging indebtedness to the Society for this work. Fifty-two children were assisted in 1929, of these fifteen were sent to Convalescent Homes, etc., twenty-one were given nourishment at their homes or in school, and eight were helped in purchasing glasses, etc. The Surgical Aid Society provides letters—each of the value of five shillings—in cases where glasses have been recommended to children whose parents have been found on investigation to require such assistance. In 12 out of 77 cases assistance was given in 1929.

17. BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

These children are brought to notice through the Health Visitors and School Teachers and also through the Maternity

and Child Welfare Centres. No special schools for such children exist in the Tunbridge Wells area, but under arrangements made by the Education Committee the following children have been dealt with.

(a) BLIND.—One boy and one girl inmates of certified schools for the blind at Brighton. Two other children who are suffering from marked short-sightedness are attending ordinary Elementary Schools.

(b) DEAF.—Three children who are too deaf to benefit from ordinary Elementary School training are inmates of certified schools for the deaf, two in Brighton and one in Margate.

There are also four partially deaf children attending ordinary school all of whom have been or are under the care of your Aural Surgeon.

(c) MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.—Seven examinations of fresh children presented for mental defects were made during 1929, the children being classed as follows:—One dull or backward who was also Epileptic; one classed as an Epileptic of severe type and unfit to attend school; three feeble-minded within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Acts; one query Moral Defective (this case is being kept under observation for further evidence); and one child, five years of age, was mentally defective but too young to answer tests.

One boy, certified as feeble-minded, was, on 31st December, 1929, resident in an institution for training the mentally deficient, the Local Education Authority being responsible for his maintenance.

The arrangements for sending feeble-minded children to the Tonbridge Special School as daily pupils, begun in the autumn of 1925, proved satisfactory, and twelve places were taken for Tunbridge Wells children in 1929. The 'bus takes

the children daily to and from the school door, a distance of four and a half miles from Tunbridge Wells.

Besides the 12 feeble-minded children attending the Special School, nine such children are attending ordinary school in Tunbridge Wells, while one girl and one boy are at no school or institution.

(*d*) **EPILEPTIC.**—One severe case, a girl, is not at school. In addition six cases of epilepsy, none severe, are attending the Public Elementary Schools.

(*e*) **PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.**—Under this heading, at the end of the year were classed 121 children (see Table III.). Of these 92 were attending Public Elementary Schools. Under the Local Education Authority's arrangements, one was being educated at the Certified Residential School at Chailey, Sussex; of four children who suffered from Tuberculosis, one attended school, one was in an institution, and two were at no school. Twenty children were attending the open-air class held in "Bredbury," and five other physically defective children were not attending any school or institution.

18. NURSERY : 19. SECONDARY : AND 20. CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough and the arrangements for Medical Service in the Secondary and Continuation Schools are undertaken by the County Council.

21. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Employment of Elementary School children is not of considerable extent and takes the shape of doing paper rounds, occasionally errand rounds on Saturdays, and acting as houseboys in a few instances. During 1929, 70 certificates were granted to fresh children.

The physical condition of the children applying for employment has been good, and in only five instances has a certificate been refused on medical grounds to applicants.

22. STATISTICAL TABLES.

The four Statistical Tables required by the Board of Education are appended, and these give detailed information of the work done in the various branches of the School Medical Service.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. LINTON.

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring Treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring Treatment	Requiring Treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring Treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	35	22	17	—
Uncleanliness : (See Table IV., Group V.)	—	—	—	—
Skin—				
Ringworm—Scalp	1	—	1	—
Body	—	—	7	—
Scabies	—	—	5	—
Impetigo	1	3	64	1
Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	—	7	67	3
Eye—				
Blepharitis	—	2	20	2
Conjunctivitis	—	1	16	—
Keratitis	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities	—	—	1	—
Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	90	2	6	—
Squint	10	3	7	1
Other Conditions	1	5	7	—
Ear—				
Defective Hearing	1	4	7	—
Otitis Media	3	15	24	—
Other Ear Diseases	23	—	2	2
Nose and Throat—				
Enlarged Tonsils only	104	238	35	38
Adenoids only	5	5	10	—
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	97	37	35	1
Other Conditions	1	5	21	9
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)	—	300	15	3
Defective Speech	—	1	—	3
Teeth—Dental Diseases	98	512	62	2
(See Table IV., Group IV.)				
Heart and Circulation—				
Heart Disease—Organic	1	3	—	6
Functional	—	26	—	2
Anæmia	—	8	4	—
Lungs—				
Bronchitis	—	4	5	—
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	—	4	3	—
Tuberculosis—				
Pulmonary—Definite	—	—	1	—
Suspected	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary—Glands	—	1	2	—
Spine	—	—	—	—
Hip	—	—	—	—
Other Bones and Joints	—	1	—	—
Skin	—	—	—	—
Other Forms	—	—	—	—
Nervous System—				
Epilepsy	—	3	1	—
Chorea	—	3	9	1
Other Conditions	—	7	8	4
Deformities—				
Rickets	—	8	—	—
Spinal Curvature	5	4	2	—
Other Forms	2	6	2	—
Other Defects and Diseases	9	30	154	14

TABLE II.—continued.

B.—NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES)

GROUP. (1)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		
	Inspected. (2)	Found to require Treatment. (3)	Percentage of Children found to require Treatment. (4)
CODE GROUPS:—			
Entrants	409	147	36.0
Intermediates	350	121	34.6
Leavers	241	72	30.0
Total (Code Groups)	1000	340	34.0
Other Routine Inspections	89	36	40.0

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

—	—	—	Boys	Girls	Total.
BLIND (including partially blind)	(i.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	1	1	2
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	—	—	—
	(ii.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
DEAF (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf).	(i.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	2	1	3
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	—	—	—
	(ii.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	3	4
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	8	5	13
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	5	9
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	1	1	2
		Feeble-minded	—	—	—
	Notified to the Local Control Authority <i>during the year.</i>	Imbeciles	—	—	—
		Idiots	—	—	—
		...	—	—	—

TABLE III.—continued.

			Boys	Girls	Total
EPILEPTICS.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics ...	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	1	1
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	4	2	6
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	1	1
	Delicate children (<i>e.g.</i> , pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, etc.).	At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	29	40	69
		At other Institutions ...	12	9	21
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	1	1
		At other Institutions ...	1	—	1
		At no School or Institution ...	1	—	1
	Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), <i>e.g.</i> , children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	1	—	1
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	8	14	22
		At other Institutions ...	—	1*	1
		At no School or Institution ...	2	1	3

* Also included in Feeble-minded class, attending Special School for mentally defectives.

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V.)

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total (4)
<i>Skin—</i>			
Ringworm-Scalp	4	—	4
Ringworm-Body	5	—	5
Scabies	6	—	6
Impetigo	53	—	53
Other skin disease	37	6	43
Minor Eye Defects—	30	4	34
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)			
Minor Ear Defects	5	2	7
Miscellaneous	88	6	94
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)			
Total	228	18	246

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or Disease. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	203	—	—	203
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	85	—	—	85
Total	288	—	—	288

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... 85

(b) Otherwise ... 85

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... 89

(b) Otherwise ... 77

Total ... 12

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				
	Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated. (5)
	Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total. (3)	
166		40	206	211

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.				
(1) Number of Children who were :—	(2) Half-days devoted to :—			
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :	Inspection ...	...	...	24
	Treatment ...	...	...	134
	Total	...	...	158
Routine Age Groups—5	...	...	...	178
6	...	...	...	192
7	...	...	...	209
8	...	...	...	224
9	...	...	...	193
10	...	...	...	94
11	...	...	...	102
12	...	...	...	99
13	...	...	...	77
14	...	...	...	1533
Total ...	...	...	...	197
Specials	...	...	...	1730
Grand Total ...	...	...	...	1524
(b) Found to require treatment ...	...	...	...	813
(c) Actually treated ...	...	...	...	523
(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination ...	...	...	...
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment				1699
(4) Fillings :—				
Permanent teeth ...	...	...	...	737
Temporary teeth ...	...	...	...	416
Total	...	...	...	1153
(5) Extractions :—				
Permanent teeth ...	...	...	...	183
Temporary teeth ...	...	...	...	1631
Total	...	...	...	1814
(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions				133
(7) Other operations :				
Permanent teeth ...	...	...	...	61
Temporary teeth ...	...	...	...	27
Total	...	...	...	88

GROUP V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i.)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	3.9
(ii.)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	8,714
(iii.)	Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	37
(iv.)	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	22
(v.)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—			
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	0
	(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	...	...	0

Number of Children Medically Inspected at each School.

SCHOOL.						GRADE.	BOYS.	GIRLS.
St. James'	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	45	—
"	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	30
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	57	36
St. Barnabas'	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed	47	40
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	13	11
St. John's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	52	42
Down Lane	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	29	26
St. Luke's	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	10	20
St. Augustine's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	22	20
Royal Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	25	—
Grosvenor	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	14	17
Basinghall	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	20	13
Holy Trinity	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	30
St. Peter's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed	38	37
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	40	22
Murray House	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	27
King Charles'	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	29	—
Christ Church	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	28	29
St. Mark's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	21	8
Rusthall	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	52	—
"	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	44
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	47	48
						TOTAL	589	500

1089

RE-INSPECTIONS :—

Improved	...	93
Stationary	...	133
Cured	...	89
Worse	...	22
		337
TOTAL		1426



Calculated.
18.7.30

(1) Hsq. Stals to note

(2) P.A.

10
17 16 3