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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1930.

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

Tunbridge Wells :
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR WORKS,
1704-31





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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 1930.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This Report is the seventeenth submitted since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health to the Borough, and is the second Survey Report required by the Ministry of Health. The Survey Report covers the quinquennial period 1926-30.

The year was an important one for the Health Department, which widened still further the scope of its activities. The Department took over the duties of the supervision of boarded-out children, hitherto carried out by the Board of Guardians. Much attention was paid to housing questions, following upon a thorough and systematic survey of the poorest class of property.

The health of the Borough was good in 1930. There was no influenza outbreak as in 1929; the absence of this factor contributed to the low net death-rate of 10.3 per thousand, as compared with that of 11.4 for England and Wales generally. The average death-rate for the five years 1926-30 was 11.5.

During 1930, the rainfall (32.7 inches) and bright sunshine (1,612 hours 48 minutes) both exceeded the average. The month of November was excessively wet, but March, June, October and December were drier than usual. The amount of bright sunshine was considerably higher than that recorded elsewhere amongst the Inland Health Resorts

reporting to the Air Ministry, the City of Bath, with 1,454 hours 48 minutes, running second in the Ministry's annual sunshine table.

The work of the Department continues to increase in quantity, and I am glad to have the opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks to every member of the Staff of the Health Department for loyal co-operation and assistance in meeting various tasks and problems which arose during the year. In addition, the help and encouragement which I received from the Members of the Council and the goodwill of the local members of the medical profession, have been of great value to me in discharging my duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
CALVERLEY PARADE,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

June, 1931.

1.—General Statistics.

CENSUS 1921.	}	Area (acres)	3,991
		Population (preliminary figure)	35,568
		„ (corrected for holiday population by Registrar-General)	34,270
		Number of structurally separate sets of premises intended or used for habitation	8,178
		Number of separate occupiers	8,774
Population, mid-year 1930 (Registrar-General) ...		35,040.*	
Number of houses intended or used for habitation ...		8,974†	
Number of inhabited houses		8,821†	
Rateable value		£409,534.	
Sum represented by a penny rate :—			
On General Rate ...		£1,623	
Mean annual temperature ...		49.9° F.	
Total rainfall,		32.79 inches.	
Hours of bright sunshine, 1,612 hours, 48 minutes.			

*The 1929 mid-year figure is again being used, as the 1930 figure will not be supplied by the Registrar-General in time for use in preparing this Report. (See Memo. dated 28/1/1931 from the Ministry of Health.)

†These figures include flats, and represent the number of separately occupied premises.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Births—Total	406	191	215
„ Illegitimate	24	12	12
Birth rate (Registrar-General)			
11.6 per thousand.			
Still Births	10	6	4
Still birth rate per 1,000			
of total births : 24.6.			
Deaths	496	217	279
Crude death rate—14.1.			
Death rate corrected for age and sex constitution, 10.3 per thousand (factor for correction, 0.731).			

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth :—

From sepsis	...	...	1
From other causes	...	...	1

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

Legitimate	...	57.6	} Total 59.1
Illegitimate,	...	83.3	

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	4	4	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0	0	0
„ „ Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years of age)	1	1	0

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

1.—Population.

The population at mid-year in 1930 was taken as being the same as that supplied by the Registrar-General for the previous year, viz. :—35,040. During the year 73 houses have been built in Tunbridge Wells. The birth and death rates are calculated upon the Registrar-General's population figure, so that uniformity may be maintained with returns throughout the kingdom. Next year, a more accurate return will be possible when the 1931 census enables the estimates to be corrected.

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 nearing completion and the water will shortly undergo preliminary tests prior to being put into use. Recent samples taken from the trial borewell give satisfactory results on test.

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 Grounds, with the exception of the Sunshine Recorder, which is established on the roof tower of the Earl's Court Hotel, Mount Ephraim, and of the Standard Barometer, kept in the Health Office.

Duplicate readings were taken throughout the year in the case of the maximum and minimum and grass minimum thermometers, at two sites in the Calverley Grounds, in order to discover which would prove to be the better site. Triplicate rainfall readings were taken also. Eventually a decision was made in favour of the bowling green site, and the station was transferred so that the readings on this new site might commence on January 1st, 1931. An exception was made in the case of rainfall measurements, for which readings will be taken at the old site and at the bowling green site until 30th September, 1931, when two years' records will give comparative data from which to select the more suitable site for official readings.

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 1,612 hours 48 minutes. The mean amount is 1,568 hours 24 minutes. The most sunny day was June 29th, when 15 hours 48 minutes were recorded. There were 52 sunless days, 61 being the average.

The highest temperature in the sun was 139 degrees, on 9th July.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year was 49.9 degrees, 49.3 degrees being the average.

The mean daily range was 12.6, the average being 14.6.

The temperature in the shade four feet above the ground, was highest, 88 degrees, on August 29th, and lowest, 22 degrees, on 17th November.

The temperature in the shade first reached :—

	60 degrees on	1st April.
	70 " "	30th May.
	80 " "	30th June.
last reached—		
	80 " "	30th August.
	70 " "	10th September.
	60 " "	30th October.

The hottest nights were 29th and 30th August, when the temperature did not go below 65 degrees.

The last frost in the air in spring was on 25th March, and the first in the autumn was on 27th October. The last on the grass in spring was on 9th June, and the first in the autumn was on 10th October.

The rainfall amounted to 32.79 inches, the average being 30.66 inches. It fell on 190 days, the average being 173.

The most rain that fell on one day was 0.83 inches on 20th July.

During the years 1922-30, rainfall has accumulated 23.88 inches above the 50 years average. This will affect favourably the supply from our borewells.

The wind at 9 a.m. was N. 13 days, N.E. 46 days, E. 8 days, S.E. 31 days, S. 42 days, S.W. 141 days, W. 45 days, N.W. 39 days.

The mean amount of cloud at 9 a.m. was 6.2, 6.8 being the average ; ten representing overcast sky. Thunder and lightning occurred on 15 days.

There were 12 fogs, and it was misty on 25 other mornings.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1930.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall. In Inches.		Mean Temperature. In shade, 4ft. above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
	16 Year Average.		50 Year Average.		40 Year Average.		One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	Hrs. Mins.	Hrs. Mins.	1930.	1930.	1930.	1930.	1930.	30 Year Average.	1930.	16 Year Average.
January ...	44 42	48 30	3.93	2.60	•F 43.4	•F 38.6	•F 42.5	•F 39.7	•F 44.9	•F 44.0
February ...	70 42	70 30	1.63	2.29	37.5	39.3	39.5	39.5	43.4	43.0
March ...	126 12	117 54	1.21	2.31	42.2	41.8	42.7	41.9	43.7	43.6
April ...	132 18	139 42	1.86	1.99	47.1	46.4	47.5	46.6	46.7	45.9
May ...	169 24	217 12	2.96	1.92	52.3	52.9	54.2	54.1	51.0	50.7
June ...	254 30	207 18	1.04	1.98	59.9	57.8	62.1	59.9	56.8	55.8
July ...	192 42	205 0	2.82	2.33	60.4	61.4	62.7	63.1	59.8	58.8
August ...	239 36	188 36	3.38	2.41	61.0	62.4	62.4	62.6	59.7	60.3
September ...	187 18	153 42	3.86	2.23	57.5	57.1	60.5	58.8	60.3	59.2
October ...	135 0	111 48	1.44	3.64	51.9	50.1	54.3	52.6	56.5	56.0
November ...	77 54	65 48	6.10	3.51	45.1	43.2	47.5	45.6	51.5	50.7
December ...	32 30	42 24	2.56	3.45	39.9	40.1	43.2	41.8	46.5	46.0
WHOLE YEAR	1612 48	1568 24	32.79	30.66	49.9	49.3	51.6	50.5	51.7	51.2

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 ; amongst the workers are house painters, builders, builders' labourers, gardeners, drivers and conductors of motor chars-a-banc ; laundries and domestic service absorb a number of the female population. 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.

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 number of births *registered* as properly belonging to Tunbridge Wells is 406 (191 males, 215 females). This corresponds to a rate of 11.6 per thousand, as compared with 12.7 per thousand in 1929. Twelve males and 12 females were born out of wedlock, giving an illegitimate rate of 5.9 per cent. as compared with 6.3 per cent., in 1929.

The births *notified* during the year as occurring in the Borough numbered 488 and consisted of 240 males and 248 females ; of these, 5 males and 2 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.—498 deaths were registered in the Borough during 1930, and there were 93 outwardly transferable deaths and 91 inward transfers, thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 496. This gives a crude death rate of 14.1 per thousand, as compared with 15.8 in 1929.

The Registrar-General has supplied the proper correction figure (0.731) as obtained from the 1921 census returns, and the true or corrected death rate is thus seen to be 10.3 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 22 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, 10.3, compares favourably with 11.4, the figure for the kingdom generally.

The death rate of 10.3 is considerably lower than that of 1929. The proportion of deaths over 65 years of age was 60.5 per cent. of the total number : and under 45 years of age it was but 17.7 per cent. of the total.

The infant death rate rose to 59.1 per thousand. Eleven of the 24 deaths of infants under one year occurred during the first four weeks of life : only three were over six months old.

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 to 1930	1930*
Deaths at under 1 year ...	72	57	46	40	36	23	22	24
" 1 and under 2 } ...	25	29	23	16	6	3	5	2
" 2 " 5 } ...	21	11	10	16	9	5	5	7
" 5 " 15 } ...	20	13	14	12	15	6	7	8
" 15 " 25 } ...	121	141	141	145	21	10	10	8
" 25 " 45 } ...	121	141	141	145	47	36	37	38
" 45 " 65 } ...	121	141	141	145	107	104	118	109
" 65 and upwards	154	178	205	234	245	276	307	300

*The mortality for 1930 is inserted for comparison.

Infectious Diseases.—Influenza was not prevalent, only four deaths being attributed to this disease ; of these, three were deaths of persons over 75 years of age. The outbreak of Mumps in the autumn of 1929 continued up to mid-year 1930. There was also a sharp outbreak of Measles in the later spring months. Apart from these two diseases, there was no special incidence of infectious illness. No classes or schools were closed for infection.

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

DEATHS FROM.

Five-Yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.		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 .. 1930 ...	384	106	21	30	59	91
1930 ...	75	21	5	10	8	4

* Reliable figures not available.

Infant Mortality, 1930.—Twenty-four deaths of infants below one year of age occurred, being 59.1 per thousand born, as compared with an infant mortality of 60 per thousand in England and Wales generally. The still births numbered 10. The average infant mortality in Tunbridge Wells during the previous ten years was 52.6 per thousand. As usual, the majority of infant deaths were due to causes operating during the period of expectant motherhood, a period to which increasing attention is being given in the hope of lessening both ill-health and fatalities.

In Table IV. is given in detail a list of the causes of infant deaths in 1930.

The appended chart shows in graphic method the relative infant mortality in England and Wales and in Tunbridge Wells from 1891 to 1930 inclusive. From this it is evident that even in a healthy non-industrial town such as ours, there is great scope for improving the conditions in which infants are reared. The chief means to which improvement in health during the first year of life may be attributed, in my opinion, are as follows :—

- (a) Education of the mothers. (This includes the whole of the facilities provided by the Local Authority's Child Welfare Centres).
- (b) The use of dried milks during the warm months of the year, as well as the employment of greater care in handling and storing liquid milk.
- (c) Better housing conditions, and
- (d) Greater facilities for immediate assistance in cases of illness.

INFANT MORTALITY

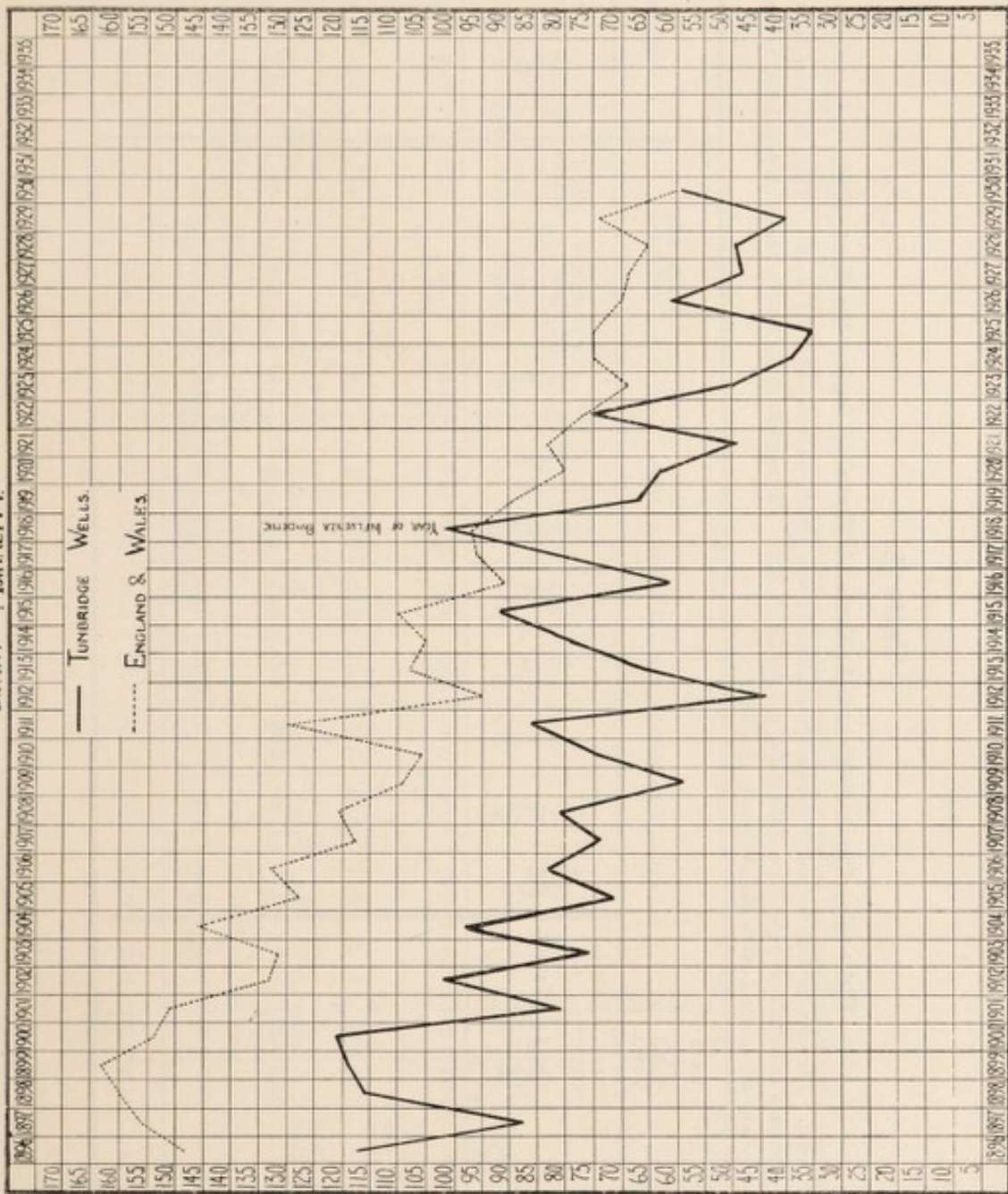


Table I.
Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1930.

(Provisional figures). The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1930, but those for the towns, including Tunbridge Wells, have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1929. 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	0.69	11.4	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.05	0.09	0.12	0.55	6.0	60	90.4	6.9	1.7	1.0	
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	16.6	0.71	11.5	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.05	0.10	0.11	0.50	8.3	64	90.6	6.6	2.3	0.5	
159 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	16.2	0.69	10.5	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.05	0.07	0.13	0.43	4.4	55	91.8	5.9	1.2	1.1	
London ...	15.7	0.56	11.4	0.01	0.00	0.23	0.02	0.03	0.10	0.08	0.55	9.9	59	88.3	7.4	4.3	0.0	
Tunbridge Wells ...	11.6	0.28	10.3	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.03	0.00	0.09	0.11	0.23	2.44	59	94.2	2.4	3.0	0.4	

Table II.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR YEAR 1930.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified (All ages.)	Age groups											Cases admitted to hospital.
		Under 1 year.	1 year and under 2 years.	2 years and under 3 years.	3 years and under 4 years.	4 years and under 5 years.	5 years and under 10 years.	10 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 20 years.	20 years and under 35 years.	35 years and under 45 years.	45 years and under 65 years.		65 years and over
Diphtheria ...	27	...	1	2	1	3	7	2	8	1	...	...	26
Scarlet Fever ...	52	...	...	2	1	1	22	5	9	1	...	...	46
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	7
Pneumonia ...	27	2	2	...	...	...	2	3	4	3	6	4	3
Erysipelas ...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	8	1	2
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lethargica ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Puerperal Fever ...	3*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases notifiable locally	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

* Two of these cases belong to outside districts, from which they were sent into the General Hospital.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1930.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District.			
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and 2 years.	2 and 3 years.	3 and 4 years.	4 and 5 years.	5 and 10 years.	10 and 15 years.	15 and 20 years.	20 and 35 years.		35 and 45 years.	45 and 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
All Causes { Certified ... { Uncertified ...	494 2	24 ...	2 ...	2 ...	1 ...	4 ...	4 ...	4 ...	6 ...	15 ...	25 ...	109 1	299 1	172 0
Enteric Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Small Pox ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles ...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Influenza ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal meningitis ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	6	7	1	1
Other Tuberculous diseases	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer, Malignant disease	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rheumatic Fever ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Diabetes ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Heart disease ...	110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Arterio-sclerosis ...	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bronchitis ...	19	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	31	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other respiratory diseases	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal sepsis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ...	15	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Suicide ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other deaths from violence	8	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other defined diseases ...	80	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Causes ill defined or unknown	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

NETT DEATHS IN THE YEAR :—
Certified ... 494
Uncertified ... 2

NETT BIRTHS IN THE YEAR :—
Legitimate ... 406
Illegitimate ... 24

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1930. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes { Certified	8	2	1	—	11	5	5	2	1	24
{ Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Abdominal Tubercu- losis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Malforma- tions	1	1	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	6
Premature Birth	5	—	1	—	6	1	—	—	—	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Injury at Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuber- culous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2

Poor Law Relief.—The approximate amount of Poor Law Relief in the Parish of Tunbridge Wells for the year ending 31st March, 1931, was £5,210. It should be noted that the Parish of Broadwater Down is now included with the rest of Tunbridge Wells in this return.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF.

The Tunbridge Wells General Hospital caters for the population of Tunbridge Wells and for a wide district around. Great efforts have been made during the year to raise the sum needed for building the New Hospital on the site acquired on Mount Ephraim ridge. During 1930, the number of In-patients treated was 1,463, and 767 theatre operations were performed. The Hospital, owing to certain alterations and re-arrangements, now possesses 100 beds. Out-patients numbered 5,772, making 53,871 attendances, again a large increase upon the previous year's figure. 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. The orthopaedic centre at which remedial exercises is carried out, continues to cater satisfactorily for the treatment of children attending the Infant Welfare Centres and Elementary Schools in the Borough. Payment has been made by the Corporation to the Hospital for such treatment, subsequent to 1st April, 1928. The total number of patients attending for remedial exercises was 30, having 1,866 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 gives details of the work in recent years :—

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
1930	2,841	10,967	728	675

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

At the **Homoeopathic Hospital**, which has 22 beds, but which is now in process of extension, there were 205 in-patients during 1930, and 149 theatre operations were performed. Four thousand, one hundred and eighty-six 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 1930, 725 appliances were supplied at a cost of £1,687 10s. 5d., the increase of work shows that this Society is performing a valuable duty to the community. I desire to acknowledge the continuance of the privilege afforded to me 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 1930 was as follows :—Above the age of 14 years, 598 ; under the age of 14 years, 226 ; total 824.

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 1930 was £633 16s. 9d., as compared with £698 2s. 2d. in 1929. The cases assisted numbered 98.

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. Seventeen children were given additional nourishment, and hospital or Surgical Aid letters were provided in 12 instances. Eighty cases in all received assistance, at a cost of £124 12s. 11d.

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 1930 amounted to £30 10s. 0d.; £39 10s. 0d. being paid in fees by the patients. Quoting from the District Nursing Association's Report for the period April, 1930, to March, 1931, "144 maternity and 567 general cases were undertaken, 18,144 visits being paid, of which 14,993 were general, 2,422 to maternity cases and 729 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.—1930 was a year marked by special activity in preparation for the move to 10 and 12, Calverley Park Gardens, much more commodious premises in which at present 18 beds have been opened. The actual move took place on the 5th January, 1931.

One hundred and eighty-five confinements took place in the old premises during 1930, an increase of 17 upon the 1929 figure. Of these, 105 mothers were residents of Tunbridge Wells. The local births in the Home formed 26 per cent. of all Tunbridge Wells births ; this figure would have been still higher had accommodation been available for all who wished to come.

During 1930, payments were made by the Corporation, under the terms of the Agreement with the Committee of the Home, in 14 instances.

Co-ordination and cordial co-operation has been fully maintained in connection with the excellent work done in the Maternity Home by the appointment of the Borough Medical Officer of Health to serve on the Committee of Management and also to act as Honorary Administrative Medical Officer to 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, though "Hurstleigh" has proved itself of much use in taking local children on several occasions when a request has been made. 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 1930 numbered 1,544, and were as follows :—

Insured.		Uninsured.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
155	109	512	768

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 1930 was 179, and the total number of attendances, 2,098.

**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, heating by electric fires is installed, and during 1930 the laundry was fitted with electrically driven machinery and the larder equipped with a "Frigidaire" electric cooler.

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 have now been introduced, and plans have been made to provide the Hospital with electric light.

No case of Smallpox occurred in South West Kent during 1930.

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 agreement with the Voluntary Home already mentioned, recently removed from Upper Grosvenor Road to more commodious premises in Calverley Park Gardens.

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 the Eye and Ear Hospital in the case of operative treatment upon elementary school children for enlarged tonsils and adenoids: where practically all go for this operation as the services of a Specialist are available. Fees are also paid to the General Hospital for massage, remedial exercises, ultra-violet ray treatment, etc., in orthopaedic cases referred for treatment by the Borough Medical Officer.

6.—Provision for Unmarried Mothers.—No special institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children. The Pembury Institution, under the direction of the Public Assistance Committee, deals with most of these cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) **For Infectious Cases.**—During 1930, the second-hand motor ambulance purchased in 1929 for use in removing cases to the Fever Hospital has been of great service. It is a 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. Cases are now admitted from a wider area than formerly, owing to the making of an agreement with the Ticehurst Rural District Council to admit patients from the major part of its area—a district extending beyond Burwash about 12 miles in a S.S.E., direction from the Borough.

(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 ambulances which can be hired for removal of sick persons, etc.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—The chief Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is situated at 35, Calverley Street, and is provided by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. It consists 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.

Mr. J. G. Cox was appointed Senior Clerk on the 8th September, 1930, in place of Mr. F. Hicks ; and Miss Dorothy Bull was appointed Second Clerk, taking up duties as such on the 1st September, 1930, devoting the major portion of her time to School Medical Services.

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 the two Clerks of the Health Offices. 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; four calls were made during 1930, all for cases of measles.

(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 who notified their intention to practise in the Tunbridge Wells area during the year was stated by the Kent County Council to be seven; at the end of the year, ten names were supplied as practising. Notifications of births were received from 11 practising midwives, amongst whom were nine of the ten on the list of the Kent County Council.

BOROUGH BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE.

The number of specimens examined in the Borough Laboratory during 1930, viz.:—687, shews a considerable increase in comparison with the numbers examined in 1929. The nature of the examinations is set out in the following table:—

Specimens examined for presence of Diphtheria					
Bacillus	...	...	...	...	672
			Positive.	Negative.	
From Isolation Hospital					
cases	...	...	56	122	
From outside sources	...		30	464	

Hairs examined for presence of Ringworm	11
Other specimens examined	3
	<hr/>
Total	686
	<hr/> <hr/>

In addition to the above, 193 specimens were examined at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone, as follows :—

	Positive.	Negative.
62 specimens for Tubercle Bacillus	5	57
33 Blood Examinations for Typhoid or Para-Typhoid ...	8	25
11 Faeces for ditto	0	11
2 Urine for ditto	1	1
82 Swab Examinations for Diph- theria	8	74
3 Virulence tests for Diphtheria ...	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23	170
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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 Acts 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 and 77.
„	X.	„ 93 and 95.

In 1930, in response to an application made to the Ministry of Health, Part II., Section 25, of this Act was declared to be in force in the Borough as from the 1st July, 1930, by an Order of the Minister of Health dated the 5th June, 1930. This section related to the paving of yards, etc.

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).

Section 20 of the Public Health Act, 1925, was declared by the Minister of Health to be in force from the 1st September, 1930. This relates to the paving and draining of courts, and supplements the powers acquired under Part II., Section

25, of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, referred to above.

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.

Two fresh sets of Bye-Laws were adopted by the Council at the instance of the Health Committee during 1930, viz. :—

- (a) Bye-Laws relating to nuisances : these were adopted on the 5th March, and allowed by the Minister of Health on the 19th May, 1930.
- (b) Bye-Laws relating to Common Lodging Houses. These were adopted by the Council on the 2nd July, 1930, and allowed by the Minister of Health on the 5th September, 1930.

In December, 1928, the Town Council passed a resolution deciding to prepare a Town Planning Scheme. The Minister of Health has since notified his approval of this resolution. On the 30th July, 1930, a preliminary statement of proposals for development was prepared and adopted by the Town Council.

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.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Sanitary Conveniences.—The question of the provision of additional Public Conveniences has been occupying the attention of the Local Authority, in particular the members of the Health Committee, for many years. The matter of additional provision has recently become more acute on account of the large numbers of persons who are conveyed by road to Tunbridge Wells during the summer months. The difficulties in the way of choosing a suitable site freed from conditions prohibiting the erection of conveniences, has been the cause of many disappointments in the past. Now, however, conveniences for both sexes of modern type are being erected at the Five Ways; in addition a suitable site has been obtained on the Common near the Pantiles, and the Ministry of Health's sanction to the proposals for its use for this purpose has been obtained. The establishment of suitable conveniences at both sites will remove a reproach which has existed for a number of years.

Housing.—The extensive and exhaustive survey of old and dilapidated housing property carried through in 1929, saved the Staff of the Department much labour in the preparation of a programme of housing construction and demolition for the forthcoming five years, required to be submitted to the Ministry of Health under the provisions of Section 25 (2) of the Housing Act, 1930. The bulk of the data required in making this estimate had already been gathered, and a joint sub-committee of members of the Health and Housing Committees of the Council had obtained valuable personal knowledge of the chief needs of the town by sharing in the visits to a large amount of the poorer class of property. During 1930, arising from the above inspections, recommendations to serve closing orders with respect to various properties, were adopted by the Council at its meetings in January, June, July and October, 1930.

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, 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, seven 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 from the springs enters four open filter beds at Pembury, having an area of about one acre. A report, made by the Borough Analyst, dated the 31st July, 1930, reads as follows :—

Specimen from 15in. Main in Pembury Road.

Bacteriological Statement.

No. of Organisms per cubic centimetre capable of growing.		B. Coli Communis Presumptive test.		
On Standard Gelatin in day at 22 C.	On Standard Agar-Agar in 24 hours at 37/38 C.	100 c.c.	10 c.c.	1 c.c.
20	0	—	—	—

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 ...	0.0040
at 80° F. { in 4 hours ...	0.0090
Nitric Nitrogen	0.25
Chlorine	2.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	4.1
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 180° C.)	19.5
Temporary Hardness	6.5
Permanent Hardness	<i>None.</i>
Appearance in two-foot tube ...	<i>Colourless and slightly opalescent.</i>
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron) ...	<i>Trace of Iron.</i>

Remarks.

Sodium Carbonate	2.12
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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 purpose was sanctioned early in 1926, and this work is now nearing completion. The water supply is a constant one and the number of dwelling-houses supplied is 8,974 in the Borough and 543 outside.

The average rainfall for the 46 years ending 1925 was recorded as 30.35 inches. During the years 1926-30, there has fallen an amount of 15.86 inches in excess of this average, largely accumulated in 1927 when an amount of over forty inches was recorded. This excess insures the town against risk of shortage pending the coming into use of the new source of supply.

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 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 results which are entirely satisfactory, save after periods of very dry weather. The whole question of extending and improving the arrangements for dealing with the Borough sewage is under consideration. 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 1,542 have been provided in the past five 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.

In addition, an active campaign against rats was carried out at the dumps, poison gas, ratting dogs, etc., being used. Rat runs in the neighbourhood of the dumps are noted to be little in evidence now.

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. Several of the buildings are not well adapted to use for educational purposes, having been erected before considerations of health played much part in the minds of those concerned with school architecture. Two of them have been marked by the Board of Education as unsuitable for further use as schools, so that other provision will shortly be needed to accommodate the displaced scholars.

There was no closure of schools or classes on account of infectious disease in 1930.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.—During 1930, visits were paid to inspect houses, farms, Public Baths, Refuse Dumps, diseased food, etc., as time allowed, and many points requiring improvement were brought to the notice of the parties concerned. Most of the results of the sanitary inspection of the area are set out in the attached report made to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. T. Taylor, to whose alertness in attending to all sanitary matters likely to affect adversely the health of the town it gives me pleasure to pay tribute.

A noteworthy point is the excellence of the results obtained from milk sampling—a direct consequence of the active steps taken to keep the milk supply under close observation.

Though the total number of houses inspected was less than in 1929—a year of special housing investigation—the number inspected and recorded systematically under the Housing Acts was greater.

Mr. Taylor's report also shews that much time and care were devoted to meat inspection by the sanitary staff.

*To the Medical Officer of Health,
Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1930 from which it will be seen that the sanitary improvement of the district has gone steadily forward. One outstanding feature was the detailed inspection of the older property in the town, which was visited during the previous year by the Special Committee comprising members of the Health and Housing Committees.

The following table gives a general statement as to the

numbers of inspections made in addition to other work done during the year.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	549
Houses inspected <i>re</i> dustbins (in addition to above)	...	...	...	...	...	156
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	175
Complaints referred to other departments	...	...	...	...	...	13
Houses inspected for Sanitary Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	7
Amount received in respect to Sanitary Certificates	...	...	...	...	£14 5s. 5d.	
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	526
" " Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	340
" " Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	88
" " Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	7
" " Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	94
" " Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	74
" " Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
" " Factories	...	...	...	...	...	52
" " Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	120
" " Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	21
" " Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3
" " Stables	...	...	...	...	...	44
" respecting keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	35
" " rats	...	...	...	...	...	107
" " applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Interviews respecting repairs to property	...	...	...	...	...	186
Secondary visits to houses under notice	...	...	...	...	...	3,704
Visits respecting infectious cases	...	...	...	...	...	38
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	47
Loads of bedding removed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	323
Occasions on which Chemical test was applied to drains	...	...	...	...	...	324
" " Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	47
" " Water	...	...	...	...	...	134
Informal notices served	255,	respecting	455	houses		
Formal	"	"	19,	"	19	"
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	3,763
Carcases examined (home killed)	...	...	...	...	...	2,970
" " (imported)	...	...	...	...	...	742
Food condemned and destroyed—3 tons 3 cwts. 0 qr. 4 lbs.						
Samples of Food and Drugs examined by Public Analyst	...	...	...	...	...	114
Samples of Milk tested by the Department	...	...	...	...	...	12

Inspection of Houses.

As in previous years the systematic and detailed inspection of working class houses was proceeded with and the particulars of such inspections were recorded on cards for future reference. Under the Housing Acts, 320 houses were inspected, while in addition 229 further houses were inspected for various reasons such as complaints, infectious diseases, notices from builders, etc. Of the total of 549 houses inspected 466 were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and at the end of the year the defects had

been remedied at 395 houses. Further to these inspections, 156 houses were visited respecting ashpit accommodation, and of these 150 were found to be without sufficient accommodation. From the foregoing it will be seen that the total number of houses visited was 705.

The older houses in the town, which were visited by the special Committee during the year, received attention and numerous defects were remedied. While many of these houses are very old they can serve a useful purpose for many years providing the owners keep them in a reasonable state of repair and remedy any defects as they arise. Should they be neglected they will soon fall into decay and will have to be subject to closing orders. I would like to mention that the majority of owners, although often demurring at my demands, have eventually seen the necessity for the repairs and have carried out the same and only in quite a few instances was it necessary to serve formal notices. One must sympathise with certain owners who have to depend for their income on the rents from a few old houses, but the tenants must also receive consideration.

Representation was made regarding one house which was considered unfit for human habitation and a closing order was made. This house was unoccupied at the end of the year and the owners had undertaken to demolish. Other houses subject to closing orders became vacant at the latter part of the year and negotiations regarding these are pending. Six houses in Ely Lane, regarding which closing orders had been made, were demolished voluntarily by the owners thus rendering the service of demolition orders unnecessary. One house considered to be an obstructive building to certain houses in North Street was demolished thus effecting a great improvement. One closing order was determined extensive work being done to render the house fit for human habitation.

Complaints numbering 175 were investigated and while

Space under ground floors ventilated	...	...	...	...	46
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	67
New sash cords fixed	...	...	...	...	389
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	43
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	67
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	129
Food cupboards provided	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughter houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	22
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	468

I would like to mention that many tenants still fail to carry out their duty in keeping their houses clean which is evidenced in some of the old houses. It is possible to go into one house and find it spick and span and most comfortable, whereas a similar house next door may be almost unfit for human habitation solely owing to the neglectful habits of the tenant.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1930.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	...	...	...	...	73
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—					
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	Nil

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	549
(In addition 156 houses were inspected in connection with 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	...	...	320
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	1
(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	...	...	466
(In addition 150 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 ... 376

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 ... 17

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) by owners ... 15

(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 ... 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... 1

(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 193 visits were made to Factories, Workshops and work-places and arising out of these inspections 16 defects were found to exist, so that it will be seen that the occupiers of these premises very satisfactorily carry out the requirements of the Factory and Workshop Act. Eighty-eight visits were also paid to bakehouses and seven to kitchens and twelve breaches of the bakehouse requirements were found to exist, the majority being due to the lack of lime-washing. As in the case of other premises the majority of the occupiers do their best to keep their premises clean and satisfactory while a few do not observe the ordinary laws of cleanliness until the unsatisfactory state of their premises is officially brought to their notice,

The following matters received attention :—

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	7	5
Overcrowding	—	—
Other nuisances	5	6
Sanitary accommodation insufficient ...	—	—
" " unsuitable ...	4	3
" " not separate for sexes ...	—	—
Breach of bakehouse requirements ...	12	13
	—	—
	28	27
	—	—

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year the register showed that there are 43 milkshops and 12 farms within the Borough boundary and of the milkshops three are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. Fifty-eight persons are registered as purveyors of milk and of these 19 come in from outside and have no premises within the Borough. During the year, 168 inspections were made of premises where milk is produced or sold and it was again found that while the majority of the occupiers do their best to keep their premises, etc., up to a good standard, others have to be continually cautioned before the ordinary standard of cleanliness can be obtained. The majority of farmers now realise that the cleaner the milk the better its keeping qualities while the distributors now know that cleanliness is one of the best advertisements they can have. There continues to be an improvement in the manner in which milk is distributed and improvements were effected at several dairies.

It was necessary to take proceedings against a farmer for carrying on the trade of cowkeeper and dairyman without being previously registered. A conviction was obtained, a fine of 20/- being inflicted.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

As in other years the work in connection with the supervision of food supplies again occupied a considerable

time as the slaughter-houses are always visited as far as possible at times of slaughter and at other times to ascertain that no illegal killing is taking place. Only a very small percentage of the animals slaughtered in the Borough now escape inspection.

The number of slaughter-houses remains the same, viz. : five and of these four are registered and one licensed. At the end of the year the occupier of the slaughter-house where the largest amount of slaughtering takes place was under notice to leave and there is therefore a likelihood that still further killing will be done outside the Borough. This emphasises the necessity for a public abattoir and a clearing house through which should pass all English meat sent in from outside districts.

One hundred and sixty-eight notices of slaughter were received, these being in addition to the standing notice of slaughtering on appointed days. Seventy-nine notices from the Port of London Authority were received, these relating to the inspection of imported lambs for the detection of caseous lymphadenitis and arising out of these 742 carcasses were examined the majority while in the cold store.

Five hundred and twenty-six visits were paid to slaughter-houses and 340 visits to other food premises a total of 866 excluding bakehouses and milkshops.

Food weighing 3 tons 3 cwt. 0 qrs. 4 lbs. was condemned and destroyed this comprising :—

Beef (home killed)	...	3,282 lbs.	of which	3,237 lbs.	was tubercular.
Beef offals (home killed)	...	991	"	857	" " "
Mutton	...	344			
Pork (home killed)	...	420	"	70	" " "
Pigs heads (home killed)	...	72	"	72	" " "
Beasts Livers (home killed)	...	396	"	136	" " "
Other offals (home killed)	...	225	"	31	" " "
Imported Beef	...	704			
" offals	...	317			
Fish	...	183			
Tomatoes	...	120			
Corned Beef	...	6			
Total	...	<u>7,060</u>			

The major part of the diseased meat was detected at the slaughter-houses during inspection at times of slaughter.

Proceedings were taken against the occupiers of a slaughter-house outside the Borough for permitting the premises to be so used as to be a nuisance to certain residents in the Borough. The case was heard before the Tonbridge Bench and a conviction was obtained the maximum fine of £5 being inflicted and £5 5s. 0d. costs.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year 114 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Borough Analyst for analysis, 52 of these being taken formally and 62 informally. A tabulated list appears hereunder :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Name of Article.	Examined.		Total.	Adulterated.		Remarks.
	Formal.	Informal.		Formal.	Informal.	
New Milk ...	51	1	52	2	—	No. 3. Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3%.—Cautioned.
Separated Milk	1	—	1	—	—	" 33. Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 12%—due to irregular hours of milking.—Cautioned.
Cream ...	—	6	6	—	—	
Butter ...	—	11	11	—	—	
Cheese ...	—	2	2	—	—	
Margarine ...	—	4	4	—	—	
Sausages ...	—	12	12	—	2	No. 48. Contained a preservative—labels not exhibited.
Lard ...	—	—	—	—	—	Subsequent sample found to be genuine.
Coffee ...	—	5	5	—	—	" 80. Contained a foreign matter to wit a sulphite preservative. Notice found exhibited in shop at a later date.
Pepper ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Arrowroot ...	—	3	3	—	—	
Sponge cakes ...	—	3	3	—	—	
Chocolate ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Potted Meat ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Brawn ...	—	2	2	—	—	
Ground Rice ...	—	2	2	—	—	
Dried Fruit ...	—	2	2	—	—	
Cornflour ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Cocoa ...	—	1	1	—	—	
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	—	3	3	—	—	
	52	62	114	2	2	4

It is gratifying to report that the percentage of samples adulterated was the lowest I have had occasion to report. One sample of milk was found to be 3 per cent. and another 12 per cent. deficient in milk fat while the remaining milk samples complied with the Sale of Milk Regulations. The improvement in the quality of the milk retailed in the Borough was most noticeable. Two samples of sausages were found to contain a recognised preservative, but were sold without it being made known that they contained a preservative. Further samples from similar sources were obtained and in one case no preservative was present, and in the other a notice was exhibited stating that a preservative was present. It was not considered necessary to institute proceedings in any of these cases.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Numerous complaints were again received as to premises being infested with rats, many people being under the impression that the Council undertook to rid premises of rats, and not being aware that it is the duty of the occupier to rid premises of rats or mice and that there is a penalty for failing to do so.

During the year special posters were exhibited throughout the district pointing out the requirements of the Act while insertions were also made in the local newspapers, and a supply of pamphlets obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A man was also nominated as rat catcher and his services are available by the public on payment of his fees. His services were utilised on several occasions and his efforts were generally successful. Several days were spent by him at the refuse dump at High Brooms but owing to the improved methods of dumping and the constant attention the rat question has received, the number of rats found was only seven.

No special steps were taken during the National Rat Week, it being felt that it is better to work consistently throughout the year rather than to concentrate during one week.

One hundred and seven visits were made by the inspectors when advice was given as to the best means to be adopted for disinfestation.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to you for your cordial assistance in any matters I have brought to your notice, which has enabled the work of the department to proceed smoothly and expeditiously.

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 1930. One hundred and thirty-eight cases were notified during the year, as compared with 194 in 1929.

Notifications of pneumonia decreased from 77 to 27, and diphtheria increased from 10 to 27. Scarlet fever notifications showed a further decrease from 66 to 52.

Seasonal Incidence of Acute Infectious Diseases, 1930.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever Group.	Erysip- elas.	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Pneu- monia.	Puer- peral Fever and Pyrexia	En- cepha- litis Lethar- gica	Acute Poliom- yelitis.
January ...	9	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
February ...	8	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	—
March ...	13	2	—	2	—	3	—	—	—
April ...	8	1	1	1	—	10	1	—	—
May ...	4	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
June ...	2	3	—	3	—	1	—	—	—
July ...	1	8	1	—	—	2	—	1	1
August ...	1	1	4	2	1	1	—	—	—
September ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
November ...	1	6	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
December ...	1	1	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
Total ...	52	27	8	13	1	27	7	2	1

Diphtheria.—The attack rate per thousand population was 0.77. 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 nineteen years ago; there is a slight rise to 27 cases in 1930. The period of the anticipated increase, which according to statistics taken from larger populations, not infrequently occurs at intervals of 15 years, has thus passed with but slight effect on this occasion.

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. Twenty-six of the 27 patients and also six "Carriers" 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. In 1930, as in the previous year, three persons died of

this disease: alert activity on the part of both parents and medical attendants would abolish all mortality from this disease.

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

Year.	Estimated Population.	No. of Cases.	Deaths Registered.	Attack-Rate per 1,000 Population	Death-Rate per 1,000 Population
1890	28,148	22	7	0.71	0.18
1891	27,984	17	5	0.57	0.14
1892	28,345	27	8	0.85	0.17
1893	28,705	42	10	1.40	0.31
1894	29,065	41	6	1.37	0.17
1895	29,535	44	8	1.49	0.27
1896	29,895	68	15	2.24	0.46
1897	30,255	118	11	3.86	0.33
1898	30,615	278	31	9.07	1.01
1899	30,975	120	7	3.87	0.23
1900	31,335	82	3	2.61	0.10
1901	33,443	31	1	0.92	0.03
1902	33,773	23	2	0.68	0.06
1903	34,073	10	1	0.26	0.00
1904	34,373	12	1	0.34	0.03
1905	34,673	17	0	0.49	0.00
1906	34,973	10	0	0.28	0.00
1907	35,273	27	6	0.76	0.17
1908	35,573	29	2	0.81	0.06
1909	35,873	11	3	0.31	0.08
1910	36,173	15	1	0.41	0.03
1911	35,778	69	8	1.92	0.22
*1912	36,038	91	10	2.52	0.28
1913	36,298	129	4	3.5	0.11
1914	36,460	154	1	4.2	0.02
1915	33,430	83	5	2.5	0.15
1916	32,316	53	7	1.6	0.22
1917	30,751	40	1	1.3	0.03
1918	32,297	23	1	0.8	0.03
1919	34,423	57	4	1.6	0.20
1920	35,795	64	3	1.8	0.08
1921	34,270	32	1	0.9	0.03
1922	34,360	26	0	0.8	0.00
1923	34,370	11	1	0.3	0.03
1924	34,330	11	1	0.3	0.03
1925	34,080	14	1	0.4	0.03
1926	34,430	15	1	0.4	0.03
1927	33,870	42	1	1.2	0.03
1928	34,820	45	0	1.3	0.00
1929	35,040	10	3	0.3	0.09
1930	35,040	27	3	0.77	0.09

* Since 1912, mild cases diagnosed by bacteriological examination are included: prior to that year they were unrecognized 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 52, as compared with 66 in 1929. The difficulty of diagnosing mild cases of this disease is well known. The average number of cases per annum in the quinquennium 1926-30 was 51. Forty-six of the 52 cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital. The disease was most prevalent from January to April.

Enteric Fever.—As in 1929, eight cases of Para-Typhoid Fever were notified in 1930. One was a relapsed case, after an attack whilst resident in Spain: five cases occurred in the Women's Ward of the General Hospital, one in July, and four secondary to it in August. The other two cases were isolated cases in the autumn: Dutch lettuces were suspected, but no definite source of infection was traced.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Two cases were notified, one in July and one in October. The first, aged 67 years, was ill for three months prior to his death: the case was not notified, as it was not until the fatal issue that encephalitis was regarded as the most probable cause of the illness and death. The other, a child of 12 years, was notified from the General Hospital: the symptoms were definite, and the condition acute, also ending fatally.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—During 1930, one case was notified in July. This boy has now very slight after-effects in the muscles of one leg, and is under treatment.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—Seven notifications were received, three as Puerperal Fever cases and four as Pyrexia during the puerperium. Of the three Fever cases, two came from outside districts to the General Hospital, the third died in the Isolation Hospital. Of the four Pyrexia cases, none had other than trivial illness.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred, and was treated at the Eye and Ear

Hospital as an out-patient. The vision of this child was not impaired.

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

An outbreak of Measles occurred during the late spring months, 696 school children being attacked. Mumps continued from 1929 throughout the first half of 1930, 548 cases being reported. Apart from these minor infections, disease was notably absent ; not a single case of whooping-cough was recorded, and very few of chicken-pox and German measles.

Influenza.—This disease was unusually light in its attack : only four deaths were recorded—three of aged persons. In 1929 there were 34 deaths (see Table on page 19).

Epidemic Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—Epidemic Diarrhoea was not at all prevalent ; one infant death was registered as being due to 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 1929 was 100 Pulmonary and 47 Non-Pulmonary, and the number at the close of the year 1930, 101 Pulmonary and 60 Non-Pulmonary. The fresh cases and mortality during the year are set out in the accompanying Table.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1930.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	1
5	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	2
10	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
20	1	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
25	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	3	3	—	—
45	—	2	—	1	5	1	—	—
55	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	8	11	9	9	11	10	2	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 1930, 0.74, is about the average rate prevailing during the past five years. The Table which follows this paragraph demonstrates clearly that the death-rate from tuberculosis is slowly and steadily being reduced. In the 40 years shown in the Table, the mortality rate in the last quinquennium is 41 per cent. of that in the first quinquennium : so this disease has been more than half mastered.

Conditions which have favoured and which continue to 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	0.73
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	
1930	35,040	21	0.60	5	26	0.74	

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 disinfector 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 are carried out mainly by the caretaker of the Health Offices, and partly by members of the Sanitary Staff. There is also a small disinfector 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 additional 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. P. L. Richardson 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, the children 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, and the mothers chiefly by Dr. Emslie from the ante-natal clinic meetings. During 1930, the total number of attendances made by these mothers to see the Dental Surgeon was 53, and the same number of attendances were made by children, viz., 53. The following is a summary of the dental treatment given:—

Teeth extracted.		Teeth filled.		Other operations.		Administrations of Gas.
Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
78	109	19	10	3	—	24

The attendance figures at the Centres during 1930 are as follows :—

	Rusthall.	Tunbridge Wells.
Infants under 1 year ...	343	1,730
Children 1 to 5 years ...	629	1,348
Expectant Mothers ...	20	73
Mothers	730	2,662
Dr. Emslie's Clinics ...	—	106

Total consultations with Medical Officer, 1,328 (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	370
Subsequent visits to infants	2,075
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	3,949
Visits to expectant mothers	232
Visits where infants have died	9
Visits—found no one at home	432

Infant Life Protection.—The functions of the late Board of Guardians under Part I., of the Children Act, 1908, which

provides for the supervision of children under the age of seven years of age, the maintenance of whom is undertaken for reward apart from their parents, were transferred to the Borough Council on the 1st April, 1930.

During the nine months, Miss Rice Oxley paid 245 visits of inspection. On December 31st, 1930, there were 65 children under the care of foster mothers.

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 5,290 pints of fresh milk were granted. There were also issued free of cost :—86 lbs. dried milk ; 239 lbs. of cod liver oil and malt ; 51 tins of Ovaltine ; 70 cartons of Virol ; 38 cartons of Radio Malt ; 6 tins of Almata ; 5 cartons of Bemax ; 2 tins of Lactagol and small quantities of some other foods and drugs. The Medical Officer also issued 62 certificates for milk to be supplied through the Guardians.



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