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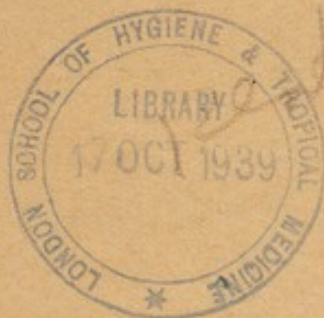
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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

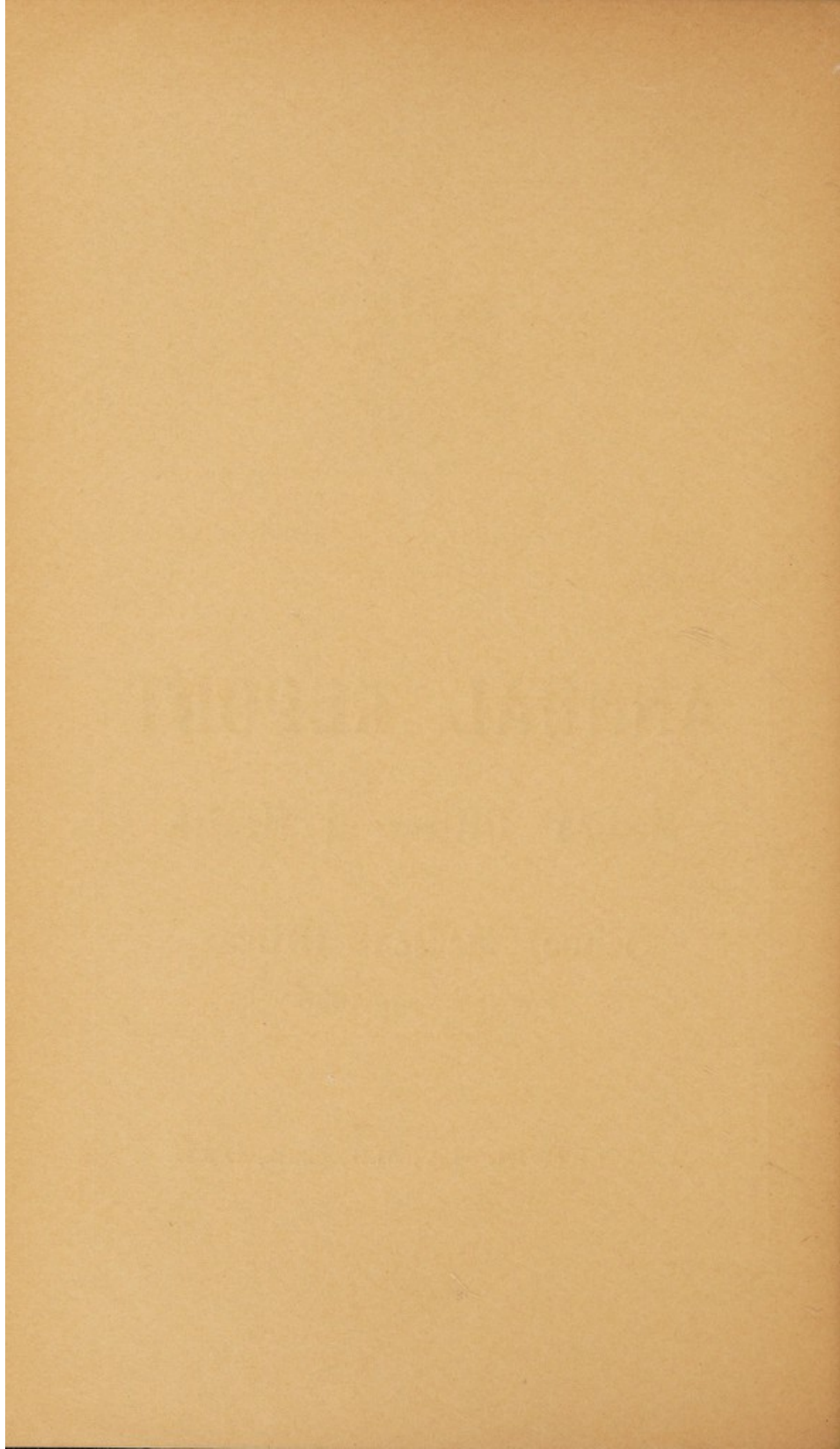
Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

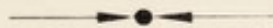
For the Year 1938.

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





Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

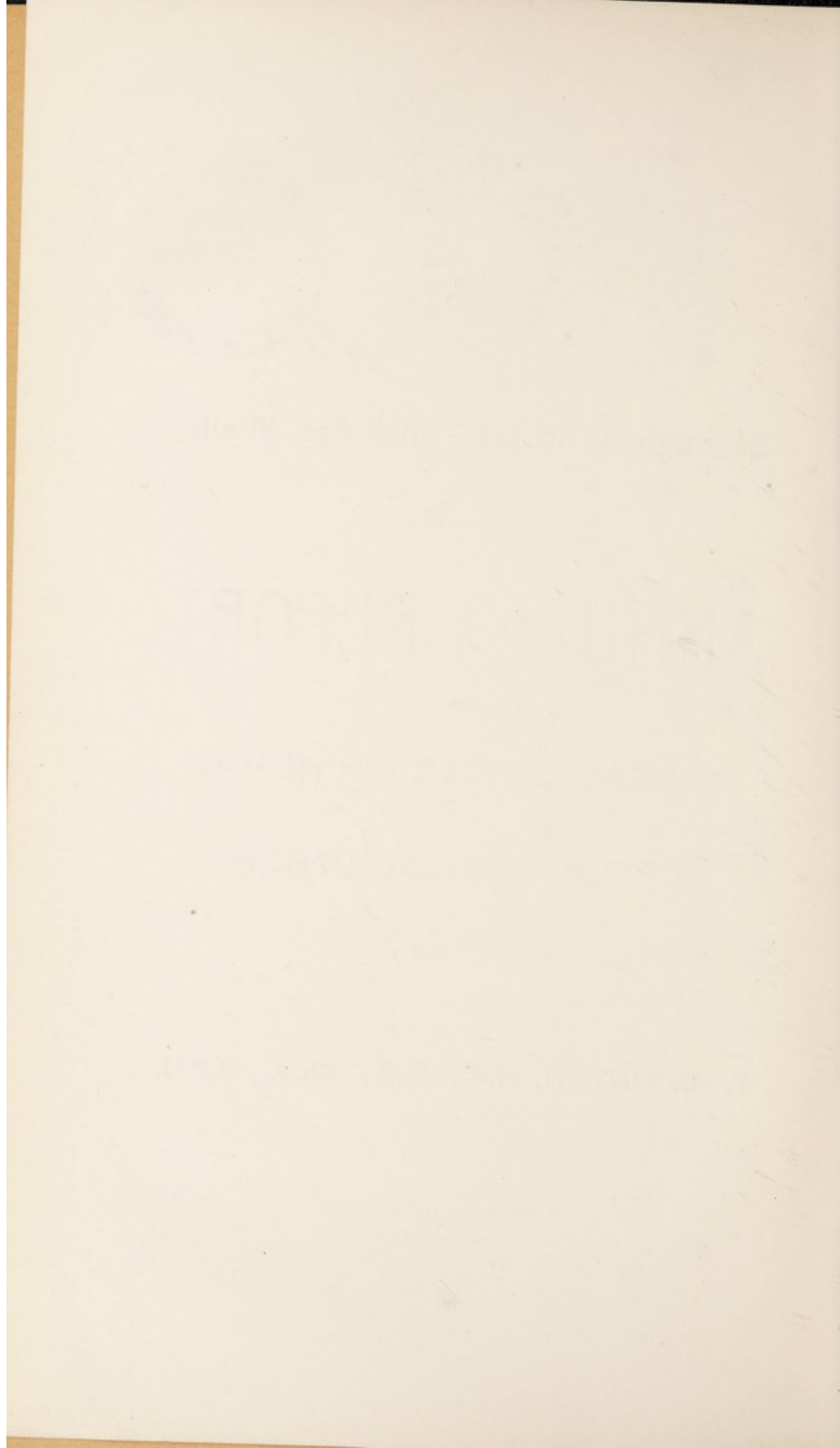
AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1938.

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

Tunbridge Wells :
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR ROAD.
2695-39.



BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

(Present Constitution)

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman WESTBROOK).

Councillor Dr. RANKINE (Chairman).

Alderman Miss BAKER.

Councillor Miss HUXTABLE.

Mr. Councillor HARRIES.

Councillor Sir Wm. McLEAN, K.B.E.

Mr. Councillor HUGGETT.

Mr. Councillor SARGENT.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :

(Present Constitution)

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman WESTBROOK).

Alderman Miss BAKER (Chairman).

Mr. Councillor HARRIES.

Mr. Councillor SARGENT.

Mr. Councillor HUGGETT.

Miss E. M. COLLETT.

Councillor Miss HUXTABLE.

Mrs. H. GRIPPER.

Councillor Sir Wm. McLEAN, K.B.E.

Mrs. HAMMOND.

Councillor Dr. RANKINE.

Mrs. PAYNE.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

H. T. TAYLOR, F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A. (a) (b)

Sanitary Inspectors :

W. P. CAVE. (a) (b)

A. G. DAVIES. (a) (b)

T. STEEL. (a)

R. R. CREASEY. (a) (b)

(Appointed 1/7/1938).

(Resigned 6/6/1938).

Rat Catcher :

H. SMALL. (Appointed 23/5/1938).

Laboratory Attendant, etc. :

H. MAIL.

Chief Clerk :

J. G. COX.

Assistant Clerks :

Miss D. BULL.

C. H. WEEKES.

D. A. BARMBY.

Health Visitors :

Miss J. DONALDSON. (c)

Miss M. PAGE. (c) (d)

Miss M. MACLAREN. (c) (d)

Miss E. RICE OXLEY. (c) (d)

*Public Analyst :

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

Dental Nurse-Attendant :

Miss D. O'NEILL.

Dental Surgeon :

ALEX. BUCHAN, L.R.C.P. & S., L.D.S. (Ed.). (Appointed 1/5/1938).

T. WYNFORD EVANS, L.D.S. (Resigned 30/4/1938).

*Medical Officer for Ante-Natal Clinic :

MARGARET EMSLIE, M.B., Ch.B.

*Masseuse :

Miss M. L. P. RUSSELL, C.S.M.M.G.

*Medical Officer for Orthopædic Clinic :

P. L. RICHARDSON, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

W. G. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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

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

Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital :

Medical Superintendent :

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Matron :

Miss E. M. BROCKLEHURST.

(a) Cert. R.S.I.

(b) Meat and Other Foods Cert.

(c) Health Visitor's Certificate.

(d) C.M.B. Certificate.

* Part-time Appointments.

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*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report dealing with the health of the Borough in 1938. It deals with work carried out for the benefit of the Town's inhabitants, both individually and collectively.

The months from February to June (except May) had each less than one inch of rainfall. As July and August also had rainfall below the average, the early part of the year was amongst the driest periods on record. Sunshine exceeded the average; and the Town's aggregate was again the highest amongst Britain's inland health resorts.

The year brought no burden of serious epidemic disease. This was fortunate, as the load of extra work in Air Raid Precautions Services made serious inroads on the time and energy available for Public Health duties. All of my staff have worked indefatigably and conscientiously to promote the welfare of the Borough's inhabitants.

In March, a clinic was started for the immunisation of young children against Diphtheria. For some years, it has been my practice to test and immunise the Staff of the Borough Fever Hospital, and it is now well established that a *well* immunised population enjoys better protection against epidemic spread than the unprotected. Particulars of the Clinic's work are given on page 58.

Many additional burdens and anxieties have been thrown upon the members of the Council, and upon its officials during the past eighteen months. Service for their fellow citizens is their normal occupation : to those who know what has been done, it seems a light thing to ask every one in return

to take a share, each according to his or her ability, in being prepared to help, should occasion arise. Preparedness is the best preventive.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
10, CALVERLEY TERRACE,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

1st August, 1939.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	6,034
Population (as extended—Census, 1931)	...				35,839
Resident Population (Registrar-General's estimate—Mid-year, 1938)	...	...	...		32,620
Resident Population (Medical Officer of Health's estimate—Mid-year, 1938)	...	...	...		35,500
Persons per acre	...	...	...	...	5.9
Number of houses intended or used for habitation on December 31st, 1938	...	...			10,703†
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	...				10,403†
Persons per inhabited house	...	...	...		3.4
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£473,743
Sum represented by a penny rate :—					
On General Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,820
Mean annual temperature	...	...	...		50.0°F.
Total rainfall, 1938	...	...	...	...	26.49 inches
Hours of bright sunshine, 1938	...	1,636	hours	42 minutes	

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

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births	{ Total	...	369	209
	{ Legitimate	...	351	199
	{ Illegitimate	...	18	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—				
10.4 (11.3 on Registrar-General's estimate of population).				
Stillbirths	...	...	14	7
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births—36.6				
Deaths	...	...	523	222
Crude Death Rate—14.7 per 1,000 of estimated resident				
population (on Registrar-General's population estimate—				
16.0).				

Death Rate corrected for age and sex constitution—(factor for correction, 0.73, 1931 Census), 10.8 per 1,000 of estimated resident population (on Registrar-General's estimate of population—11.7).

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	2	5.22
From other puerperal causes	1	2.61
Total	3	7.83

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births		46.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		45.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		55.6

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	100	34	66
„ „ Measles (all ages)	2	1	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—
„ „ Diarrhoea, etc. (un- der 2 years of age)	1	1	—

Population.

The population at mid-year 1938 was stated by the Registrar-General to be 32,620—3,219 less than the Census population in 1931.

The number of inhabited houses (including flats) at the end of 1938 according to the Rate Books was 10,403 (8,821 at the end of 1930)—an increase of 1,582 in eight years. This number is larger than the total number of separate families resident in the Borough in 1931—the Census year. The excess of deaths over births during the eight years since the Census totals 940. The Registrar-General's estimated

decrease is 3,219, a figure which assumes that emigration far exceeds immigration : in my opinion the balance, if any, is in favour of immigration. *My estimate of the mid-year population is 35,500.*

In view of the discrepancy in the estimates, duplicate figures recording the birth and death rates, etc., as calculated on the two estimates are given.

Physical Features and General Character.

At the end of 1938, the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells covered 6,034 acres. The town, which lies in the extreme south-west corner of Kent, $34\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London and 30 miles from the South Coast, is built upon hills, most of the houses standing at a level between 300 and 450 feet above sea level. The climate is breezy and bracing, with sheltered spots for those who live in the valleys.

The sub-soil is mostly sandstone, the geological layer known as Tunbridge Wells Sands predominating.

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 Offices.

The Bowling Green site in the Calverley Grounds is still in use, until a better offers : the usual certificate from the Meteorological Office is suspended until a more satisfactory site is obtained.

The readings were taken by members of the Staff of the Health Department, *viz.*, Mr. W. P. Cave and Mr. R. R. Creasey, who was succeeded by Mr. A. G. Davies on 7th June.

The annual inspection of the Station by an inspector of the Meteorological Office took place on 20th June, and all was reported to be satisfactory.

The total amount of bright sunshine recorded was 1,636 hours 42 minutes, the mean amount being 1,575 hours 0 minutes. The most sunny day was June 21st, when 15 hours were recorded. There were 53 sunless days, 66 being the average.

The highest temperature in the sun was 130 degrees on 31st July.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year was 50.0 degrees, 49.2 being the average.

The mean daily range was 16.2 degrees, the average being 14.2.

The temperature in the shade four feet above the ground was highest, 85 degrees, on 31st July, and lowest, 18 degrees, on the 21st December.

The temperature in the shade first reached :—

60 degrees on 3rd March.

70 „ „ 14th May.

80 „ „ 31st July.

Last reached :—

80 degrees on the 6th August.

70 „ „ „ 24th September.

60 „ „ „ 14th November.

The hottest nights were June 24th and August 8th, when the temperature did not go below 61 degrees.

The last frost in the air in Spring was on 9th May, and the first in the Autumn on 24th October. The last on the grass in the Spring was on 9th May, and the first in the Autumn was on 22nd October.

The rainfall amounted to 26.49 inches, the average being 30.61 inches. It fell on 164 days, the average being 170.

The most rain that fell on one day was 1.55 inches on 27th September.

The wind at 9 a.m. was North on 24 days, North-East 55 days, East 9 days, South-East 22 days, South 13 days, South-West 109 days, West 64 days and North-West 69 days.

The amount of cloud at 9 a.m. was 6.8, 6.7 being the average (10 representing overcast sky). Thunder and lightning occurred on 12 days.

There were 10 fogs, and it was misty on 9 other mornings.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1938.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature. In shade, 4ft. above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
							One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	1938.	24 Year Average.	1938.	58 Year Average.	1938.	48 Year Average.	1938.	38 Year Average.	1938.	24 Year Average.
January ...	Hrs. Mins. 46 48	Hrs. Mins. 50 24	Inches. 3.56	Inches. 2.72	°F. 41.8	°F. 38.7	°F. 40.6	°F. 39.8	°F. 42.8	°F. 43.9
February ...	74 30	72 0	0.92	2.30	39.7	39.2	39.1	39.3	42.4	42.7
March ...	204 24	126 12	0.63	2.27	48.5	42.2	44.6	41.9	44.1	43.2
April ...	160 36	139 42	0.80	2.03	44.3	46.5	46.9	46.7	47.7	46.5
May ...	163 30	204 48	3.03	1.93	50.3	53.0	52.4	54.1	50.5	50.8
June ...	222 42	212 24	0.59	1.95	59.1	58.0	60.8	60.3	56.6	56.2
July ...	188 12	206 36	1.47	2.27	59.9	61.5	62.5	63.4	59.9	59.6
August ...	189 6	194 18	1.63	2.36	62.1	61.0	65.0	62.9	63.1	61.0
September	139 18	153 0	2.84	2.29	57.7	57.1	59.1	58.9	60.1	59.7
October ...	137 24	110 30	3.84	3.57	49.9	50.2	50.6	52.6	55.4	56.0
November...	56 30	61 48	3.60	3.51	48.1	43.4	48.2	45.7	50.9	50.6
December	53 42	43 18	3.58	3.41	38.5	39.9	40.6	41.7	46.0	45.9
WHOLE YEAR	1636 42	1575 0	26.49	30.61	50.0	49.2	50.9	50.6	51.6	51.3

Social Conditions.

Tunbridge Wells is a residential town to which many persons retire from business or professional activities 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. The occupations of the inhabitants are governed by these conditions as there are no large factories. There are numerous garages and motor works, and amongst the other workers are painters, bricklayers, carpenters, gardeners, labourers, printers, bus drivers and conductors and hotel workers ; 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 a brickworks situated just outside the Borough boundary.

On 31st December, 1938, the number of adult unemployed on the local Register (which includes those of the Southborough Urban District and the neighbouring rural parishes) was :—

Men	...	...	820
Women	...	...	223
Total	...	...	1,043

This figure was considerably above the average, owing to the severe weather prevailing at the end of the year. The corresponding total for 1937 was 780. The numbers during the year did not vary much, except during bad weather, which affects the building and allied trades.

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, there is also a bandstand in which bands play during the summer season. In addition, there are seven other recreation grounds, some of which are suitably equipped for tennis, bowls and with children's swings. 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. 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 live births *registered* as properly belonging to Tunbridge Wells was 369 (209 males and 160 females)—the lowest number yet recorded (1885-1938). This corresponds to a rate of 10.4 per thousand of the population (11.3 on Registrar-General's estimate of population), as compared with 11.5 in 1937. Ten male and 8 female children were born out of wedlock, giving an illegitimate rate of 4.9 per cent., as compared with 5.6 in 1937.

Fourteen stillbirths were registered, of which one was illegitimate.

The number of births *notified* during the year under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as occurring in the Borough was 466, and consisted of 257 males and 209 females; of these, 9 males and 9 females were stillborn. The excess of notifications over registrations of births is largely 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.—542 deaths were registered in the Borough during 1938, and there were 140 outwardly transferable deaths and 121 inward transfers, thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 523. The crude Death Rate is 14.7 per thousand (16.0 on Registrar-General's estimate of population), as compared with 14.1 in 1937.

The Registrar-General has supplied the proper correction figure (0.73) as obtained from the 1931 Census returns, and the true or corrected death rate is seen to be 10.8 per thousand (11.7 on Registrar-General's estimate of population); 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 of the locality. The Table on page 20 compares the birth and death rates, etc., for England and Wales, and various groups of towns, Tunbridge Wells figures being inserted below. The Borough Death rate, 10.8 compares favourably with 11.6, the figure for England and Wales generally.

The proportion of deaths over 65 years of age was 65.8 per cent. of the total number (67.8 per cent. in 1937); and under 45 years of age it was but 11.9 per cent. of the total (12.6 per cent. in 1937).

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	1931 to 1935	† 1936	† 1937	† 1938
Deaths under 1 year ...	72	57	46	40	36	23	22	18	22	19	17
" 1 and under 2 } ...	25	29	23	16	{ 6	3	5	3	4	5	4
" 2 " 5 } ...	21	11	10	16	{ 9	5	5	4	3	2	1
" 5 " 15 } ...	20	13	14	12	{ 15	6	7	5	5	5	4
" 15 " 25 } ...	121	141	141	145	{ 21	10	10	7	8	3	7
" 25 " 45 } ...	107	104	118	119	{ 47	36	37	30	31	30	29
" 45 " 65 } ...	245	276	307	342	{ 107	104	118	119	118	99	117
" 65 and upwards ...	154	178	205	234					339	343	344

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1938.

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 Borough.
			All Ages	under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 35 years	35 and under 45 years	45 and under 55 years	55 and under 65 years	65 and under 75 years	
All Causes	{ Certified Uncertified	518 5	17 —	4 —	1 —	4 —	7 —	11 —	17 1	34 —	83 —	129 2	211 2	239
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles		2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4. Whooping Cough		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria		2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
6. Influenza		14	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	4	2	3	—	2
7. Encephalitis lethargica		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system		11	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	2	1	1	2
10. Other tuberculous diseases		3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	5
11. Syphilis		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis		3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
13. Cancer, malignant disease		100	—	—	—	1	2	3	8	25	33	28	—	54
14. Diabetes		6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	3
15. Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.		27	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	10	12	11
16. Heart disease		168	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	17	46	100	23
17. Aneurysm		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
18. Other circulatory diseases		19	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	12	—	8
19. Bronchitis		14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	8	—	—
20. Pneumonia (all forms)		26	6	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	6	8	—	20
21. Other respiratory diseases		10	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	1	4
22. Peptic ulcer		6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	10
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
24. Appendicitis		3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
25. Cirrhosis of liver		5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	1
26. Other diseases of liver, etc.		3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	7
27. Other digestive diseases		9	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	1	1	—	10
28. Acute and chronic nephritis		8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	3	11
29. Puerperal sepsis		2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
30. Other puerperal causes		1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.		6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Senility		11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
33. Suicide		2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
34. Other violence		12	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	3	4	—	2
35. Other defined diseases		41	1	1	1	1	1	—	4	—	8	9	15	12
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	28



Table Showing Number of Deaths from Certain Causes.

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 „ 1930 ...	384	106	21	30	59	91
1931 „ 1935 ...	383	65	20	15	57	52
†1936 ...	86	14	3	5	15	4
†1937 ...	65	12	4	5	11	14
†1938 ...	100	11	3	5	12	14

* Reliable figures not available.

† Inserted for comparison.

Infectious Diseases.—Thirty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever and 30 of Diphtheria were notified during the year, the latter chiefly in the Spring months.

Of the minor infectious diseases, Measles (503 known cases) and Chicken Pox (264 cases) were most prevalent, as school reports showed. The former was present from February to April, and Chicken Pox in January and February: other infectious diseases were small in amount.

There were five deaths—two due to Diphtheria, 2 to Measles and one to Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Further details relating to infectious diseases will be found on page 55.

Maternal Mortality.—Three mothers died during 1938 from conditions associated with childbirth—two from Puerperal Sepsis.

These three deaths represent a maternal mortality of 7.8 per thousand total births, compared with 2.97 for England and Wales : the average rate for the previous five years was 3.21 (3.86 for England and Wales).

Infant Mortality.—Seventeen deaths of infants under one year of age took place during the year under review, being 46.1 per thousand live births, as compared with 46.3 the previous year. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 53 (58 in 1937). The average Infant Mortality Rate in the Borough during the previous ten years was 46.4 per thousand.

As will be seen on page 19, 8 of the 17 deaths occurred during the first three weeks of life.

The stillbirths numbered 14, as compared with 13 during 1937.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1938.

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	5	2	1	—	8	2	2	4	1	17
Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tubercu- losis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malforma- tions ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth ...	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuber- culous) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	2	1	7
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1938.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births	Still- Births	All Causes.	Enteric Fever	Small- pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping- cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and En- teritis (un- der 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths (un- der 1 year
England and Wales ...	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931)... ..	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
London Administrative County	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	10.4 (11.3)	0.39 (0.43)	10.8 (11.7)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.06 (0.06)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.06 (0.06)	0.39 (0.43)	2.7	46

NOTE.—Figures in brackets indicate percentages calculated on Registrar-General's estimate of population.

The maternal mortality rates are as follows :		Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
per 1,000 Live Births	England and Wales	...	2.19	3.08
	Tunbridge Wells	...	2.71	8.13
		...	5.42	8.13
per 1,000 Total Births	England and Wales	...	2.11	2.97
	Tunbridge Wells	...	2.61	7.83
		...	5.22	7.83

Deaths in the first month are largely attributable to ante-natal causes. Further care of the expectant mother's health and nutrition may be followed by still lower mortality in infancy.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Staff.

A list of the Staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of this Report. There were two changes, as follows :—

Dr. Alexander Buchan succeeded Mr. T. Wynford Evans as Dental Surgeon, on 1st May, 1938.

Mr. R. R. Creasey resigned on 6th June, and was succeeded by Mr. T. Steel, who took up duties as Sanitary Inspector on 1st July, 1938.

All four of the Nursing Staff act one-fifth of their time as Health Visitors. Miss Rice Oxley devotes four-fifths of her time to Maternity and Child Welfare duties, Miss Donaldson two-fifths and Miss Page two-fifths ; the remainder of their time is occupied with duties in connection with the School Medical Services.

The Dental Surgeon and Dental Nurse-Attendant devote one half day per week to dental treatment under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Three of the clerical staff devote one-half of their time to Public Health Services, and the fourth clerk devotes one-half

of her time to Maternity and Child Welfare—the remainder of their time is devoted to work under the School Medical Services.

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of specimens examined in the Borough Laboratory, which is situated at the Public Health Offices, was 794 in 1938, as compared with 647 during the previous year.

The nature of these examinations is set out in the following table :—

Specimens examined for the presence of Diphtheria Bacillus :—

				<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	
(a)	From Fever Hospital					
	cases			115	159	
(b)	From outside sources			31	487	
						792
	Hairs examined for the presence of Ringworm	...				1
	Other specimens examined	...	...	...	...	1
	Total	...	...	...	...	794

The Laboratory is open seven days in the week, and the examination of all the specimens is undertaken by the Medical Staff. The collection of blood, preparation and sterilization of culture media, and disinfection of laboratory apparatus, is done by Mr. Mail, Laboratory Attendant and Caretaker of the Public Health Offices.

In addition to the above, 159 specimens were forwarded to the County Laboratory at Sessions House, Maidstone, for examination. The details are as follows :—

	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
120 Sputum examinations for Tubercle Bacilli ...	13	107
2 Blood examinations for Typhoid or Para-Typhoid	1	1
1 Urine examination for Typhoid or Para- Typhoid	—	1
5 Dejecta examination for Typhoid or Para- Typhoid	1	4
19 Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococci	2	17
8 Swabs for Diphtheria Bacillus	—	8
4 Tests of Cultures of B. Diphtheriæ for virulence	3	1
	—	—
	20	139
	==	==

Water, milk and other foods for bacteriological examination are also sent to the County Laboratory at Maidstone. During the year, 52 samples of milk were sent for this purpose, details of the results, etc., will be found on page 48. Specimens in connection with Puerperal cases are also examined at the County Laboratory. If a blood test be deemed necessary, arrangements are made with Dr. C. F. Selous, Pathologist at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, to collect and examine this.

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, on page 51.

Ambulance Facilities.

There are five ambulances in the Borough. One is garaged at the Borough Fever Hospital and is used only for infectious cases, the male staff of the hospital being responsible for driving it. For non-infectious and accident cases, the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade possesses three ambulances, and one belongs to the Borough Police Force. The St. John Ambulance Brigade also provides facilities for removing maternity patients.

The ambulance service provided is adequate for the normal needs of the community.

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. This Association has a staff of seven nurses, one of whom is resident in the outlying parish of Rusthall.

During 1938, 190 new midwifery and maternity and 705 new general cases were undertaken. The number of visits paid was 27,513—22,176 being general, 3,601 maternity and midwifery, 1,111 ante-natal and 625 casual.

(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 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. Four calls were made during 1938.

(c) **Midwives.**—The Kent County Council utilises the services of two and a half whole-time midwives, paying the Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association an appropriate grant for such services.

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 14. Notifications of births were received from 17 midwives, amongst whom were 11 on the list of the Kent County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—The Chief Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is situated at 11, Crescent Road—adjacent to the Health Offices and School Clinic, which occupy Nos. 9 and 10, Calverley Terrace.

There is also a branch Centre at Rusthall, where meetings are held at the Congregational Church Hall.

Further details concerning these Infant Welfare Centres will be found on page 31.

Day Nurseries.—There are none in Tunbridge Wells.

School Clinic.—The School Clinic is at the Public Health Offices, 9 and 10, Calverley Terrace. The premises provided by the Education Committee consist of nine rooms and a dark room. The Dental Surgeon's Clinic is held in basement rooms, where the accommodation is not fully suitable for the purpose. It is hoped before long to have a permanent Clinic built, in which adequate accommodation will be found for

all services. The Clinic is open each week-day and in addition to medical inspection and advice, treatment of defects of the eyes, ears and teeth and of minor ailments and skin diseases is undertaken. There were 17,147 attendances in 1938, compared with 14,084 during the previous year—a figure which in itself had much exceeded any previously recorded.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Kent County Council has a branch Dispensary for tuberculosis cases from Tunbridge Wells and district, at 34, Calverley Street. Clinics are held each Monday from 5 to 5.45 p.m., and on Thursdays from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The number of patients and the attendances made at this Dispensary during 1938 were as follows :—

	Insured.		Uninsured.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Patients	87	66	97	146
Attendances	206	161	248	335

Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases.—Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, the arrangements being under the control of the Kent County Council. The consultation days are as follows :—

Females—Wednesdays, at 3.30 p.m.

Males— „ „ at 5.15 p.m.

Public and Voluntary Hospitals.

Borough Fever Hospital.—The Borough has its own Fever Hospital, situated on its southern boundary, 440 feet above sea level. The site is an excellent one, airy and open, with a southern exposure and wide view over valleys and woodland. The present accommodation available for patients, allowing

12 feet wall space and 144 square feet for each adult, is as follows :—

- (a) Scarlet Fever Block.—This has accommodation for 22 adult patients—10 in each of two large wards and one in each of two small wards upstairs.
- (b) Diphtheria Block.—This was extended early in 1936 so as to accommodate 12 adult patients instead of 4: the new ward is airy and light, and its modern equipment and labour-saving devices tend to reduce the work of the staff.
- (c) A wood-built block, known as " B " block, accommodates 5 patients.
- (d) A Discharge Block containing five rooms, each capable of accommodating one person. This block is so inconvenient for nursing, and has so many different exits and entrances, that it has not been used for accommodating patients for some years, but has acted as a dormitory for the night nursing staff for whom there is insufficient accommodation in the Administrative Block.

Further Needs :—

- (a) Accommodation for the whole of the staff in the Administrative Block : *this need has become urgent.*
- (b) The replacement of the old wooden Discharge Block by a modern Cubicle Block, with ten cubicles suitable for dealing with doubtful cases, those with double infections, or isolated cases of one disease : to this must be added the need to separate those infected with different strains of Scarlet Fever, which are apt to spread from one to the other.

Patients are taken from Tunbridge Wells, and also from the adjacent northern portion of the Battle Rural District of East Sussex. There is also an agreement with the neighbouring Southborough Urban District Council to take all such of its infectious cases as are suitable for admission to a fever hospital.

The number of patients admitted to the Hospital during the year was 93 (80 Tunbridge Wells cases and 13 " outside " cases) representing 3,229 patient-days (Tunbridge Wells cases 2,827, other cases 402 days).

Smallpox Hospital.—The Conjoint Smallpox Hospital is situated at Capel, some four and a half miles from Tunbridge Wells. It has accommodation for 18 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.

Additional accommodation for staff is required, and plans have been submitted for this purpose.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, steps have been taken to arrange for this Hospital to serve a much wider area of South-West Kent than hitherto. The arrangements are in course of settlement, and the new areas will have a population within the proportion of beds usually deemed sufficient, *viz.*, one bed to ten thousand of population. Apart from making good the accommodation for staff, the increased area and population to be served does not in itself involve radical change: the drainage is in need of modernisation and plans for putting this work in hand have been approved.

The Kent and Sussex Hospital.—This is a handsome modern hospital, occupying a splendid site, and is well equipped for dealing with all forms of medical, surgical and radiological treatment. It has 210 beds, including 18 for private patients.

During 1938, the number of in-patients treated was 3,415, out-patients numbered 12,247, making 75,216 attendances.

By agreement with the Borough Council, operations upon elementary school children for the removal of tonsils and adenoids are carried out by the Specialist Aural Surgeon and in-patient treatment of orthopædic cases is also undertaken at this Hospital.

The Homœopathic Hospital is a comfortable, airy, and well-lighted building, with a sunshine balcony looking on to the Common. In 1938, 223 in-patients were treated as compared with 245 the previous year ; 151 theatre operations were performed. Three thousand, four hundred and eight attendances were made at the Out-patients' Department.

Payment is also made to this Hospital by the Education Committee in respect of operations upon elementary school children for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, which are carried out by a visiting Aural Surgeon.

Other Forms of Medical Relief.

Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home.—Two hundred and twenty-six confinements took place in this Home during 1938, as compared with 247 in 1937. Of these mothers, 91 were residents of Tunbridge Wells, as compared with 120 during the previous year. They represented 23.9 per cent. of the total Tunbridge Wells mothers for the year, as compared with 28.8 per cent. born in the Home during 1937.

During 1938, payment was made by the Corporation, under the terms of the agreement with the Committee of the Home, in two instances where the home conditions were unsuitable for the confinement. In addition, a special subsidy of £50 is contributed annually by the Borough Council towards the cost of upkeep.

The Borough Medical Officer of Health has continued to serve as Honorary Administrative Medical Officer to the

Home since its inception in 1925, and also to serve as a member of its Executive Committee of Management : this keeps it in close touch with the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Services of the Borough.

The Invalid Children's Aid Association.—This Association keeps in close touch with the School Medical and Child Welfare Services. No week passes without some interchange of notes, or interview with its secretarial staff, and the Presidency of the Branch has been held for a number of years by the Borough Medical Officer of Health.

Forty-five children in need of treatment were sent through its good offices to convalescent homes, 31 children were given additional nourishment and help in other forms was given in many cases. Two hundred and one cases in all received assistance, at a cost of £132.

The Local Branch of the **Royal Surgical Aid Society** has reached the forty-fifth year of its activities. In 1938, 777 appliances were supplied at a cost of £1,577. Spectacles continue to be provided for school children in suitable instances, on production of the Society's Letters initialled by the School Medical Officer. Thus abuse of charities is avoided, while those in need are assisted.

The Provident Dispensary, 106, Upper Grosvenor Road. The number of members of this institution for the year 1938 was as follows :—Above the age of 14 years 440 ; under the age of 14 years, 196 ; total, 636.

Tunbridge Wells Council of Service.—During the year ended 31st March, 1939, in addition to other forms of assistance, over two thousand hundredweights of coal were provided at a cheap rate (1s. 6d., per cwt.) to the families of unemployed, etc. An estate at Hawkenbury, with 32 homes for old people, is now in full use and is an added attraction to the neighbourhood owing largely to the spacious central lawn as well as to the flower-surrounded houses encircling it.

Homes, etc., in Tunbridge Wells.—The branch of Dr. Barnardo's Home in Park Road, closed down in December, 1938. A larger Home will shortly be opened in the Urban District of Southborough. The Convalescent Home at Hawkenbury, in which a residential open-air school for children has been established continues in use, but Hurstleigh Holiday Home also closed down in 1938.

St. Christopher's Nursery College, a large building in extensive grounds, has developed into a modern training centre for children's nurses: it has a nursery home for the younger children of parents mostly stationed abroad, or travelling abroad. The "Beacon", Rusthall, purchased by the management of St. Christopher's in 1938, has been used to house Spanish refugee children, and later Jewish refugee children from Austria and Germany.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The amount of Poor Law Relief given by the Public Assistance Committee in Tunbridge Wells for the year ended 31st March, 1939, totalled £9,100, as compared with £9,050 during the previous year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Council has made the following arrangements for its Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough:—

Infant Welfare Centres.—The Chief Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is at 11, Crescent Road—adjacent to the Health Offices, which occupy No.'s 9 and 10, Calverley Terrace. Clinics are held here each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

There is also a branch Centre at Rusthall, meeting each Wednesday afternoon in the hall and rooms adjoining the Congregational Church in Rusthall High Street. This is a temporary arrangement, as the premises are not well adapted for use as a Centre. Plans are under consideration for

constructing a suitable combined School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre for this outlying district, where many Corporation houses have been built of recent years, increasing the child population to be served.

The total number of attendances at the Centres during 1938 was 10,662, as compared with 9,664 in 1937, 10,322 in 1936, 8,787 in 1935, 9,636 in 1934, 10,311 in 1933 and 9,280 in 1932. *The 1938 figure is a record.* The Table on the following page analyses the attendances, etc.

The number of individual infants under 1 year of age attending the Centres during the year was 303 (319 in 1937), and the individual children 1-5 years numbered 365 (325 in 1937).

Two thousand, five hundred and forty-eight medical consultations were held, as compared with 2,427 during the previous year, and 5,508 weighings were carried out (4,903 in 1937).

During the year, 209 infants under 1 year attended the Centres for the first time, being 57 per cent. of the live births (compared with 224 and 55 per cent. in 1937); 93 children aged 1-5 years (72 previous year) attended for the first time.

Ante- and Post-Natal Clinic.—This Clinic was held at Holly Lodge, 11, Crescent Road, Dr. Margaret Emslie attending twice each month for consultations.

A total of 145 ante-natal cases attended and 291 consultations were held: the undermentioned Table gives details of the expectant mothers who attended:—

	BOROUGH RESIDENTS.			OUTSIDE CASES.		
	Primips.	Multips.	Total.	Primips.	Multips.	Total.
Individual expectant mothers ...	44 (54)	99 (92)	143 (146)	1 (6)	1 (-)	2 (6)
Consultations ...	76 (128)	211 (188)	287 (316)	3 (8)	1 (-)	4 (8)

NOTE.—Figures in brackets indicate similar figures for 1937.

Attendances etc., at Infant Welfare Centres, 1938.

	Tunbridge Wells— Tuesday Clinic.		Rusthall— Wednesday Clinic.		Tunbridge Wells— Thursday Clinic.		Totals.	
	1938. (51 sessions).	1937. (51 sessions).	1938. (52 sessions).	1937. (51 sessions).	1938. (52 sessions).	1937. (51 sessions).	1938.	1937.
Number of attendances of Infants under 1 year	799	371	521	588	1324	1610	2644	2569
Number of attendances of Children 1-5 years	488	267	1114	1118	1449	1165	3051	2550
Number of attendances of Mothers (excluding those at Ante-Natal Clinic)	1168	636	1312	1377	2487	2532	4967	4545
Total Attendances	2455 (48)	1274 (25)	2947 (57)	3083 (60)	5260 (101)	5307 (104)	10662	9664
CONSULTATIONS WITH MEDICAL OFFICER :—								
Infants	262	34	252	347	605	792	1119	1173
Children	198	32	550	574	681	648	1429	1254
Totals	460	66	802	921	1286	1440	2548	2427

NOTE : Figures in brackets indicate the approximate average attendances.

The percentage of Tunbridge Wells expectant mothers attending this Clinic during the past three years was as follows :—

1936	...	...	27 per cent.
1937	...	...	36 „ „
1938	...	...	38 „ „

The private medical attendant is consulted in at least an equal number of cases.

In addition to the above, 27 Tunbridge Wells mothers made 38 attendances for post-natal examinations, as compared with 27 cases and 36 attendances during the previous year.

Orthopædic Treatment.—Dr. P. L. Richardson is employed to see any orthopædic cases referred to him from the Child Welfare Centres, and also to supervise the in-patient treatment of cases in the Kent & Sussex Hospital, to which children requiring treatment of brief duration are sent under an agreement with the Corporation. Prolonged in-patient treatment is dealt with by sending the crippled child for special education, *e.g.*, to the Chailey Heritage Craft Schools.

Miss Russell continued to hold Remedial Exercise Classes in the School Clinic each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m.

During the year, 13 children under school age were seen by Dr. Richardson, and 16 consultations were held. Of these, 8 were new cases suffering from the following defects :—

Slight Genu Valgum	...	...	1
Flat Feet	...	...	1
Slight bowing of Tibia	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	3
No orthopædic defect	...	...	2

Two cases were recommended wedges to shoes, one child

had foot stretched and put in plaster, and the other three children were recommended no active treatment.

No in-patient hospital treatment was needed.

Three children were discharged as needing no further treatment.

Dental Treatment.—Mr. T. Wynford Evans, L.D.S., the first whole-time Dental Surgeon, resigned on 1st May, 1938, his duties being taken over by Dr. Alex. Buchan. Dental treatment clinics for children under school age and expectant and nursing mothers were continued once each week.

Seventy-one individual children made 129 attendances, and 46 mothers made 89 attendances to see the Dental Surgeon. The following is a summary of the treatment given :—

Teeth extracted.		Teeth filled.		Other operations.		Administrations of General Anæsthetics.
Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
252	205	18	32	13	66	57

Under the arrangement made between the Borough Council and the local branch of the Royal Surgical Aid Society, by which grants (not exceeding 50 per cent. of the nett amount expended by the Society) are made towards the cost of dentures supplied to expectant and nursing mothers attending the Corporation's Centres, assistance totalling £14 5s. 0d. was given in seven cases during the year.

Health Visiting.—The following home visits were paid by the Nursing Staff during the year :—

(a)	To expectant mothers	...	...	First visits	...	245
				Total visits	...	505
(b)	To children under 1 year of age	...	...	First visits	...	327
				Total visits	...	1,556

(c)	To children between the ages of 1				
	and 5 years	...	...	Total visits	... 3,246
(d)	Where infants have died		...	Total visits	... 45
(e)	Found no one at home	...	...	...	... 1,124

This bald statement of the large amount of home visiting conveys little impression of the value of this branch of the work of the Department. A health visitor's qualifications and ability enable her to act as friendly adviser on many problems of health and environment which crop up in the working-class home.

Child Life Protection.—On December 31st, 1938, there were within the Borough 81 children under the care of 27 registered foster-mothers, as compared with 82 children boarded-out with 33 foster-mothers at the end of the previous year. (*Note*: In both instances these figures include St. Christopher's Nursery College, which usually has between 40 and 50 children in residence.)

Three hundred and ninety-eight visits of inspection were paid during the year.

In six instances (16 in 1937) failure to comply with the provisions of Part VII. (Child Life Protection) of the Public Health Act, 1936, were reported to the Maternity and child Welfare Committee, and in each case a warning was given to the foster-mother.

Assistance in Necessitous Cases.—A Sub-Committee of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee met once each month in order to deal with applications for assistance under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. One hundred and forty-six families (103 in 1937) received assistance, of which 105 were supplied with 10,859 (7,385 previous year) pints of fresh milk, at an estimated cost to the Corporation of £133 8s. 0d. In addition, 110 lbs. Dried Milk, 270 lbs. Cod

Liver Oil and Malt, 33 cartons Virol, 25 tins Ovaltine, 129 tins Almata, 52 cartons Bemax, 23 bottles of Cod Liver Oil, 19 packets Glucose, 48 bottles Halibut Liver Oil, 4 tins Lactagol and small quantities of Paraffin and Radiostol, to the value of £32 14s. 4d., were issued free of cost.

Food and drugs to the value of £126 4s. 1d. were sold at cost price.

The Medical Staff also issued 113 certificates to families for milk to be supplied through the Public Assistance Committee.

The Corporation gave direct assistance with Maternity Home fees in two instances where the home conditions were unsatisfactory for the confinement: this was in addition to the annual subsidy of £50 paid towards the upkeep of the Maternity Home.

Fifty-nine sterilised maternity outfits were sold at cost price and one was issued free: the purchase and provision of these has now been handed over to the District Nursing Association, as it employs the only visiting midwives in the Borough.

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.—The treatment of maternity cases is undertaken by agreement with the Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home to which adequate reference is made on page 29. Maternity cases in need of special medical or surgical treatment are referred to the County Hospital, Pembury, if unprovided with a medical attendant. The provision for abnormal maternity cases at the Kent & Sussex Hospital consists of two single rooms, situated in the Gynæcological Block, and under the care of the nursing staff of the gynæcological ward—not an ideal arrangement, though much useful work has been done. Ten Borough mothers were confined in this Hospital during 1938.

No children's hospital is provided or subsidised by the Local Authority. Children are treated in the Kent and Sussex Hospital, the Homœopathic Hospital and in the Pembury Hospital. Fees were paid by the Corporation to the Kent & Sussex Hospital for in-patient treatment of orthopædic cases, and for X-ray examinations in cases referred by the Corporation's Medical Staff. Payment was also made by the Education Committee to both the Kent & Sussex Hospital and to the Homœopathic Hospital for the removal of tonsils and adenoids in elementary school children.

No special institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children. The Public Assistance Committee makes provision for such cases either in Pembury Hospital, which is now equipped with a modern Maternity Block, including operating theatre, or in other institutions in the County, according to the nature of the case.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

(Sections 187-194 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

The following is an extract from Form Hosp. 8, required by the Ministry of Health, which gives details of the work carried out during 1938.

	Number of Homes	Number of patients provided for :—		
		Maternity patients	Others	Totals
Homes first registered during the year	3	—	16	16
Homes on the Register at the end of the year	11	4	127	131

Number of applications for registration refused :—

(i)	under proviso (a)	to Section 187(3)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(ii)	"	"	(b)	"	"	...	Nil.
(iii)	"	"	(c)	"	"	...	Nil.
(iv)	"	"	(d)	"	"	...	Nil.

Number of registrations cancelled under Section 188	...	...	Nil.
Number of appeals by aggrieved persons to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, under Section 189(3)	...	...	Nil.
Number of cases in which fines were imposed	...	...	Nil.
Number of inspections	...	...	19
Number of registered homes not inspected	...	...	Nil.

The inspections are carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, who also supervises the adaptation of fresh premises for nursing home purposes, paying as many visits as occasion requires.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.—The water supply undertaking is owned and managed by the Borough Council, and the supply is a piped one controlled by monthly bacteriological examinations. The water is soft, and is drawn from springs issuing from the stratum known to geologists as Tunbridge Wells Sandstone. The main springs are situated at Pembury in unfrequented woodland areas, in which inhabited dwellings are few and distant, and an Artesian Borewell at Saint's Hill, near Fordcombe, taps the same geological layer of the Ashdown Sands as the Pembury Artesian Wells, at a depth of 407 feet. Water is also pumped from the Tangier Wells to the Parish of Frant in the Rural District of Battle in East Sussex.

Sampling showed bacteriologically a slight contamination in the Autumn ; steps were taken to remedy this, with immediate good results.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied at the end of 1938 was 10,058 within the Borough and 779 outside.

Rivers and Streams.—There are several small streams in the Borough, of which the North and South Streams, leading to the North and South Sewage Farms respectively, are the largest.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The Borough sewage drains towards two Sewage Farms, one at the northern end and the other at the southern end of the town.

The following improvements at the South Farm, begun in July, 1937, were completed in October, 1938, at a cost of £17,562 :—

One additional Detritus Tank (capacity 7,188 gallons) with new Grab type screen.

Four additional Sedimentation Tanks (capacity 175,500 gallons).

Two additional Stormwater Tanks (capacity 129,940 gallons).

Four additional Percolating Filters.

Two additional Humus Tanks (capacity 56,250 gallons).

Extensions of the sludge, feed and effluent pipes, raising weirs, etc.

The North Sewage Farm is 187 acres in extent, and its effluent goes to the North Stream. Considerable improvement in this small stream has taken place, but it is still the subject of careful observation and supervision.

The work of installing two new unchokeable centrifugal pumps with electric motors at Hurstwood Pumping Station was commenced in September, 1938, and was still in progress at the end of the year. The estimated cost was £1,400.

An 18 inch sewer was laid in Auckland Road to obviate flooding at a cost of £525.

Closet Accommodation.—There are now no privies or earth closets ; 105 pail closets are in use in houses situated in the outlying rural areas of the Borough. Sixty water closets drain to cesspools : all the remaining premises are connected to the public sewers.

Cesspools in the Borough are emptied by the Corporation free of charge eight times annually, a charge being made if more frequent emptying be required.

Public Cleansing.—Domestic refuse is collected once weekly ; trade refuse and refuse from institutions, hotels, schools, etc., is collected daily, or two or three times weekly, as required. The vehicles used are S.D. Freighters, all of the latest type—rear loading with movable floors.

The Bradford method of controlled tipping is carried out in Tunbridge Wells, and since January, 1935, the refuse has been tipped on low lying land adjacent to the North Sewage Farm.

The total number of dust receptacles in the Borough is approximately 11,850 : 9,350 tons (57,327 cubic yards) of house and trade refuse (9,793 tons in 1937) were dealt with by the Cleansing Department during the year.

The street gullies are emptied and flushed at least four times a year. An innovation is the washing and disinfecting of main road pavements once weekly.

Schools.—All schools in the area are supplied with town water, and are connected with the public sewers.

There was no closure of schools or classes on account of infectious diseases during 1938, but 21 " low attendance certificates " were issued under the Elementary Educational Provisional Code, 1922, Amending Regulations No. 2, 1924. Full details of the procedure taken with regard to infectious diseases amongst elementary school children are set out in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

With regard to the milk supplied to schools, 24 samples were taken during the year and examined bacteriologically, by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, at the Kent County Laboratory. Details of the results will be found on page 49. Approved pasteurised milk is now supplied to nearly all the Borough schools. Pasteurisation, when well

carried out, is a safeguard against Tuberculous infection through milk.

Smoke Abatement.—As there are no large factories in the Town, nuisance from smoke is not in any way a prominent matter, and no action was found necessary during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are two Public Swimming Baths within the Borough, both of which are under the control of the Corporation.

The Indoor Baths consist of one swimming bath measuring 90 feet by 35 feet, having an up-to-date filtration plant, and 16 slipper baths. The Open Air Bath is 76 yards long and 30 yards wide.

Bacteriological examinations of samples of the waters of both these Baths were made in August, 1938, following upon a detailed inspection. The Indoor Bath and its surrounds proved to be in satisfactory condition, and the analyses showed its water to be sterile and of good quality.

The water of the Open Air Bath proved to be below standard, particularly at the shallow end. Part emptying and chlorinating were recommended as immediate measures, and further permanent improvements recommended were put into force.

Shops and Offices.—During the year, 20 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences. No systematic action was taken with regard to Offices, although the opportunity of inspecting such premises was taken as and when the opportunity arose.

Camping Sites.—The following particulars are given at the request of the Ministry of Health :—

Number of camping sites used for camping purposes during 1938	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of camping sites licensed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Estimated maximum number of campers resident at any one time	...	...	...	...	...	1

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—It is becoming more habitual for those who find bugs present in their houses to invoke the aid of the Health Department in dealing with these pests. In the case of slight infestations, verbal instruction is given together with the loan of disinfecting fluid and a hand spray.

The following is a summary of the action taken during the year :—

Number of Council houses found to be infested (including 14 new cases)	...	...	...	...	34
Number of Council houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	34
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	...	...	...	55
" " " " disinfested	...	...	...	...	55

The method most used was spraying with " Zaldecide " insecticide, which proved effective.

Hydrogen Cyanide is used for bedding and furniture before infested families move into Council houses ; this is carried out by contractors. No such cases occurred during the year under review.

After disinfestation, visits are paid to the infested premises and advice given as to the need for constant vigilance and cleanliness.

Housing.—Five houses were demolished and 6 Demolition Orders were made during 1938.

Eighty-one houses and 49 flats were built by private enterprise during the year : no additional Corporation houses were completed, although 158 were in course of erection.

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1938.

The following table gives a general statement as to the number of inspections and visits made during the year and other information :—

Houses inspected under the Housing Act	...	...	...	318
Premises inspected other than under the Housing Act	...	...	...	418
Houses visited <i>re</i> dustbin accommodation (other than above)	...	...	...	36
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	200
Houses inspected for sanitary certificate	...	...	...	4
Visits to Slaughter houses	...	...	...	778
" " other food premises (excluding bakehouses, etc.)	...	...	...	155
" " Bakehouses	...	...	...	77
" " Kitchens	...	...	...	60
" " Dairies	...	...	...	113
" " Cowsheds	...	...	...	74
" " Ice cream premises	...	...	...	12
" " Factories	...	...	...	116
" " Workshops	...	...	...	233
" " Workplaces	...	...	...	23
" " Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	2
" " Stables	...	...	...	6
" " Streams	...	...	...	3
" <i>re</i> keeping of animals	...	...	...	16
" " rat and mice infestation	...	...	...	157
" " Shops Act	...	...	...	22
" " overcrowding	...	...	...	107
" " smoke nuisances	...	...	...	8
Interviews respecting properties	...	...	...	273
Secondary visits <i>re</i> works in progress, etc.	...	...	...	3,780
Visits <i>re</i> infectious cases	...	...	...	56
Rooms disinfected by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	99
Other visits	...	...	...	567
Smoke test to drains—houses	...	...	...	64
Water test—No. of times applied	...	...	...	111
Informal notices served—211, respecting 437 houses.				
" " complied with 176, respecting 347 houses.				
Formal notices served 75, respecting 93 houses.				
" " complied with 49, respecting 63 houses.				
Defects remedied	...	...	...	3,195
Food condemned and destroyed—3 tons 2 cwts. 1 qtr. 11 lbs.				
Carcases of meat—home killed—examined	...	...	...	5280
Samples of food examined by Public Analyst	...	...	...	102
" " " and found below standard	...	...	...	7

HOUSING.

The inspection of working class houses proceeded systematically during the year, and 318 were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations. Other houses and premises to the number of 418 were inspected for various reasons, and in addition 36 houses were visited respecting dustbin accommodation, making a total of 772 houses and other premises visited, in addition to routine visits to factories, workshops, etc. No dwelling houses were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, but further action was taken in respect of unfit houses still outstanding. The Albion Square area was declared a Clearance Area, and following an inspection by an Inspector from the Ministry of Health, the order was confirmed. Following an official representation made in September, it was decided to apply for a compulsory purchase order respecting the area comprising Nos. 22 to 30, North Street, and Nos. 1 & 2, Monckton's Row. Notice of appeal was given on behalf of the owner of the North Street area, and at the end of the year an enquiry was pending.

Demolition orders for Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Sunnyvale Terrace were sealed in January, these being agreed to by the owner of the property. Arising out of informal action, Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7, Basinghall Street were demolished, as was Fonthill, The Common.

Overcrowding.—The tabular statement submitted hereunder shows that during the year 14 cases of overcrowding were abated, while 7 new cases were discovered, so that at the end of the year 33 dwellings were still overcrowded, the number of persons affected being 235. This compares with 73 cases discovered when the overcrowding survey was completed early in 1936. It is

expected that the overcrowded families will be offered alternative accommodation on the Council's new housing estate early in 1939.

The following statement is called for by the Minister of Health :—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	736
(In addition 36 houses were visited <i>re</i> dustbin accommodation.)	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	4177
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	318
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2128
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	618

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	537
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	63
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	32

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D.—*Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV Overcrowding :—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	33
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	33
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	235
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	79
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	1
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil.

Defects Remedied.—Arising out of the various inspections, defects to the number of 3,195 were remedied. This is a smaller number than in the previous year, and is due to the fact that the worst of the working class houses have now been dealt with. Proceedings against the owner of a dwelling-house were instituted for failure by him to comply with an abatement notice. A nuisance order was granted by the Court, and a fine of £1 0s. 0d. and £1 1s. 0d. costs was inflicted.

The following table classifies many of the defects :—

Houses redrained	25
Houses at which drains were repaired	61
Intercepting traps fixed	3
Inspection chambers constructed	44
Cesspools abolished	1
Inspection chambers repaired	16
New Vent pipes fixed to drains	27
New Soil pipes provided	17
Soil and Vent pipes repaired	18
New glazed gullies fixed	76
Defective bell traps removed	—
Obstructions removed from drains	25
New W.C.'s provided	21
New W.C. pans and traps fixed... ..	74
W.C.'s provided with water supply	22
Flushing cisterns repaired, or renewed	46
Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	8
Rain water pipes and gutters repaired	98

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Paving to yards renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Passages Repaved—Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Galvanised dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Ashpits discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privies discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
New Baths and Lavatory Basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
New Bath and Lavatory Basin waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Rooms stripped and distempered or repapered	...	...	...	...	...	...	271
Ceilings cleansed and distempered (excluding above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Rooms and bedding cleansed (tenant)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Walls repaired (internal)	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
" " (external)	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Space under ground floors ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
New sash cords fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Slaughter houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	617
New water supply pipes to houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories and Workshops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year, 74 visits to farms and 113 to milk-shops and other dairies were made. Generally speaking the premises were kept to a reasonable standard, although in several of the smaller dairies the proper sterilization of the utensils was not always carried out as it should be. The cleanliness of the cows showed an improvement. No further licences for the production of designated milk were issued during the year, but improvements are contemplated at three further farms to enable the occupiers to obtain licences at the end of the year. A new dairy was in course of construction and modern pasteurising plant being installed.

The following samples of milk were examined, these being in addition to those analysed under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act :—

	<i>Tested.</i>	<i>Satisfied Test.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>
From Farms—Accredited ...	15	10	5
„ „ —Tuberculin Tested ...	5	5	—
„ Dairies—Pasteurised ...	2	2	—
Schools—local ...	15	11	4
„ —by K.C.C. ...	9	8	1
„ — „ „ for tubercle bacilli	6	6	—

At the end of the year the following licences were in operation :—

Dealers licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	5
Supplementary licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	1
Pasteurisers' „ — „	...	...	2
Bottling „ —Accredited Milk	...	...	1

Meat and Other Foods.

This important branch of the work again received adequate attention throughout the year, and called for a considerable amount of time of the inspecting staff. This applied particularly to those slaughterhouses where slaughtering often takes place late at night. The number of slaughterhouses remains the same, *viz.*, 3 registered, and 1 licensed. No less than 778 visits were paid to these premises, the greater number of these being at times of slaughter, which is essential if proper supervision is to be exercised. Although the class of animal slaughtered and food sold in the Borough was again very good, it was necessary to condemn the large amount of 3 tons 2 cwt. 1 qtr. 11lbs., this being mostly meat found diseased at time of inspection at the slaughterhouse. It must be borne in mind that an animal, however good it may appear when alive, may show evidence of disease when slaughtered, hence the necessity for constant and strict inspection of all meat. Although this large amount of food was condemned, it was not necessary to obtain a Magistrates' Order in any case, thanks to the good understanding between the inspectors and those concerned with the meat supplies.

Particulars of the food condemned are given hereunder :—

Beef (home killed) ...	1831 lbs. of which 1828 lbs. were tuberculous.
Beef Offal (home killed) ...	789 " " " 741 " " "
Pork " " ...	1454 " " " 1267 " " "
Pigs heads " " ...	823 " " " 823 " " "
Ox Livers " " ...	69 " " " 42 " " "
Other Offals " " ...	370 " " " 193 " " "
Mutton ...	47 " "
Imported Beef ...	553 " "
" Offals ...	358 " "
Fish ...	392 " "
Bacon ...	86 " "
Poultry ...	134 " "
Liquid eggs ...	77 " "
Total ...	6983 lbs.

The following information is requested by the Minister of Health :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	417	3	275	2235	2335
Number inspected ...	417	3	275	2216	2335
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	Nil	Nil	3	(Including 7 congestion) 32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	1.2	Nil	Nil	0.13	(Excluding congestion) 1.05
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	1	Nil	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	25	1	3	Nil	81
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6.2	66.6	1.5	Nil	3.9

A meat marketing scheme is not in force in the Borough.

In addition to visits to slaughterhouses, inspections to the number of 155 were made of butchers, fish and food premises generally, this being exclusive of the inspection of bakehouses. Several minor infringements of the regulations governing these premises were found, but in no case was it necessary to institute statutory proceedings. I would emphasise the necessity for the need of greater protection of those foods offered for sale and exposed in such a manner that they are liable to contamination. This applies in particular to articles such as sweets and pastries exposed in certain of the multiple shops. With the coming into operation of the new Public Health Act, it is to be hoped that stronger regulations governing the distribution of bread will be made.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT.

During the year 102 samples of food were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst, and of these seven milk samples were pronounced to be below the presumptive standard, the remainder being genuine. The majority of the other samples of milk were of very good quality, and the milk supply on the whole was of a high standard of chemical purity. The average milk fat content of the samples of cream and ice cream showed a big variation, and emphasised the necessity for a standard for certain foods.

The following is a statement of the samples submitted for analysis :—

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT.
Samples Analysed During 1938.

Nature of Article.	Examined.		Total	Adulterated.		Total	Action Taken.
	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal		
New Milk ...	20	26	46	5	2	7	No. 847 informal contained 4% extraneous water. No. 850 formal contained 2% extraneous water. Vendor fined £6 inclusive. No. 860 formal also taken in connection with sample No. 847. No. 905 informal—deficient in milk fat to extent of 43%— formal sample proved genuine. No. 909 formal—deficient in fat to extent of 7%— cautioned. Nos. 938 & 939 formal contained 16½ and 8% extraneous water respectively. Taken in course of delivery. Farmer fined £9 17s. 0d. inclusive.
Cream ...	—	6	6				
Butter ...	—	5	5				
Margarine ...	—	5	5				
Lard ...	—	2	2				
Cheese ...	—	4	4				
Ice Cream ...	—	4	4				
Sausages ...	—	8	8				
Cocoa ...	—	1	1				
Sultanas ...	—	2	2				
Ground Rice ...	—	2	2				
Corned Beef ...	—	1	1				
Sugar ...	—	3	3				
Ground Cinnamon	—	1	1				
Pepper ...	—	2	2				
Coffee ...	—	3	3				
Dripping ...	—	2	2				
Pearl Barley ...	—	1	1				
Sago ...	—	1	1				
Currants ...	—	1	1				
Raisins ...	—	1	1				
Tapioca ...	—	1	1				
Totals ...	20	82	102	5	2	7	

No. 847 informal contained 4% extraneous water.
 No. 850 formal contained 2% extraneous water. Vendor fined £6 inclusive.
 No. 860 formal also taken in connection with sample No. 847.
 No. 905 informal—deficient in milk fat to extent of 43%—formal sample proved genuine.
 No. 909 formal—deficient in fat to extent of 7%—cautioned.
 Nos. 938 & 939 formal contained 16½ and 8% extraneous water respectively. Taken in course of delivery. Farmer fined £9 17s. 0d. inclusive.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number of inspections of these premises was far greater than those made during the previous year, the figures being, Factories 116, Workshops 233, Workplaces 23 during 1938, and 23, 73 and 7 respectively during 1937. Several defects of a minor character were found and remedied, these including want of cleanliness and insufficient or unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences. No difficulty was experienced in obtaining the remedying of the defects.

On the 1st day of July, 1938, the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 was superseded by the Factories Act, 1937, which the Home Secretary described as "an important milestone on the road to safety, health and welfare in industry". One of its most important features is that it greatly reduces the permissible working hours both for women and young persons. The old distinctions between non-textile and textile factory are abolished, and the expression "workshop" disappears, only one term "factory" being employed. The regulations governing ventilation, lighting, means of escape in case of fire, and sanitary conveniences have been greatly clarified and strengthened.

The law governing basement bakehouses has been considerably strengthened and this type of premises can now be abolished unless conforming to a good standard. No further underground bakehouses will be permitted, while if an existing bakehouse of this type is not used as a bakehouse for twelve months it must not be so used again.

The passing of, and enforcement of this Act will mean that detailed inspections of all factories must be again carried out and fresh records compiled.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Work under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act received greater attention than in any other year. Owing to areas surrounding allotments being developed as building estates for residences, the rat problem became one of difficulty, as the rodent invaded houses in fairly large numbers. Following a visit from an Inspector attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and acting on his advice, it was decided to appoint a man as official rat-catcher. The man at present acting in this capacity was appointed in May of the year under review, and has been engaged almost every day since in dealing with rat infestations. He uses ferrets whenever possible but also resorts to the use of the gassing machine when this method is the more advantageous. His work has been most effective, and has been very much appreciated by the occupiers of premises with which he has dealt. Rats numbering hundreds have been definitely accounted for, while a large number must have been gassed in their runs.

On several occasions I have expressed the opinion that it is only by whole-time rat catchers being employed by every class of local authority that the rat menace can be successfully dealt with. The fact that such a man has been appointed by the Council is one of satisfaction.

In conclusion, I would again like to express my appreciation of the support you have accorded me throughout a year which has again been one of more than usual activity, partly on account of the work I have undertaken in connection with Air Raid Precautions.

(Signed) HARRY T. TAYLOR,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(A) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

One hundred and twenty-four cases of infectious disease were notified during 1938, as compared with 138 in 1937, 121 in 1936, 119 in 1935, and 224 in 1934. The following Tables give details of the seasonal and age incidence of, and the mortality from, these notifiable diseases :—

Seasonal Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1938.

MONTH.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Erysi- pelas.	Opht- halmia Neona- torum.	Pneu- monia.	Puer- peral Py- rexia.	Cere- bro- spinal Fever.	En- teric Fever.	Acute Ant: Polio- mye- litis.	Totals.
January ...	2	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
February ...	4	5	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	14
March ...	7	9	—	2	9	1	—	—	—	28
April ...	2	1	1	—	3	3	1	—	—	11
May ...	3	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	10
June ...	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	8
July ...	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
August ...	3	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	7
September ...	3	2	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	11
October ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
November ...	4	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	12
December ...	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	5
TOTAL ...	37	30	15	2	26	9	1	1	3	124

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-seven cases were notified, giving a case rate of 1.04 per thousand population, as compared with 2.41 for England and Wales. The average number of cases per annum in the quinquennium 1933-37 was 62.

The disease produced no fatality.

The type of the disease continued mild, and 36 cases were treated in the Borough Fever Hospital, the average period of stay being 33 days: the stay of most patients does not exceed a calendar month.

AGES, ETC., OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1938.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified (All ages).	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.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths (Inhabitants only).
Scarlet Fever ...	37 (3)	—	—	4	2	1	18	5	1	3	2	1	—	37	—
Diphtheria ...	30 (3)	—	—	2	2	2	9	7	4	3	1	—	—	30	2
Erysipelas ...	15 (2)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	2	2	—
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum	2 (—)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	26 (—)	1	1	—	—	1	5	2	1	5	3	3	4	3	26*
Puerperal Pyrexia	9 (5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	—	—	5	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Ant. Poliomyelitis	3 (1)	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Other Diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTE.—Figures in brackets (column 2) indicate the number occurring amongst outside cases in institutions in the Borough.
 *Only certain forms of Pneumonia are notifiable, but this figure includes deaths from all forms.

Anti-Scarlatinal Serum continues to be used in more acute cases, and appears definitely to reduce the period of stay in hospital.

The difficulty of diagnosing mild cases of this disease is well known, and the differentiation of various strains of Hæmolytic Streptococci capable of giving rise to a scarlet rash and symptoms of Scarlet Fever, has led to a revisal of fever hospital accommodation in favour of the cubicle or small ward type—to allow of separation of different types of Scarlet Fever infections. Extensions in this direction are under the consideration of the Health Committee.

Diphtheria.—The attack rate per thousand population was 0.85 as compared with 1.58 for England and Wales generally. The cases numbered 30 (13 in 1937), of which 3 were inmates of institutions in the Borough. There were 2 fatalities from this disease, one being a post-diphtheritic death after years of ill-health.

All 30 cases were admitted to the Borough Fever Hospital for treatment, and the average length of stay was 44 days: in addition, 3 “carriers” of the Diphtheria bacillus were isolated and treated in the Hospital, their length of stay averaging 27 days.

The Table on page 59 gives details of the incidence, etc., of Diphtheria in the Borough over a long period of years.

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 daily (including Sundays) and speedy reports of the examinations are given.

The dangers attached to Diphtheria 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 March, 1938, an **Immunisation Clinic** was started at the Public Health Offices, attention being given chiefly to children of 1-2 years of age, although some up to 7 years were immunised. This Clinic met on Wednesday mornings ; Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture (T.A.M.) was used, three injections of 1 c.c. being given at fortnightly intervals. The following Table sets out the results :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1938.

	Pre-school children	School children	Total
Preliminary Schick Test :			
Negative	—	1	1
Positive	—	1	1
1st. Injection	53	14	67
2nd. Injection	52	12	64
3rd. Injection	48	10	58
Final Schick Test :			
Negative	32	3	35
Positive	—	—	—
COMPLETELY IMMUNISED	32	4	36
Attendances	217	46	263

The practice of immunising fresh arrivals on the Staff of the Borough Fever Hospital continued, T.A.F. being used for this purpose.

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

Year.	Estimated Population.	No. of Cases.	Attack-Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths Registered.	Death-Rate per 1,000 Population
1890	28,148	20	0.71	5	0.18
1891	27,984	16	0.57	4	0.14
1892	28,345	24	0.85	5	0.18
1893	28,705	41	1.43	9	0.31
1894	29,065	40	1.37	5	0.17
1895	29,535	44	1.49	8	0.27
1896	29,895	67	2.24	14	0.47
1897	30,255	117	3.87	10	0.33
1898	30,615	278	9.08	31	1.01
1899	30,975	120	3.87	7	0.23
1900	31,335	82	2.62	3	0.10
1901	33,443	31	0.93	1	0.03
1902	33,773	23	0.68	2	0.06
1903	34,073	9	0.26	0	0.00
1904	34,373	12	0.35	1	0.03
1905	34,673	17	0.49	0	0.00
1906	34,973	10	0.28	0	0.00
1907	35,273	27	0.76	6	0.17
1908	35,573	29	0.81	1	0.03
1909	35,873	11	0.31	3	0.08
1910	36,173	15	0.41	0	0.00
1911	35,778	69	1.92	8	0.22
* 1912	36,038	91	2.52	10	0.28
1913	36,298	129	3.5	4	0.11
1914	36,460	154	4.2	1	0.02
1915	33,430	83	2.5	5	0.15
1916	32,316	53	1.6	7	0.22
1917	30,751	40	1.3	1	0.03
1918	32,297	23	0.8	1	0.03
1919	34,423	57	1.6	4	0.20
1920	35,795	64	1.8	2	0.06
1921	34,270	32	0.9	1	0.03
1922	34,360	26	0.8	0	0.00
1923	34,370	11	0.3	1	0.03
1924	34,330	11	0.3	1	0.03
1925	34,080	14	0.4	1	0.03
1926	34,430	15	0.4	1	0.03
1927	33,870	42	1.2	1	0.03
1928	34,820	45	1.3	0	0.00
1929	35,040	10	0.3	3	0.09
1930	35,040	27	0.77	3	0.09
1931	34,660	19	0.55	1	0.03
1932	35,040	5	0.14	0	0.00
1933	34,470	36	1.04	2	0.06
1934	†35,653	41	1.15	1	0.03
1935	35,650	9	0.25	0	0.00
1936	35,650	30	0.86	2	0.06
1937	35,700	13	0.36	0	0.00
1938	35,500	30	0.85	2	0.06

* 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.

† This figure is a composite one, the Borough boundaries being extended during the year.

Erysipelas.—Fifteen notifications were received ; two—not inhabitants of the Borough—occurred in the Kent and Sussex Hospital. The case rate for the Borough and for England and Wales was 0.42 and 0.40 respectively. One patient was treated in the Borough Fever Hospital for a period of 10 days.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases of this disease were notified during 1938, and were both treated at home by a member of the staff of the District Nursing Association, under the terms of the agreement with the Borough Council. There was no permanent impairment of vision.

Pneumonia.—Twenty-six notifications of this disease were received, as compared with 27 during 1937. It was most prevalent in March.

Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia are the varieties notifiable.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Nine cases were notified, 4 being Borough mothers.

Three cases occurred in the Kent and Sussex Hospital and 4 in the Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home : 2 of these latter cases were admitted to the Borough Fever Hospital for treatment, staying 18 and 9 days.

Two deaths occurred.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—One case was notified. The patient, a lad of 19 years, was admitted gravely ill to the Borough Fever Hospital, dying the following day.

Enteric Fever.—One case, contracted during a Mediterranean voyage, was notified and admitted to the Fever Hospital, making a good recovery after a stay of 29 days.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Three cases were notified, 2 being Borough residents. Of these 2, one was very mild :

the other was treated in the Borough Fever Hospital for 106 days and afterwards attended the Open Air School. She made a good recovery, with only slight muscular weakness in one leg and one group of back muscles.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, it is required that a Register be kept of all tuberculous persons in the area, and that a statement of the number on the register be forwarded to the Health Authority of the Administrative County, at the end of each quarter.

The number of persons whose names were on the Register at the end of 1938, was 143 (82 Pulmonary and 61 Non-Pulmonary) as compared with 136 (77 Pulmonary and 59 Non-Pulmonary) at the end of 1937.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	3	2	—	1	1	—	2	—
35-45	—	4	—	2	2	—	—	—
45-55	4	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
65 & upwards	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	8	12	3	5	8	3	3	—

Of the 14 deaths, 5 cases (2 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary) had not been notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations.

The Tuberculosis death rate for 1938 was 0.39: the Pulmonary death rate was 0.31—both figures are the lowest ever recorded.

The Table which follows this paragraph clearly indicates that the death rate from Tuberculosis is slowly and steadily being reduced.

Deaths from Tuberculosis During 49 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	1.73	1.93
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	1.45
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	1.40	1.34
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	1.13
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	1.27
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	0.49
1931	34,660	16	0.46	3	19	0.55	
1932	35,040	12	0.34	3	15	0.43	
1933	34,470	14	0.41	4	18	0.52	
1934	35,653	12	0.34	4	16	0.45	
1935	35,650	12	0.34	5	17	0.48	0.49
1936	35,650	14	0.39	3	17	0.48	
1937	35,700	12	0.34	4	16	0.45	
1938	35,500	11	0.31	3	14	0.39	

† This figure is a composite one, as the Borough boundaries were extended during the year.

The improvement in housing conditions, a notable feature of the Corporation's activities during the past decade, accounts for much of the steady improvement in the mortality rate from Tuberculosis. Improved knowledge of the laws of health and their wider application in every-day life, are also powerful contributory factors.

The arrangements for the treatment of tuberculous persons resident in the Borough are in the hands of the Kent County Council: their environment and their instruction in hygiene are the Borough Council's responsibility.

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and no action was taken under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(B) NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Knowledge of these is chiefly obtained through the schools in the first instance; visiting at homes where school cases are notified enables the Health Visitors to discover cases amongst younger children. Full use is made of the daily notices received from the head teachers, to follow up the cases in their homes.

The following Table shows the number of *known* cases of minor infections during 1938, together with those of the preceding six years—whether occurring amongst school children or others. Two deaths from Measles were registered.

	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.
Measles	503	47	668	1	31	4	251
Whooping-cough ...	78	155	191	81	279	25	319
Chicken-pox ...	264	178	12	176	262	60	221
German Measles ...	7	4	6	1	14	1	5
Mumps	15	8	15	552	6	7	4

Fourteen deaths were attributed to **Influenza**, 11 of which were persons over 45 years of age.

One death occurred from **Diarrhœa** and **Enteritis**—not due to epidemic diarrhœa.

CANCER.

As will be seen on page 17, 100 deaths were due to this disease in 1938—the highest number ever recorded in the Borough and representing 19 per cent of all the deaths during the year. Appended is the annual number of deaths from this disease during the past 10 years :—

1937	...	65	1932	...	56
1936	...	86	1931	...	70
1935	...	86	1930	...	75
1934	...	89	1929	...	77
1933	...	82	1928	...	76
Average ... 76.2 per annum.					

In its early stages, there is a good prospect of cure, if treatment be given in time.

At the Kent & Sussex Hospital, a Radium Clinic is held each Saturday morning at 11 a.m., to deal with the numerous victims of Cancer for which this form of treatment is suited. Therefore, anyone, particularly if past middle life, who is in doubt about an ailment, should seek early medical advice, knowing that if Cancer be present, treatment can be promptly arranged, with large hope of cure. The Hospital is fortunate in possessing 335 milligrammes of radium.

The following Table shows the relative incidence of the disease in sexes, age groups and sites of attack in 97 of the 100 deaths during 1938.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The Public Cleansing Station is housed in the basement of the Health Offices. There is a Steam Sack Disinfector, which sterilises clothing while the owner is having cleansing and disinfectant treatment in the adjacent bathing room. Forty-one disinfectant baths were given to eleven individuals during 1938.

Disinfection of rooms was carried out in 106 houses, the majority by the Sanitary Inspecting Staff, except after office hours when they are done by the Caretaker of the Health Offices, who also works the Willesden Sack Disinfector. There is a small disinfector at the Fever Hospital, used in connection with fever cases. Bedding is disinfected after enteric fever cases, and, on request by the medical attendant, after certain cases of Cancer.

There is need of a steam disinfector for dealing with clothing, bedding, etc., in bulk. None such exists in the Department, since the large disinfector at the Borough Fever Hospital was condemned as unfit for further use many years ago.

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.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Immediately upon the receipt of a notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, an offer is made to the doctor in charge to supply the services of a qualified nurse from the District Nursing Association to carry out his instructions for treatment. In some cases, hospital treatment is given.

No case of permanent damage to vision from this disease has occurred in the Borough for a number of years.

NUTRITION.

At the Tunbridge Wells Infant Welfare Centre, a series of 12 addresses is given each school term to the senior girls attending the elementary schools in the Borough. These Mothercraft lectures include careful instruction on the feeding of infants, so that the future mothers may have some knowledge of this important branch of education when they take up housekeeping for themselves. Classes consist of about 16 girls and are held each week, and an examination of the subject matter of the lectures is held at the end of each course.

The general impression of the disease has varied in the stomach for a number of years.

SYMPTOMS

At the time of the outbreak the patients were all of the same age, and were all of the same sex. The disease was first noticed in the stomach, and was accompanied by a feeling of fullness and a sense of weight in the upper part of the abdomen. The patients were all of the same age, and were all of the same sex. The disease was first noticed in the stomach, and was accompanied by a feeling of fullness and a sense of weight in the upper part of the abdomen. The patients were all of the same age, and were all of the same sex. The disease was first noticed in the stomach, and was accompanied by a feeling of fullness and a sense of weight in the upper part of the abdomen.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE :

(Present constitution).

Mr. Alderman SAUNDERS (Chairman).

Alderman Miss BAKER.
Mr. Councillor CRABTREE.
Mr. Councillor CROSS.
Mr. Councillor HAYWARD.
Mr. Councillor HUGGETT.
Councillor Miss HUXTABLE.
Mr. Councillor KENNARD.
Mr. Councillor LANGFORD.
Mr. Councillor RAISWELL.

Mr. COUNCILLOR SARGENT.
Miss R. J. HAZLEWOOD.
Miss MURIEL WELLS.
Rev. EVAN J. HOPKINS, M.A.
Rev. Canon T. G. GILLING-LAX,
M.A., R.D.
Rev. W. TURTON.
Mr. C. A. PRESTON, M.A.
Mr. T. ROBINS.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT :

†Chief Clerk :

J. G. COX.

†Assistant Clerks :

Miss D. E. BULL. C. H. WEEKES. D. A. BARMBY

†School Nurses :

Miss J. DONALDSON (*two-fifths time*).
Miss M. MACLAREN (*four-fifths time*).
Miss M. PAGE (*two-fifths time*).

†Dental Nurse-Attendant :

Miss D. O'NEILL.

†School Dental Surgeon :

ALEX. BUCHAN, L.R.C.P. & S., L.D.S. (Ed.) (*appointed 1/5/1938*).
T. WYNFORD EVANS, L.D.S. (*resigned 30/4/1938*).

*Masseuse :

Miss M. L. P. RUSSELL, C.S.M.M.G.

*Orthopædic Surgeon :

PHILIP L. RICHARDSON, M.B., B.S., Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Aural Surgeon :

J. WALKER WOOD, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. (*died 30/12/1938*).

*Ophthalmic Surgeon :

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

†Assistant School Medical Officer :

W. G. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

†School Medical Officer :

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

*Part-time Appointments.

†Full-time Officers, but only Part-time devoted to School Medical Work.

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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 a Report upon the work of the School Medical Department during the year 1938. It is compiled in accordance with the suggestions for the arrangement of annual reports made by the Board of Education in Form 6M. (Schedule), issued in January, 1934. It is the twenty-fifth report since I commenced duty as your School Medical Officer.

On 31st December, 1938, there were within the area of the Borough, one provided school and sixteen non-provided schools, consisting of twenty-one departments with recognised accommodation for 3,937 children. The average number of children on the school Registers during the year under review was 2,759, compared with 2,902 during the previous year.

During the year, 6,814 examinations were made by the Medical Staff—the highest number as yet recorded, and the number of attendances made by children at the School Clinic was 17,147, an increase on last year's record figure of more than three thousand. A very large proportion of the nurses' time is occupied in the clinics, in dealing with the formidable numbers of minor ailments, etc., which come up for treatment or for advice.

At the end of the year the Kent County Council decided to close Tonbridge Special School for educable feeble-minded children; this school has been for a number of years the

subject of an agreement by which the Borough sent the majority of its feeble-minded children of school age for daily education. After consultation with the Board of Education, it was decided to return the majority of these children to ordinary schools, where the forthcoming aggregation of the senior scholars in larger central schools will allow of grading of scholars for teaching purposes according to their mental standards of attainment.

The Mothercraft Classes given to the senior girls were continued at the Child Welfare Centre, Crescent Road.

My sincere thanks are tendered to all the Staff of the School Medical Services, to the School Teaching Staff and to the Members of the Education Committee for their various services in enabling the work set forth herein to be achieved.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
10, CALVERLEY TERRACE,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

11th May, 1939.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1938.

Average number of children on the School Registers				
during Year ended 31st December, 1938	...	...	...	2,759
Average attendance at the Elementary Schools during				
the Year ended 31st December, 1938	...	...	...	2,460
Number of Medical Examinations :—				
(a) In the Schools	...	...	...	2,670
(b) At School Medical Centre	...	...	...	4,144
	————	Total	6,814	
Number of examinations by the School Dental Surgeon				
				3,178
Number of treatments for Minor Ailments :—				
(a) At Open-air School	...	...	...	2,072
(b) At School Medical Centre	...	...	...	11,778
	————	Total	13,850	
Number of treatments given by the School Dental				
Surgeon to 1,505 individual children	...	...	...	2,801
Total number of attendances at the School Medical				
Centre for <i>all</i> purposes	...	...	...	17,147
Number of attendances for treatment (remedial				
exercises, massage, electrical treatment, etc.) at				
School Orthopædic Clinic	...	...	...	1,141
Number of operations for removal of Tonsils and/or				
Adenoids, under Local Authority's arrangements				82
Number of administrations of General Anæsthetics				
for teeth extractions	...	...	...	505
Home visits by School Nursing Staff	...	...	...	2,267

STAFF.

On the first page of this Report are set out the names of the Staff.

Dr. A. Buchan succeeded Mr. T. Wynford Evans as School Dental Surgeon on 1st May, 1938.

The Department sustained a heavy loss on 30th December, 1938, by the death of Mr. Walker Wood, who was the first Specialist Aural Surgeon appointed at the School Clinic. He

had carried out the duties of the appointment with distinction since April, 1927, up to the time of his last illness. He has been succeeded by Mr. John Simons, who commenced duties in January, 1939.

CO-ORDINATION.

The work carried out under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme and the School Medical Services is undertaken by the same Medical Staff, and two of the School Nurses also act as Maternity and Child Welfare Nurses. The same record card is used for consultations at the Infant Welfare Centres and for recording routine medical examinations in the schools, so that the previous medical history is available at school inspections. Satisfactory co-ordination of the work is thus achieved.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

School Hygiene.

No special report upon school buildings has been presented during the year owing to the pressure of other work.

Medical Inspection.

All children undergo three routine medical inspections in the schools. The three age groups inspected were Entrants (those commencing school life), Second Age Group (8 to 9 years of age) and the Third Age Group (12 to 13 years). All children admitted to elementary schools from private schools are medically inspected as soon after their admission as possible ; if these do not fall within the above Groups, they are included as " Other Routine Inspections." An innovation was the routine medical inspection at 6 years of children who enter school aged 3-4 years, for whom *four* routine inspections are now arranged, *viz.*, at 3 or 4 years, 6 years, 8 years and at

12 years of age. The number of Routine Inspections carried out during the year was 1,019 (1,018 by the School Medical Staff and 1 at the parent's request by the private medical attendant).

The Board's schedule of medical inspection was closely followed.

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

In addition to the above, 23 children were specially inspected at the request of the teachers, and 835 re-inspected in the schools (see page 120).

At the School Clinic, 1,790 special examinations and 2,354 re-inspections took place. In addition, 157 special inspections and 637 re-inspections were made at the Open-Air School.

The total number of medical examinations carried out was therefore 6,814, the highest number as yet recorded.

Findings of Medical Inspections.

The following Table showing the defects found on medical inspection, is similar to Table II. on page 109, but the defects found under each Group of Routine Inspections are given separately :—

	ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.								1,970 Special Examina- tions.	
	312 Entrants.		317 Second Age Group.		293 Third Age Group.		97 Others.			
	Re- quir- ing treat- ment.	For obser- vation	Re- quir- ing treat- ment.	For obser- vation	Re- quir- ing treat- ment.	For obser- vation	Re- quir- ing treat- ment.	For obser- vation	Re- quir- ing treat- ment.	For obser- vation
Skin—										
Ringworm—Scalp ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
" Body ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scabies ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Impetigo ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Other Diseases (Non- Tuberculous) ...	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	61	2
Eye—										
Blepharitis ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	15	1
Conjunctivitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	1
Keratitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Corneal Opacities ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Defective Vision (ex- cluding Squint) ...	1	2	17	2	6	—	3	—	15	—
Squint ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Other Conditions ...	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	45	3
Ear—										
Defective Hearing ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	3
Otitis Media ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—
Other Ear Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	69	7
Nose and Throat—										
Tonsillitis only ...	5	23	12	13	4	4	2	8	48	20
Adenoids only ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Tonsillitis and Adenoids ...	10	5	4	2	2	—	1	1	9	1
Other Conditions ...	3	—	8	2	5	—	1	1	60	5
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous) ...	—	8	—	4	—	—	—	2	8	10
Defective Teeth ...	31	9	19	3	6	1	8	3	47	—
Defective Speech ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumatism ...	1	—	3	1	2	—	1	—	19	2
Heart and Circulation—										
Heart Disease—										
Organic ...	—	5	—	1	—	3	—	4	—	—
Functional ...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lungs—										
Bronchitis ...	7	4	1	—	—	—	2	1	15	1
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	7	1
Tuberculosis—										
Pulmonary—Definite	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Suspected	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Non-Pulmonary—										
Glands ...	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	2	3
Bones and Joints ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Forms ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nervous System—										
Epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chorea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Conditions ...	—	5	1	2	—	1	1	1	5	5
Deformities—										
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spinal Curvature ...	—	1	7	7	8	15	2	—	3	2
Other Forms ...	1	—	2	19	2	7	1	1	12	2
Other Defects and Diseases	15	19	16	11	8	12	5	7	598	100

(a) **MALNUTRITION.**—The nutrition of all children under going Routine Medical Inspection is now classified in accordance with the terms of Administrative Memorandum No. 124, issued by the Board of Education on 31st December, 1934, and a summary of the results will be found in Table II on page 110. Classification of degrees of nutrition is notably difficult, and there is no doubt that individual inspectors give varying results.

(b) **UNCLEANLINESS.**—Seven thousand, five hundred and forty-eight heads were inspected for cleanliness during 1938, and of these 2.5 per cent. showed the presence of infestation with vermin or their eggs, compared with 2.4 per cent. in 1937 and 1936.

Four schools—St. James' Senior Boys, St. James' Infants, St. Mark's Junior Mixed and Infants and King Charles' Senior Boys—had a clear record throughout the year.

Again some schools showed increased infestation. Inspections are stringent, even one nit in an otherwise clean child being recorded as an infestation. Vigilance on the part of the teaching staff in detecting and reporting early infestation is of the greatest help in preventing spread to others.

The total number of inspections for the presence of vermin was 7,857, of this total 253 were re-inspections in school and 56 re-inspections at the School Clinic.

The School Nurses make a routine inspection of all children during each school term—*i.e.*, thrice yearly. The following Table records the work done by the Nurses at these routine head inspections, and the conditions found, as compared with the years 1937 and 1922, the year in which a vigorous campaign was started.

INSPECTIONS OF HEADS FOR YEAR 1938.

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, 1938.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1937.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1922.
St. James' Sen. Boys ...	341	—	—	0.0	0.0	5.2
St. James' Sen. Girls ...	287	4	—	1.4	0.9	8.6
St. James' Infants ...	387	—	—	0.0	0.5	5.8
St. Barnabas Jun. Mixed	675	16	—	2.4	1.6	—
St. Barnabas Infants ...	351	6	1	2.0	2.6	14.4
St. Mark's Jun. Mixed and Infants ...	274	—	—	0.0	0.0	—
Christ Church Jun. Mxd. and Infants ...	414	2	—	0.5	1.8	34.2
King Charles' Sen. Boys	377	—	—	0.0	0.0	1.3
Murray House Sen. Girls	330	2	—	0.6	0.3	4.7
St. Peter's Jun. Mixed...	255	6	—	2.4	0.7	—
St. Peter's Infants ...	136	2	—	1.5	2.3	28.8
St. John's Jun. Mixed ...	454	30	—	6.6	4.9	—
Down Lane Infants ...	274	4	—	1.5	3.7	8.9
St. Luke's Infants ...	232	20	5	10.8	5.2	20.6
St. Augustine's Mixed	278	14	4	6.5	8.3	31.3
Royal Victoria Sen. Boys	356	2	—	0.6	1.4	7.7
Holy Trinity Sen. Girls	253	21	1	8.7	4.7	24.9
Rusthall Boys ...	641	7	—	1.1	1.3	10.9
Rusthall Girls ...	649	13	6	2.9	2.5	28.0
Rusthall Infants ...	426	13	1	3.3	1.9	13.8
Open-Air Mixed ...	158	4	1	3.2	9.0	—
Total ...	7,548	166	19	2.5	2.4	14.7

The 185 heads found infested represented 122 individual children.

Parents are helped in every way to rid their children of this trouble. No prosecutions were undertaken in 1938.

(c) MINOR AILMENTS AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN.—As will be seen in the Table on page 78, the greater number of these cases were discovered at the School Clinic, where the children presented themselves for treatment.

(d) VISUAL DEFECTS AND EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.—Forty-nine children were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for defects of vision or for squint, as compared with 57 in 1937.

It should be noted that at the Routine Medical Inspection of Entrants, vision is not tested, as the children are too young to read the letters.

(e) NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS.—It will be seen that 263 defects of the nose and/or throat were discovered amongst the children. Of the children undergoing routine inspection, 5.7 per cent. were referred for treatment compared with 6.2 per cent. the previous year.

(f) EAR DISEASE AND DEFECTIVE HEARING.—One hundred and thirty-five cases were noted, 124 of which were referred for treatment. As in previous years, the majority of the defects were discovered amongst children presenting themselves at the School Clinic.

(g) DENTAL DEFECTS.—Sixty-four of the children undergoing a routine medical inspection (6.3 per cent.), and 47 children seen at the School Clinic, were found to require immediate dental treatment. These were referred to the School Dental Surgeon, without waiting for the routine dental inspection. This large reduction (111 instead of 242 in 1937) has been achieved by the employment of a whole-time dental surgeon, whose work is making substantial inroads upon dental disease.

(h) ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.—Ninety-two children were found to be suffering from some deformity (55 in 1937), of whom 38 (28 in 1937) were referred to the Orthopædic Surgeon. Minor postural defects have been definitely selected for remedial treatment, or for retention under observation at the earliest stage: this accounts for the apparent increase in total defects present.

(i) TUBERCULOSIS.—One suspected case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was found. Amongst the 12 old cases examined during the year, 2 were found to be in need of treatment.

(j) HEART DISEASE AND RHEUMATISM.—Seventeen children were found to be suffering from diseases or disorders of the heart and circulation, and 29 children were classed as suffering from Rheumatism. Twenty-six rheumatic children were referred for treatment.

(k) OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES.—Under this heading, which includes debility, injuries, etc., 791 defects were found, of which 642 required treatment.

Following up.

The following-up of children is undertaken in three ways, namely :—

- (a) By home visits of School Nurses.
- (b) At the School Clinic, where children frequently come for re-inspection by the Medical Staff, and
- (c) By medical re-inspections in the Schools.

The School Nurses' work during 1938, included the following :—

Visits to Houses where the following Diseases have occurred.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	9
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	455
German Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	22
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	47
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	330
Sore Throat	...	...	...	...	...	59
Ringworm (Scalp)	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ (body)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Verminous Heads	...	...	...	...	...	35
Verminous Bodies	...	...	...	...	...	—
Impetigo Contagiosa	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Eye Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	30
Total visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,013

Home Visits arising out of Medical Inspections, and for other information	1,254
Cultures taken	228
Number of Heads Inspected	7,857
Visits paid to Elementary Schools (all purposes)	293

As will be seen on page 120, 835 re-inspections were carried out at the schools, and the results were as follows :—

Cured	223
Improved	319
Stationary	262
Worse	31

It should be noted that children who are known to have been cured by treatment are not included in the Re-inspections at the schools.

Arrangements for Treatment.

(a) MALNUTRITION.—Children who are suffering from this condition to any marked extent are sent to the Borough Open-Air School for Physically Defective Children, where, amongst other benefits, three meals a day are provided at a charge relative to the parent's means. Full particulars concerning this school will be found on page 93.

For those children who are found to be suffering from slight Malnutrition, milk is provided in school at 11 a.m., either at the parent's expense, or—when circumstances demand it—at the expense of the Education Committee (see page 98 for details of this scheme).

(b) UNCLEANLINESS.—When children are found to be suffering from verminous heads, the parents are given printed instructions for dealing with the trouble. In certain instances where they fail to clear the child's head of nits, the School Nursing Staff assists: such assistance was given in forty cases in 1938.

In the case of Scabies and other parasitic skin diseases, disinfectant baths are given on three successive days in the Cleansing Station at the Health Offices, the clothing being dealt with by steam sterilisation in a Willesden Sack Disinfector. This has proved a very effective way of dealing with such cases. Seven individual children were treated by this method.

(c) MINOR AILMENTS AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN.—These are treated at the School Clinic by the School Nursing Staff. The following Table gives details of the defects treated during the year :—

Disease or Defect.					No. of defects treated.	No. of treatments given.
Minor Ailments :—						
Injuries, cuts, abrasions	...	...	...	...	326	1,210
Septic wounds	...	...	...	...	195	1,211
Sores, spots	...	...	...	...	136	578
Boils	...	...	...	...	117	762
Warts, corns, whitlows	...	...	...	...	66	806
Sprains, bruises	...	...	...	...	51	136
Burns, scalds	...	...	...	...	36	277
Chilblains	...	...	...	...	25	198
Bites, stings	...	...	...	...	14	33
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	99	341
Skin Diseases :—						
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	83	828
Eczema	...	...	...	...	22	301
Herpes	...	...	...	...	18	101
Scabies	...	...	...	...	8	27
Urticaria	...	...	...	...	5	13
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	3	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	19	141
Total					1,223	6,975

With but few exceptions, all children attended the Clinic until cured.

The scholars at the Borough Open-Air School are treated there by the Nurse in attendance, and details of the treatment given will be found on page 94.

(d) VISUAL DEFECTS AND EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.—Dr. Davies, the Ophthalmic Surgeon, attends the School

Clinic three times in each month, and all cases found to require treatment are referred to him. During the year, 450 examinations were made by Dr. Davies, and spectacles were prescribed for 81 children.

One child was operated upon for Squint at the Kent and Sussex Hospital.

Two hundred and five defects or diseases of the eyes were treated at the School Clinic by the Nursing Staff as follows :—

Disease or Defect.	No. of defects treated.	No. of treatments given.
Conjunctivitis	62	242
Styes	76	336
Blepharitis	19	141
Miscellaneous... ..	48	104
Total	205	823

In addition to the above, 59 children had 285 applications of atropine to their eyes.

(e) NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS.—The Education Committee has made arrangements with both the Homœopathic and the Kent and Sussex Hospitals for the treatment of tonsils and adenoids by operation.

As will be seen in Group III., Table IV., on page 116, 105 children suffering from defects of the nose or throat, or both, received treatment during the year. One hundred operations were performed for the removal of Tonsils and/or Adenoid growths, and 2 nasal operations. Eighty-two of these operations were done under the Local Education Authority's agreements with the Kent and Sussex Hospital and the Homœopathic Hospital. Of these 82, 59 parents paying into the Tunbridge Wells and District Association of

Hospital Contributors or into the Pea Nut Hospital Honey-Comb Scheme, had their children operated upon under the terms of the agreement between the Local Authority and these Associations. Eighteen operations were known to have been carried out privately, of which 8 were previously recommended operation by the School Medical Staff. The total number recommended for treatment was 177, and 102 received operative treatment : this represents a percentage of 58.

In addition to the above, many children received treatment at the School Clinic for nasal catarrh, etc. (see page 87).

I am of opinion that operative treatment of unhealthy conditions of the nose and throat is a valuable factor in reducing the incidence of those infectious diseases of which the path of entry is the nose and throat : also the severity of, and tendency to complications in, Scarlet Fever are undoubtedly less amongst those who are unobstructed by enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths.

(f) EAR DISEASE AND DEFECTIVE HEARING.—One hundred and twenty-four of the 135 sufferers from ear disease or deafness were referred for treatment. The Aural Surgeon was in attendance at the School Clinic on the first Monday in each month. Two hundred and seventy-eight attendances were made to see him, and appended is a synopsis of the new cases dealt with :—

Synopsis of Cases dealt with.

Ear Cases.

Chronic suppurative otitis media	10
Chronic suppurative otitis media, Residual	4
Chronic middle ear catarrh	5
Acute middle ear catarrh	4
External otitis	1
Nerve Deafness	1
—	25

Nose Cases.

Chronic Rhinitis	...	...	...	...	12
Epistaxis	...	...	...	...	1
Adenoids	...	...	...	...	7
Nasal Obstruction (Septum)	...	...	...	...	2
				—	22

Throat Cases.

Chronic Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	5
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	...	2
				—	7

Miscellaneous.

Chronic Pharyngitis	...	...	...	...	1
Headaches	...	...	...	...	1
				—	2
Total	...	...	...	...	56

The School Nurses treated 247 cases at the School Clinic as follows :—

Disease or Defect.	No. of Cases treated.	No. of treatments given.
Ear Cases :—		
Otorrhoea	76	1,679
Deafness, wax in ear	19	243
Miscellaneous	76	393
Nose and Throat Cases :—		
Nasal catarrh, etc.	62	1,254
Miscellaneous	14	126
Total	247	3,695

In addition to the above, 16 children had 319 treatments at the Open Air School (see page 94).

(g) DENTAL DEFECTS.—For the first time a full year's work by a whole-time dental surgeon is reported upon. Dr. Buchan encloses a report which I am submitting herewith : it records a hard year's work, to which Dr. Evans as anæsthetist and Miss O'Neill, dental nurse-attendant, have contributed.

Annual Dental Report for 1938.

It is gratifying that so many parents are taking advantage of the dental treatment offered to their children. There are still a number who do not realise that good health without a healthy mouth is almost impossible.

Many patients are only willing to accept treatment when suffering from toothache, and teeth are lost which might have been saved by an earlier visit. In 1938 no patient inspected and accepting treatment went untreated.

The co-operation of parents, patients and teachers has been most encouraging.

During the year, routine dental inspections were carried out at 19 of the 21 schools in the Borough, and 3,015 children were inspected: in addition, 163 "specials" were inspected at the School Clinic. Of those inspected, 2,229 were found to require treatment—a percentage of 70 (86 per cent. in 1937 and 91 per cent. in 1936). This is a gratifying reduction.

One thousand, five hundred and five children (68 per cent.) attended for treatment (70 per cent. in 1937), having 2,801 treatments, as compared with 2,380 treatments the previous year.

One thousand, seven hundred and forty-five fillings were inserted in permanent teeth, and 504 permanent teeth were extracted. Two hundred and sixty-nine temporary teeth were filled, while 2,618 temporary teeth were extracted.

Five hundred and five general anæsthetics were administered with the assistance of Dr. Evans, the Assistant School Medical Officer. One thousand and ninety-

two other operations were performed—this includes scaling and polishing, gum treatment and dressings.

Sixteen cases were treated orthodontically, and 11 movable appliances were supplied—the appliances are completed by a firm of mechanics from work done by myself. Orthodontic work is a new venture in this Borough, started in June. The results have more than justified the time and work entailed. From a financial point of view, orthodontic work has been self supporting.

The condition of the permanent teeth of scholars at elementary schools at leaving age shows a marked improvement. Unfortunately the temporary teeth of the younger children entering school are of a much poorer quality. It is to be deplored that many are ignorant of the use of the toothbrush.

The work of the Dental Department has been carried on very smoothly during the year—thanks to the help and encouragement of the Committee, Dr. Linton and the members of his Staff.

(Signed) ALEX. BUCHAN,
L.R.C.P. & S., L.D.S. (Ed.),
School Dental Surgeon.

Further details of the Dental Surgeon's work are given in Table V., on page 118.

(h) ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.—The Orthopædic Clinic held once a month at the School Clinic, was conducted as before by Dr. P. L. Richardson, and the following is a short report upon the work carried out by him :—

One hundred and one children attended these Clinics during 1938, and 209 consultations were held. Of these

cases, 53 were new ones, and the following are details of the conditions from which they were found to be suffering:

Kyphosis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hammer toe or toes	...	...	...	...	...	5
Warts, Corns	...	...	...	...	...	5
Kyphosis or Lordosis with Winged Scapulae						4
Stoop ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Flat Feet	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scoliosis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Kypho-Lordosis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Kyphosis or Scoliosis with Stoop	...	...	...	...	...	2
Old Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	11
No orthopædic defect	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total						53

During the year, 15 children were discharged as needing no further treatment, and 9 other cases ceased to attend, having left the town or being over age.

Dr. Richardson is responsible for supervising and directing the treatment of postural defects, etc., carried out by the part-time masseuse, Miss Russell. Remedial Exercise Classes are held at the School Clinic each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. Dr Richardson also supervises the in-patient treatment of orthopædic cases admitted to the Kent and Sussex Hospital under the Local Education Authority's arrangement with that hospital.

Seventy-four children were treated under the Local Authority's scheme, 66 of whom attended the Remedial Exercise Class for treatment (remedial exercises, massage, electrical treatment), making 1,141 attendances.

Three boys and 3 girls were admitted to the Kent and Sussex Hospital for in-patient treatment, as follows :—

Operation—Hammer toe (3 cases) ...	3 weeks 1 day, 2 weeks 2 days and 2 weeks 4 days.
Operation—Wry neck ...	3 weeks 2 days.
Operation—Amputation of toe ...	5 days.
Plaster—Schlatter's disease ...	5 days.

The other two cases received treatment and education in a residential special school.

(i) TUBERCULOSIS.—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 elementary school children suffering from tuberculous complaints at the end of the year was 27 (32 at the end of 1937). Six cases were in attendance at the Open-Air School, 12 in attendance at ordinary elementary schools and 1 at Tonbridge Special School, 6 in various hospitals and 2 at no school.

(j) HEART DISEASE AND RHEUMATISM.—Children found requiring treatment are referred to Hospital or to their own medical attendant : 26 were thus referred during 1938.

During the year under review, two girls were sent by the Education Committee to special heart hospitals for treatment and education.

(k) OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES.—Where other conditions are discovered needing medical treatment, the children are referred to their medical attendant or to the appropriate hospital—usually with a personal note of explanation.

Infectious Diseases.

The procedure taken with regard to infectious diseases amongst Elementary School children is as follows :—

The Head Teacher of each school notifies to the School

Medical Officer daily, any case of infectious disease, actual or suspected. These cases are then followed up at home by the School Nurses and arrangements made for their exclusion from school, together with any contacts. Contact is maintained with the children until they are finally freed for re-admission.

In major infectious illnesses such as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, cases are mostly removed to the Borough Fever Hospital, and all contacts are inspected by the Medical Staff before being allowed to return to school.

The following table records the incidence of various infectious diseases amongst Elementary School children during the year, together with comparative figures for 1937 :—

Disease.	Boys.	Girls.	Total 1938.	Total 1937.
Scarlet Fever	7	11	18	39
Diphtheria	8	6	14	4
Ac. Ant. Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	1	1
German Measles	2	3	5	1
Measles	194	181	375	36
Whooping Cough	33	25	58	106
Mumps	8	6	14	7
Chicken Pox	99	101	200	156

As will be seen above, major infectious diseases were slight in amount. Measles was most prevalent from February to April ; it is apt to break out in alternate years, *e.g.*, 629 cases in 1936, 36 cases in 1937 and 375 cases in 1938. Chicken Pox was prevalent in January and February.

There was one death from Diphtheria (a girl aged 6 years) amongst the elementary school population : none from any other infectious disease.

No schools or classes were closed on account of infectious disease, but 21 " low attendance certificates " were issued under the Elementary Education Provisional Code, 1922, Amending Regulations No. 2, 1924, as follows :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Measles and Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

One thousand, four hundred and fifty-eight notices were sent from the Public Health Offices to the Head Teachers of the schools, excluding children for various diseases, and 1,491 freeing notices were also sent. In addition to the above, 15 exclusion notices for definite periods were issued.

The Borough Open-Air School.

A Special Open-Air Day School has been built for the accommodation of 60 physically defective children. The School was opened in May, 1931, and consists of a Central Administrative Block containing kitchen, larder, dining room, medical room, spray-bathroom, dressing room, blanket room and teachers' room. To the south-east of the main block, there is a classroom for infants, and to the south-west another classroom with rest-room attached. This rest-room is also used for teaching purposes. There is also a bungalow for the Caretaker-Gardener, whose wife acts as Cook-Housekeeper.

Eighty-six individual children attended the School during 1938, as compared with 87 during 1937; 56 were in attendance the whole year.

The average increase in weight per month amongst the 86 children referred to was 0.62 lbs. (compared with 0.65 lbs. in 1937, 0.72 lbs. in 1936, 0.67 lbs. in 1935, 0.61 lbs. in 1934, 0.67 lbs. in 1933, 0.57 lbs. in 1932, and 0.44 lbs. in the ordinary schools).

The average gain in weight amongst the 56 children who were in attendance the whole year was 0.46 lbs. (0.63 lbs. in 1937) per month. The lowest individual gain amongst the 56 children was 0.75 lbs., and the greatest gain 10.5 lbs. Four scholars gained half a stone or more. No child failed to gain weight.

Dr. W. G. Evans, Assistant School Medical Officer, investigated the prevalence of anæmia amongst malnourished children at this School : the following is his Report.

" Recent work on nutrition has shown an unsuspected prevalence of anæmia due to the absence in the diet of children of iron and other substances necessary for blood formation. It was therefore thought desirable to investigate this matter with a view to determining whether any child at the School suffered from this so-called nutritional anæmia. The investigation was confined to those children who were sent to the Open Air School because they were suffering from malnutrition. There were eleven such children, and examination of their blood showed only such minor degrees of anæmia as could be corrected by the abundant and properly balanced diet provided by the School, without recourse to any specific therapeutic measures."

The provision of this School goes far to solve the problem of dealing with the undernourished and debilitated child who cannot stand up to the strain of ordinary school life.

Miss Donaldson has acted as Nurse throughout the year spending four hours daily (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the School. She supervises the children's meals, rest periods, etc., and she also gave the following treatments for various minor ailments :—

			<i>No. of cases.</i>	<i>Treatments.</i>
Skin diseases	...	...	19	197
Eye ailments	...	...	24	401
Ear ailments	...	...	16	319
Miscellaneous (bruises, chilblains, etc.)	...	...	126	1,155
Total	...	...	185	2,072

Visits were paid by the Medical Staff two or three times each week, chiefly by the Assistant School Medical Officer. Close observation was kept on each child, and factors likely to improve his or her health were carefully weighed, and put into force when decided upon.

It should be remembered that, though Tunbridge Wells is a pleasant and airy town, its school buildings in general leave much to be desired, having been designed to meet the conception of a past generation which had no precedent construction by which to guide itself aright: it had not then been realised that pure air, good lighting, warmth without stuffiness, and adequate ventilation were vital to the physical and mental health of growing children: these are salient characteristics of modern school architecture. There is a sharp contrast between our Open-Air School and most of our school buildings, in which so large a part of each child's life is spent. An approximation to open-air conditions is gradually becoming the normal aim of school construction in all the countries of Central and Western Europe, as well as in Britain.

Physical Training.

The following is a report from Miss Warwick, one of the Education Committee's Physical Training Advisers, which deals with the provision of physical training carried out in the Girls' and Infants' Schools in the Borough.

In the two and a half years, September, 1936, to March, 1939, it is possible to report a definite improvement in the Physical Training in the schools of the Borough in several directions.

Two general courses and one infant course have been run for teachers taking Physical Training in elementary schools. These have not only been well attended, but the teachers have put into practice in their schools what they have learnt.

The children in nearly all the schools are now accustomed to wearing a suitable costume and their movements are not hampered by heavy coats, etc.

The Borough has provided all children with suitable shoes and, where changing facilities and storage permits, with shorts and gymnastic vests. There has been a definite improvement in the children's foot work since the provision of shoes but stiff ankles and flat feet are still very prevalent. Posture is bound to be adversely affected until the importance of good, strong, supple feet is really understood.

In the Infant and Junior Schools the children are beginning to understand how to correct their posture. This is particularly noticeable in the improved position of the feet, control of the abdominal muscles and correction of lordosis.

In the Senior Girls' Schools posture is a matter of great concern. The girls have in many cases not had sound Physical Training in the Infant School and are hampered by the fact that there is no suitable syllabus for them.

It must be realised that very heavy demands are made on teachers who must keep up to date in several subjects. Teachers of Physical Training in the Senior Schools, however, need to attend a course at one of the Summer Schools where a syllabus suitable to the needs of the adolescent is followed. Exercises, particularly for the dorsal spine, are badly needed. It is not possible to deal scientifically or thoroughly with work of this kind in an ordinary week night course.

The adequate development of Physical Training at the moment is also hampered by lack of suitable accommodation. In winter the lesson often has to take place in a classroom filled with desks. A hall for use in

wet and inclement weather is particularly necessary for the older children in order that their work may be continuous and steadily progressive.

It must be clearly understood that Physical Training in the Senior Schools requires to have a clear relationship to the needs of the girl when she leaves school. This problem will necessarily take time for its complete solution. I am most grateful to the teachers for the way in which they are tackling the job. We are all very conscious of the fact that we have still a long way to go.

I have as yet had little opportunity in which to see any games or swimming, so can make no report on these.

I should like to conclude by expressing my gratitude to the Local Education Authority for their sympathetic co-operation.

(Signed) VIOLET E. WARWICK,
Physical Training Adviser.

Organised visits continued to be paid to the Corporation Indoor Baths by the senior scholars, who are admitted free of charge when bringing their own towels and in the care of a teacher. The sum of 10/- per week is paid by the Education Committee to the Baths Committee for the services of a Swimming Instructor and the sum of 1d. for each attendance during school hours. The number of such attendances during 1938 was 14,295 (15,805 in 1937).

Children whose physical condition renders drill or strenuous exercise inadvisable are notified to the head teachers at the time of inspection.

Provision of Meals.

With regard to the provision of meals, Tunbridge Wells is fortunate in being able to deal with the more marked cases of malnutrition amongst its school children by sending them

to its Open-Air School, in which there is accommodation for 60 children and where three meals per day are given at a cost varying from 9d. per day for those who can afford it, down to nothing in cases of extreme poverty.

Under the Milk Marketing Board's Scheme, milk is supplied in sealed bottles (one-third of a pint) to school children: parents pay $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bottle for this milk, or, if recommended by the School Medical Staff, payment is made in necessitous cases by the Local Education Authority. In October, 1938, 49 per cent. of all the children on the school registers had this milk in school, as compared with 45 per cent. in 1937 and 41 per cent. in 1936.

The number of children provided with free milk under this Scheme by the Local Education Authority was 95 during 1938, at an approximate cost of £24 5s. 0d. In 1937, 86 children were supplied at a cost of approximately £18 12s. 6d. and in 1936, 65 at a cost of £12 0s. 11d.

The number of parents who cannot afford to pay the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day for milk when recommended for their children is not great: the percentage of those acquiring the "milk habit" in the schools has been steadily rising.

Co-operation of Parents.

Prior to the holding of routine medical and dental inspections, notices, which are sent from the Public Health Offices, are addressed and distributed by the Head Teachers, requesting the parent's attendance. The percentage of parents attending at the routine medical inspections was 79 per cent., as follows:—

Entrants	94% (92% in 1937)
Second Age Group	81% (83% „ „)
Third Age Group	61% (54% „ „)
Other Routine Inspections ...	76% (76% „ „)

In addition to the above, many parents attend the School Clinic with their children.

Co-operation of Teachers.

(i) **MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSPECTIONS.**—The Head Teacher is invited to be present at these 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 cordially with the School Medical Staff in endeavouring to keep the general standard of health at a high level. I should like particularly to mention the interest and care which the Teachers have shown in connection with the supply of milk to children in schools.

(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 AND DENTAL TREATMENT.**—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.

Each week the Head Teachers are notified of all appointments given to scholars to attend the Dental Treatment Clinic and also the Ophthalmic, Aural and Orthopædic Clinics : in this way they are able to assist in the keeping of these appointments.

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.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

(i) No call is made upon voluntary bodies in connection

with the work of medical and dental inspection and treatment.

(ii) In following-up mentally defective children, the **Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare** does most useful work. A subsidy of £20 is paid annually to this Association by the Corporation.

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 1938.

The total number of children of school age under the supervision of the Association on January 1st, 1938, was thirty.

During the year two new cases have been received from the School Medical Officer bringing the total to thirty-two.

Of these the details are as follows :—

1. <i>Disposals.</i>	
Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Statutory Supervision	3
Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Friendly Supervision	2
Returned to Elementary School and withdrawn from supervision	1
Admitted to Approved School	1
Removed from area	1
Removed to Kent Education Committee area	1
	— 9
2. <i>Supervised for Education Committee under 16 years of age.</i>	
Attended Tonbridge Special School until closure, 21/12/38	16
Attending Elementary School	1
Attending no School	2
At Residential Special School	2
	— 21
3. <i>Supervised for Education Committee over 16 years of age.</i>	
At home in employment	1
At home unemployed	1
	— 2
	32
Total number of children under the supervision of Association,	
31st December, 1938	23

Reports.

Twenty-four reports have been rendered during the year including First Reports, Annual Reports and Special Sixteen-Year Reports in cases where continued supervision was felt to be necessary and reporting to the County Mental Deficiency Committee for Friendly Supervision was suggested.

Visits.

Members of the staff of the Association have paid upwards of thirty-five visits to the homes of the children and members of the local Case Committee have been in touch with nine cases, paying quarterly visits.

Tonbridge Special School.

Very great regret was felt when the announcement was made that the Tonbridge Special School was to be closed at the end of the year. In some few cases it has been difficult to persuade the parents to allow their children to attend this school, but they have all eventually come to realise the great value of the training given and they have been very willing to express their appreciation.

At the time of writing this report, we have not heard what plans are to be made for these ex-Special School children and others that will need special training in the future, but being aware of your Committee's real interest in this type of child, it is felt that some adequate arrangement will be forthcoming.

After Care.

The Association has continued to keep in touch with those cases under or over 16 years of age who have left school.

Of the nine children mentioned under the heading Disposals, one has been admitted to a Certified Institution, one lad has had regular employment as a garden boy since he left the Tonbridge Special School in March, 1937, another lad has irregular employment, a girl is now attending the Elementary School and three boys are living at home with no prospect of employment.

The two girls supervised for the Education Committee under 16 years of age attending no school are both in domestic service and doing well, and the lad over 16 years of age has had two situations only, as house and garden boy since he left the Elementary School in April, 1936.

Occupation Centre.

At the suggestion of the Board of Control certain re-organisation was undertaken at the Centre early in 1938. A Supervisor with previous experience in training mental defectives on up-to-date lines was engaged, and a Cook was employed in order that a hot mid-day meal could be provided.

Eighteen children now make a very regular attendance, nine are boarded-out under the Kent and Brighton Guardianship Schemes and nine live in their own homes. The parents and guardians are very appreciative of all that is done for the boys and girls, and our thanks are due to the Supervisor for her untiring efforts on their behalf.

The Local Case Committee.

This Committee, under the chairmanship of Miss Amelia Scott, met quarterly during the year. Our grateful thanks are due to the members and to other friends for their unceasing interest and help in our work in the Borough among those who are handicapped by sub-normal mental development.

(Signed) S. G. NUGENT.

(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. Similarly, this Association arranges for the supply of milk and eggs for children excluded

from school through illness or as contacts, when the school supply of milk is not available. These activities have 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. Two hundred and twenty cases were dealt with in 1938, of these 45 were sent to Convalescent Homes, etc., and 31 were given nourishment at their homes or in school: some of the children assisted were under school age, but most were attending school.

The sum of £20 is contributed to the Association's Funds annually, in recognition of its services in dealing with malnutrition as well as in arranging transport of sick children to convalescent homes, hospitals, etc.

(iv) **The Royal 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 5 out of 79 cases assistance was given in 1938.

(v) When found necessary, the Inspector of the **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children** has conferred with the School Medical Staff, such conferences proving of value to both parties.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Copies of the magazine "Better Health," issued by the Central Council for Health Education, are distributed free to the senior scholars each month by the Local Education Authority. This magazine contains valuable information on health matters, and forms the subjects of talks given by the teachers.

In association with the National Health Campaign, posters were sent to the schools for each classroom during the first

three months of the year, and leaflets were issued to the senior scholars in connection with each branch of the Campaign.

On 20th and 21st January, a series of addresses was given to all the senior scholars of the elementary schools by speakers sent by the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. These addresses, couched in simple language and illustrated by diagrams and models, aroused and stimulated the interest of the children in the care of their teeth. The addresses are given in alternate years, thus getting a fresh audience each time, at a suitable age, *viz.*, shortly before leaving school.

Instruction in Mothercraft was continued throughout the year at the Tunbridge Wells Child Welfare Centre, the Scholars receiving such instruction were Spring Term—Murray House (King Charles) Senior Girls ; Summer Term—Holy Trinity Senior Girls ; and Autumn Term—St. James' Senior Girls. The lectures were given by two members of the Child Welfare Nursing Staff, and the subject matter was as set forth in the 1936 Annual Report.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

These children are brought to notice through medical inspections both at the schools and at the School Clinic, by the Health Visitors and also through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. In addition to these, the Head Teachers are each year requested to forward to the School Medical Officer details of all children who are (a) Partially Deaf, (b) Partially Blind, (c) Epileptic, (d) Crippled, (e) Suffering from heart disease, and (f) Dull or backward (stating the number of years retarded). These methods have proved to be adequate.

The following are details of all the Exceptional Children for whom the Local Education Authority was responsible at the end of 1938 :—

(a) BLIND.—There was one partially sighted boy in a

residential special school for the blind, and 2 similar cases were in attendance at school—one at the Open-Air School and the other at an elementary school.

(b) DEAF.—Two boys who were too deaf to benefit from ordinary elementary school training, were inmates of the Brighton Institution for the Deaf and Dumb ; also one girl was maintained at the Royal School for Deaf and Dumb Children, Margate.

(c) MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.—Nine detailed examinations of children presented for mental defects were made during 1938, of which 6 were first examinations, the children being classed as follows :—

Dull and Backward	...	...	3 boys.
Feeble-minded	...	...	1 boy and 1 girl.
Idiot	...	...	1 boy.

All three children re-inspected were placed in the same category as when first examined, *viz.*, dull and backward.

The arrangements for sending feeble-minded children to the Tonbridge Special School as daily pupils, begun in the autumn of 1925, continued in use until the end of 1938, when this School was closed down by the Kent County Council. The children, 15 in number, attending at the end of the year, are now accommodated in ordinary schools.

Besides these 15 children (8 boys and 7 girls), 3 defective boys were attending elementary schools, 1 girl a private school and 2 boys were at other institutions. Two girls were at no school or institution.

The following-up and home supervision of mentally defective children is undertaken by the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, and a copy of the Association's

report upon the work carried out for the Local Education Authority will be found on page 100.

(d) **EPILEPTIC.**—There was, at the end of the year, one boy maintained in a residential special school for epileptics.

(e) **PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.**—Under this heading at the end of the year were classed 107 children (see Table III., on page 111).

Of these, 62 were in attendance at the Open-Air School, 30 were attending elementary schools, 13 were in institutions, and 2 children were at no school or institution.

Full details of the work carried out at the Borough Open-Air School will be found on page 93.

(f) **CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE DEFECTS.**—At the end of the year, there was 1 child classified under this heading, namely a boy suffering from Feeble-mindedness and Tuberculous abdominal glands, attending the Tonbridge Special School.

NURSERY, SECONDARY AND CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Nursery classes are held at four of the Infants' Schools for children 3-5 years, and a few children under 5 years of age attend at other infants' departments also. There is no Nursery School in the Borough, which is widely scattered, and in which individual infants' schools have small numbers in attendance.

The arrangements for Medical Services in the Secondary and Continuation Schools are undertaken by the Kent County Council.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Ninety-two certificates were granted to school children

under the Employment of Children Bye-laws during 1938, as follows :—

Newsagents' Deliveries	...	...	...	...	32
Greengrocers'	„	...	...	...	23
Grocers'	„	...	...	...	6
Butchers'	„	...	...	...	9
Tailors'	„	...	...	...	3
Bakers'	„	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	„	...	...	...	8
Houseboys	...	...	...	...	4
Caddying	...	...	...	...	4
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	92
					—

The physical condition of the children applying for medical certificates has been good, and in only two instances was a certificate refused on medical grounds to an applicant ; one of these was granted at a later date, after a defect had been remedied.

In July, 1935, arrangements were made to supply the Juvenile Employment Bureau of the Kent County Council with a medical report on each child leaving school at the age of fourteen years, and 249 such reports were made during the year.

PARENTS' PAYMENTS.

The fees charged for treatment by the School Dental Surgeon are one shilling for extractions under gas, and sixpence for other treatment. In the case of orthodontic treatment, 7s. 6d. is charged to the parents to cover all attendances. These sums are payable at the time of treatment, but are remitted in necessitous cases. The sum of £39 8s. 0d. was collected in this way during 1938.

With regard to operations for tonsils and/or adenoids,

the parents are interviewed by a member of the Medical Staff and a contribution is fixed according to the means of the parents. If however, the parents contribute to the Association of Hospital Contributors, they are not requested to make any contribution, as the hospitals have agreed to charge the Education Committee half fees for the operation in such cases. A similar arrangement with the Kent and Sussex Hospital only, applies to the Pea Nut Hospital Honey-Comb Scheme. The average contribution made by the parents in respect of the 23 operations carried out during 1938 was five shillings and twopence.

No charge is made for the treatment of minor ailments, except in aural cases requiring prolonged treatment, a charge of one shilling being then made: and in orthopædic cases, for treatment at the Remedial Exercises Class, a maximum charge of threepence per attendance.

SPECIAL INQUIRIES.

The degree of anæmia present in children suffering from malnutrition was investigated by Dr. W. G. Evans; eleven such children had blood tests and microscopic examinations of blood with the hæmoglobinometer on a total of sixteen occasions. The results are set out on page 94.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

The six Statistical Tables required by the Board of Education are appended, and these give detailed information on the work done in the various branches of the School Medical Service. In addition, a copy of the Board of Education Form 307M. is appended.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—

Entrants	312
Second Age Group	317*
Third Age Group	293
Total	922
Number of other Routine Inspections	97
Grand Total	1,019

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	1,970
Number of Re-Inspections	3,826
Total	5,796

* *This figure includes 1 Routine Medical Inspection carried out by private medical attendant.*

C.—CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

NUMBER OF *individual children* FOUND AT Routine Medical Inspection TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

Group.	For defective vision (excluding squint).	For all other conditions recorded in Table II A.	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
ENTRANTS	1	50	51
SECOND AGE GROUP	17	57	70
THIRD AGE GROUP	6	34	39
TOTAL (PRESCRIBED GROUPS)	24	141	160
OTHER ROUTINE INSPECTIONS	3	19	20
GRAND TOTAL	27	160	180

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.		ROUTINE INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
SKIN—					
(1)	Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	2	—
(2)	" Body	—	—	1	—
(3)	Scabies	1	—	7	—
(4)	Impetigo	1	—	39	—
(5)	Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	5	2	61	2
	TOTAL (Heads 1 to 5)	7	2	110	2
EYE—					
(6)	Blepharitis	2	—	15	1
(7)	Conjunctivitis	—	—	46	1
(8)	Keratitis	—	—	1	—
(9)	Corneal Opacities	—	—	1	—
(10)	Other Conditions (excluding Defective Vision and Squint) ...	4	—	45	3
	TOTAL (Heads 6 to 10)	6	—	108	5
(11)	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	27	4	15	—
(12)	Squint	5	—	2	—
EAR—					
(13)	Defective Hearing	1	1	4	3
(14)	Otitis Media	3	—	45	—
(15)	Other Ear Diseases	2	—	69	7
NOSE AND THROAT—					
(16)	Chronic Tonsillitis only	23	48	48	20
(17)	Adenoids only	1	1	2	—
(18)	Chronic Tonsillitis and Adenoids ...	17	8	9	1
(19)	Other Conditions	17	3	60	5
(20)	ENLARGED CERVICAL GLANDS (Non-Tuberculous)	—	14	8	10
(21)	DEFECTIVE SPEECH	—	—	—	—
HEART AND CIRCULATION—					
Heart Disease :					
(22)	Organic	—	13	—	—
(23)	Functional	—	3	—	1
(24)	Anaemia	—	—	—	—
LUNGS—					
(25)	Bronchitis	10	5	15	1
(26)	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	3	7	1
TUBERCULOSIS—					
Pulmonary :					
(27)	Definite	—	1	—	—
(28)	Suspected	—	—	1	—
Non-Pulmonary :					
(29)	Glands	—	5	2	3
(30)	Bones and Joints	—	—	—	1
(31)	Skin	—	—	—	—
(32)	Other Forms	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL (Heads 29 to 32)	—	5	2	4
NERVOUS SYSTEM—					
(33)	Epilepsy	—	—	—	—
(34)	Chorea	—	—	—	1
(35)	Other Conditions	2	9	5	5
DEFORMITIES—					
(36)	Rickets	—	—	—	—
(37)	Spinal Curvature	17	23	3	2
(38)	Other Forms	6	27	12	2
(39)	OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES (excluding Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)	51	50	617	102
	TOTAL	197	220	1142	172

TABLE II.—continued.

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

Age-groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	312	21	7	270	86	21	7	—	—
Second Age-group	317	41	13	239	75	37	12	—	—
Third Age-group	293	56	19	221	75	16	6	—	—
Other Routine Inspections	97	7	7	82	85	8	8	—	—
TOTAL	1019	125	12	812	80	82	8	—	—

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

BLIND CHILDREN.

A blind child is one who is "too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children."

At Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...	...	...	—
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	—
At Other Institutions	...	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	—

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.

In this Section only children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially sighted, have been entered.

At Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...	...	...	1
At Certified Schools for the Partially Sighted	...	...	...	...	—
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	1
At other Institutions	...	...	...	...	1
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	3

DEAF CHILDREN.

A deaf child is one who is "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school."

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	...	...	...	3
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	3

TABLE III.—continued.

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.

In this section children who can appropriately be taught only in a school for the partially deaf, have been entered.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf ...	...	...	...	...	—
At Certified Schools for the Partially Deaf ...	...	...	...	...	—
At Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions ...	...	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution ...	...	...	...	...	—
Total ...	...	...	...	...	—

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.—Mentally Defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for mentally defective children.

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	...	...	...	...	15
At Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...	...	3
At Other Institutions ...	...	...	...	...	2
At no School or Institution ...	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...	...	...	...	...	22

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM SEVERE EPILEPSY.

In this part of the Table only those children are included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, *i.e.*, children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools ...	...	...	...	...	1
At Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions ...	...	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution ...	...	...	...	...	—
Total ...	...	...	...	...	1

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.

I.—*Children suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (including pleura and intra-thoracic glands).*

At Certified Special Schools ...	...	...	...	...	—
At Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...	...	1
At other Institutions ...	...	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution ...	...	...	...	...	—
Total ...	...	...	...	...	1

TABLE III.—continued.

II.—Children suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (this category includes tuberculosis of all sites other than those shown in (I) above).

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	...	9
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	11
At other Institutions	...	...	...	...	3
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	25

B.—DELICATE CHILDREN.

This Section is confined to children whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open-Air School.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	...	55
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	13
At other Institutions	...	...	...	...	1
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	69

C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

This Section is confined to children (other than those diagnosed as tuberculous and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	...	2
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	2
At other Institutions	...	...	...	...	1
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	5

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.

This Section is confined to children in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	...	2
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	3
At other Institutions	...	...	...	...	2
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	7

TABLE III.—continued.

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.

Information is only given in respect of children suffering from any combination of the following types of defect :—

Blindness (excluding partially sighted children).

Deafness (excluding partially deaf children).

Mental Defect (Feeble-minded).

Severe Epilepsy.

Active Tuberculosis.

Crippling (as defined in Section C above).

Heart Disease.

Combination of Defect.	At Certi- fied Special Schools.	At Public Elemen- tary Schools.	At other Institu- tions.	At no School or Institu- tion.	Total.
Feeble-minded and Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	1

TABLE IV.
RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.
TREATMENT TABLES.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table VI.).

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—			
(i.) X-Ray Treatment	—	—	—
(ii.) Other	2	—	2
Ringworm-Body	1	—	1
Scabies	9	—	9
Impetigo	91	1	92
Other skin disease	74	—	74
<i>Minor Eye Defects</i> —			
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	229	5	234
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	187	7	194
<i>Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)</i>	1266	31	1297
Total	1859	44	1903

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	Under the Authority's Scheme. (1)			Otherwise. (2)			Total number of individual children treated
	Residential treatment with education. (i)	Residential treatment without education. (ii)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopædic clinic. (iii)	Residential treatment with education. (i)	Residential treatment without education. (ii)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopædic clinic. (iii)	
Number of children treated ...	2	6	101	4	1	—	108

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist:		(5) Half-days devoted to :—	
Aged :		Inspection	Treatment
(a) Routine	Age Groups—	...	...
	5	614	57
	6	386	381
	7	359	...
	8	332	...
	9	343	...
	10	259	...
	11	233	...
	12	223	...
	13	211	...
	14	55	...
Total	...	...	...
(b) Specials	...	...	...
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	...	...	...
		3178	505
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...
(3) Number actually treated	...	...	...
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...
		2229	300
		1505	792
		2801	1092
(6) Fillings :—		...	...
	Permanent teeth	...	...
	Temporary teeth	...	...
Total	...	...	...
		1745	2618
(7) Extractions :—		...	...
	Permanent teeth	...	...
	Temporary teeth	...	...
Total	...	...	...
		504	3122
(8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions		...	...
		...	505
(9) Other operations :—		...	...
	Permanent teeth	...	...
	Temporary teeth	...	...
Total	...	...	...
		...	3
		...	7,548
		...	122
		...	40
		...	—
		...	—

TABLE VI.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i.)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	3
(ii.)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	7,548
(iii.)	Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	122
(iv.)	Number of individual children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	40
(v.)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	...	...	—
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	—
	(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	...	...	—

Form 307 M.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938, BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY TO THE LOCAL MENTAL DEFICIENCY AUTHORITY.

Total number of children notified 4.

ANALYSIS OF THE ABOVE TOTAL.

DIAGNOSIS.	BOYS.	GIRLS.
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School :		
(a) Idiots	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	1	—
(c) Others	—	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children :		
(a) Moral defectives	—	—
(b) Others	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16 ...	3	—
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, <i>i.e.</i> , "special circumstances" cases <i>Note.</i> —No child is notified under Article 3 until the Board have issued a formal certificate (Form 308 M) to the Authority.	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf <i>Note.</i> —No blind or deaf child is notified without reference to the Board—see Article 2, proviso (ii)	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	4	—

	Routine Medical Inspections.			†Medical Re-inspections.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Cured.	Improved.	Stationary.	Worse. Total.
St. James' Infants	29	31	60	19	19	10	3 51
St. James' Sen. Boys	52	—	52	3	3	3	1 10
St. James' Sen. Girls	—	49	49	16	15	11	1 43
St. Barnabas Jun. Mixed	33	39	72	16	21	15	1 53
St. Barnabas Infants	49	37	86	24	22	17	4 67
St. Mark's Jun. Mixed and Infants	21	20	41	5	7	3	— 15
Christ Church Jun. Mixed and Infants	40	24	64	14	14	15	3 46
King Charles' Sen. Boys	43	—	43	5	6	6	1 18
Murray House Sen. Girls	—	52	52	7	19	14	1 41
St. Peter's Jun. Mixed	10	15	25	7	6	9	1 23
St. Peter's Infants	26	11	37	4	7	5	— 16
St. John's Jun. Mixed	22	23	45	17	30	21	3 71
Down Lane Infants	29	24	53	12	24	26	1 63
St. Luke's Infants	22	23	45	10	18	17	2 47
St. Augustine's Mixed	27	22	49	1	4	6	2 13
Royal Victoria Sen. Boys	22	—	22	9	8	11	6 34
Holy Trinity Sen. Girls	—	24	24	3	6	8	— 17
Rusthall Boys	50	—	50	23	40	24	1 88
Rusthall Girls	—	74	74	15	32	28	— 75
Rusthall Infants	38	37	75	13	18	13	— 44
TOTALS	513	505	1,018	223	319	262	31 835

† It should be noted that children who are known to have had treatment are not included in the Re-inspections at the Schools.



