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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

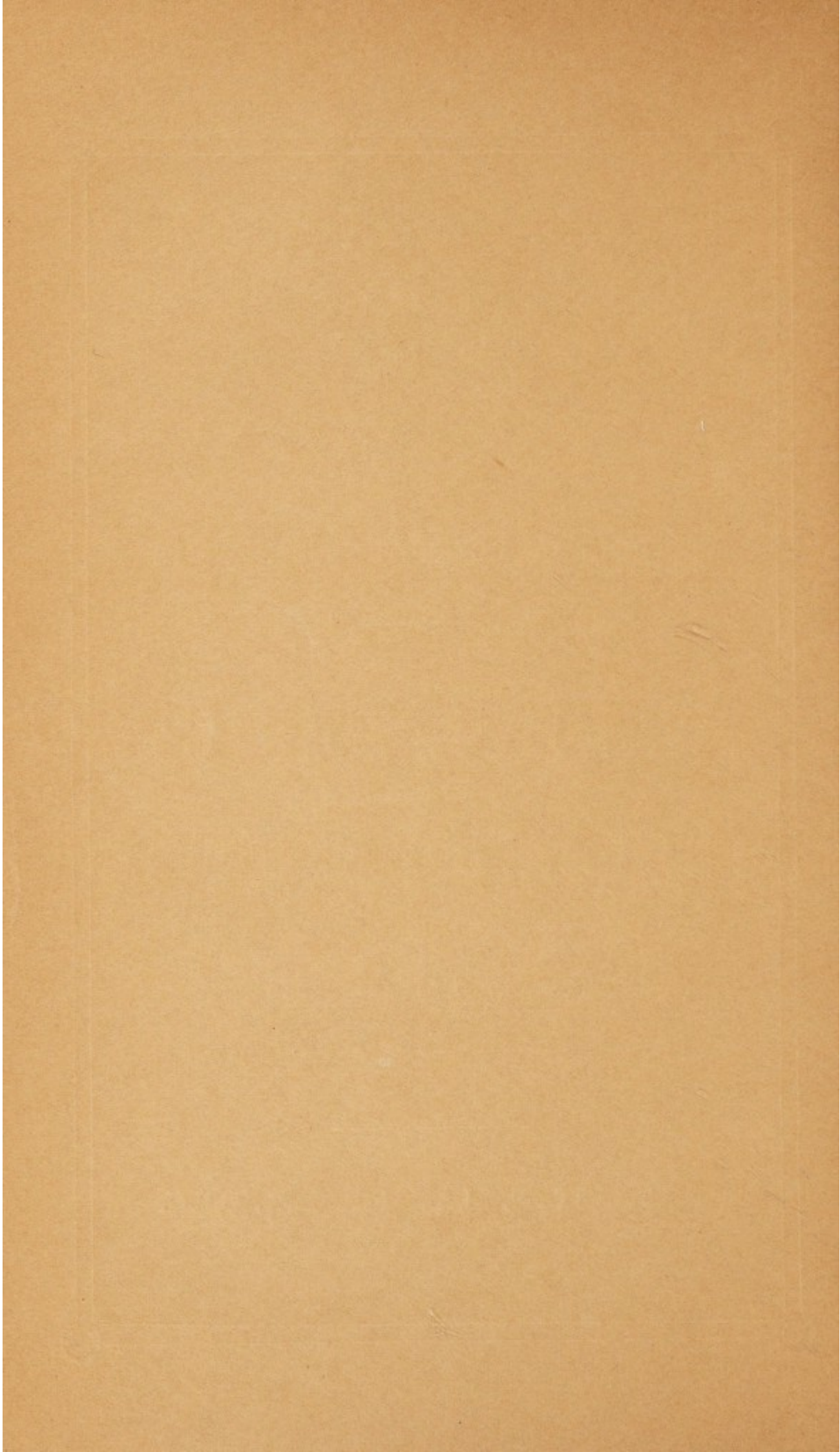
Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1939.

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 1939.

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

Tunbridge Wells :
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR ROAD.
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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

(Present Constitution)

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman WESTBROOK).

Councillor Dr. RANKINE (Chairman).

Alderman Miss BAKER.

Mr. Councillor HUGGETT.

Mr. Councillor BEALE.

Councillor Miss HUXTABLE.

Mr. Councillor HARRIES.

Mr. Councillor SARGENT.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :

(Present Constitution)

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman WESTBROOK).

Alderman Miss BAKER (Chairman).

Mr. Councillor BEALE.

Mr. Councillor SARGENT.

Mr. Councillor HARRIES.

Mrs. H. GRIPPER.

Mr. Councillor HUGGETT.

Mrs. HAMMOND.

Councillor Miss HUXTABLE.

Dr. M. I. HOUNSFIELD.

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) (*Joined H.M. Forces, 25/8/1939*)

Rat Catcher :

H. SMALL.

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.).

*Medical Officer for Ante-Natal Clinic :

C. R. MORISON, M.D. (*Appointed 8/9/1939.*)

MARGARET EMSLIE, M.B., Ch.B. (*War Service 25/8/1939.*)

*Masseuse :

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

*Medical Officer for Orthopaedic Clinic :

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

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H. (*Appointed 25/9/1939.*)

W. G. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (*Resigned 30/9/1939.*)

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.

(*) 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 the Annual Health Report for the year 1939. It is abbreviated, as decreed by the Minister of Health: it is late in appearing, owing to the lateness of receipt of the Registrar-General's tables upon which calculations are based, and because of the heavy demand imposed by war conditions upon the time and energies of your Health Department Staff.

The outstanding feature of this memorable year was the organisation of the A.R.P. Casualty Services, the choosing and equipping of Aid Posts and the enrolling and training of the Personnel. Later, when the actual outbreak of war increased the tempo of duties already in existence, there was imposed the additional duty of absorbing evacuees into our existing system of Clinics, and of dealing with the fresh problems of infection likely to arise from an influx of children from other environments. The contents of this Report serve to show the soundness of the Health Department's structure, which met the strain admirably.

The Infant Mortality achieved a new low record: only one mother died at childbirth, from causes unconnected with puerperal sepsis. The number of births and the birth rate rose considerably.

Vitally important services were attended to as scrupulously as usual, despite other pre-occupations. The prevention of spread of infection, the purity of the water supply, of milk and other foods, received prime consideration.

I wish to express gratitude and admiration to all members of the Staff for the manner in which they threw themselves into their tasks. And last, but not least, in my capacity as

head of the A.R.P. Casualty Services, I am glad to pay a tribute of admiration to the personnel—both whole-time and voluntary—under my control. The Borough owes a special debt of gratitude to all those who are in the A.R.P. services. From the members of the hard-worked Emergency Committee, and the Chief Officers of each branch, down to the humblest worker, all are imbued with the same spirit of self-sacrifice.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

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

10th December, 1940.

STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	6,034
Population (as extended—Census, 1931)	...				35,839
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population,					
1939 (a) Birth Rate	...	...	...		32,620
(b) Death Rate	...	...	...		34,250
Resident Population (Medical Officer of Health's					
estimate—Mid-year, 1939)	...	...	...		35,350
Persons per acre	...	...	...	...	5.9
Number of houses intended or used for habita-					
tion on December 31st, 1939	...	...			10,981†
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)	...				10,633†
Persons per inhabited house	...	...	...		3.3
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£482,226
Sum represented by a penny rate :—					
On General Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,830
Mean annual temperature	...	...	...		49.5°F.
Total rainfall, 1939	...	...	...	...	35.88 inches
Hours of bright sunshine, 1939					1,658 hours 18 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	...	420	228	192
	{ Legitimate	...	396	218	178
	{ Illegitimate	...	24	10	14
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—					
11.9 (12.9 on Registrar-General's estimate of population).					
Stillbirths	...	...	12	7	5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births—27.8.					
Deaths	...	...	552	240	312
Crude Death Rate—15.6 per 1,000 of estimated resident					
population (on Registrar-General's population estimate—					
16.1).					

Death Rate corrected for age and sex constitution—(factor for correction, 0.73, 1931 Census), 11.4 per 1,000 of estimated resident population (on Registrar-General's estimate of population—11.8).

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	0	0.0
From other puerperal causes	1	2.27
Total	1	2.27

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	21.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		19.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		41.7

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	75	35	40
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	0	0	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	0	1
„ „ Diarrhoea, etc. (un- der 2 years of age)	2	1	1

Population.

The population in 1939 is given by the Registrar-General as follows : (a) for calculation of Birth Rates—32,620, and (b) for calculation of Death Rates or the incidence of notifiable diseases—34,250. The reason for the double set of figures is apparently that deaths of evacuees in the district are not transferable to the area to which the evacuees belong ; on the other hand, births in the Borough are transferred to the districts in which the mothers normally reside.

The population as estimated appears to be considerably below the actual population of the Borough, *which I estimate to be 35,350 at mid-year 1939.*

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

Births.

Two sets of figures have been supplied by the Registrar-General for 1939, one (420—228 males and 192 females) being the number of births belonging to the Borough after allowing for inward and outward transfers. This is an increase of 51 on the previous year's number, and corresponds to a rate of 11.9 per thousand of the population (12.9 on Registrar-General's estimate of population), as compared with 10.4 in 1938. Ten male and fourteen female children were born out of wedlock, giving an illegitimate rate of 5.7 per cent., compared with 4.9 in 1938. Twelve stillbirths were registered, none of which was illegitimate.

The other figure supplied (429—233 males and 196 females) appears to include evacuee births, and is given for calculating Infant and Maternal mortalities.

The number of births *notified* during the year under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as occurring in the Borough was 538, and consisted of 280 males and 258 females; of these 11 males and 11 females were stillborn. The excess of notifications over registrations of births is largely accounted for by the births occurring in the Maternity Home, which caters for a wide district around Tunbridge Wells, as well as for the Borough itself.

Deaths.

Five hundred and ninety deaths were registered in the Borough during the year under review, and there were 165 outwardly transferable deaths and 127 inward transfers, thus making the total number belonging to the Borough 552. The crude Death rate is 15.6 per thousand (16.1 on Registrar-General's estimate of population) as compared with 14.7 in 1938.

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	† 1939
Deaths under 1 year ...	72	57	46	40	36	23	22	18	22	19	17	9
" 1 and under 2 } ...	25	29	23	16	{ 6	3	5	3	4	5	4	3
" 2 " 5 } ...					{ 9	5	5	4	3	2	1	4
" 5 " 15 ...	21	11	10	16	15	6	7	5	5	5	4	2
" 15 " 25 ...	20	13	14	12	21	10	10	7	8	3	7	10
" 25 " 45 } ...					{ 47	36	37	30	31	30	29	29
" 45 " 65 } ...	121	141	141	145	{ 107	104	118	119	118	99	117	116
" 65 and upwards ...	154	178	205	234	245	276	307	342	339	343	344	379

Table Showing Number of Deaths from Certain Causes.

Five-Yearly Period.			Tubercu- losis		Infec- tious Diseases	Vio- lence.	In- fluenza.
			Cancer.	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
†1939	...	75	9	4	6	18	8

* Reliable figures not available.

† Inserted for comparison.

Infectious Diseases.

Full details will be found on pages 39 to 46. There were 6 deaths—one from Whooping Cough, one from Cerebro-spinal Fever, one from Erysipelas and three from Encephalitis Lethargica : only one case of the last mentioned disease was notified during the year—the others were old cases.

Maternal Mortality.

One mother died during 1939 from conditions associated with childbirth—not from Puerperal Sepsis. This one death represents a maternal mortality of 2.27 per thousand total

births, compared with 2.82 for England and Wales: the average rate for the previous five years was 4.27 (3.61 for England and Wales).

Infant Mortality.

Nine deaths of infants under one year of age took place during the year under review, being 21 per thousand live births, as compared with 46.1 the previous year. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 50 (53 in 1938). The average Infant Mortality Rate in the Borough for the previous ten years was 46.1 per thousand.

The 1939 figure was the lowest Infant Mortality rate yet recorded in the Borough.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1939.

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	6	—	—	—	6	1	1	1	—	9
{ Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diarrhœa ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Injury at Birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1939.

	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 under 1 year
England and Wales ...	15.0	0.59	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.21	4.6	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.8	0.59	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.19	6.3	53
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931)...	15.6	0.57	11.2	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.20	3.0	40
London Administrative County ...	12.3	0.44	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.18	8.2	48
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	11.9 (12.9)	0.34 (0.37)	11.4 (11.8)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.03 (0.03)	0.00 (0.00)	0.23 (0.23)	4.7	21

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

The maternal mortality rates are as follows: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{per 1,000 } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{England and Wales} \\ \text{Live Births} \end{array} \right. \dots \dots \dots \\ \text{per 1,000 } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{England and Wales} \\ \text{Total Births} \end{array} \right. \dots \dots \dots \end{array} \right. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Puerperal Sepsis.} \\ \text{Others.} \end{array} \right.$

2.16	2.16
2.33	2.33
2.82	2.08
2.27	2.27

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1939.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature. In shade, 4ft. above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
	1939.	25 Year Average.	1939.	59 Year Average.	1939.	49 Year Average.	1939.	39 Year Average.	1939.	25 Year Average.
January ...	Hrs. Mins. 47 24	Hrs. Mins. 50 18	Inches. 5.49	Inches. 2.76	°F. 40.3	°F. 38.8	°F. 39.8	°F. 39.8	°F. 42.9	°F. 43.8
February ...	113 30	73 42	1.48	2.29	40.9	39.6	38.8	39.3	41.9	42.6
March ...	108 42	125 30	1.38	2.25	41.7	42.2	41.4	41.9	43.1	43.2
April ...	182 54	141 24	2.37	2.04	47.5	46.5	48.4	46.7	47.0	46.6
May ...	215 54	205 18	1.84	1.93	51.9	52.9	53.9	54.1	54.1	50.9
June ...	225 48	212 54	1.17	1.94	57.9	58.0	60.7	60.3	57.8	56.3
July ...	193 12	206 6	2.61	2.28	60.7	61.5	62.7	63.4	59.8	59.6
August ...	201 30	194 30	2.38	2.36	62.1	61.0	64.2	63.0	61.7	61.0
September	171 18	153 48	0.85	2.27	59.1	57.2	61.3	59.0	62.1	59.8
October ...	95 48	109 54	7.83	3.63	48.1	50.1	49.8	52.5	55.1	56.0
November...	39 12	60 54	5.79	3.55	47.7	43.4	47.1	45.7	50.0	50.6
December	63 6	44 6	2.19	3.39	35.9	39.8	39.9	41.6	45.8	45.9
WHOLE YEAR	1658 18	1578 24	35.88	30.69	49.5	49.2	50.7	50.6	51.5	51.3

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

The meteorological records continued to be kept by the Staff of the Health Department during the year, and extracts are submitted in the Table on the previous page, together with averages.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Staff.

A list of the Staff of the Public Health Department, together with the changes during 1939, will be found at the beginning of this Report.

The allocation of duties has not been altered since the previous year.

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of specimens examined in the Laboratory at the Public Health Offices was 619, compared with 794 in 1938. The nature of these examinations was as follows :—

Specimens examined for the presence of Diphtheria Bacillus :—

			<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	
(a)	From Fever Hospital cases	...	96	131	
(b)	From outside sources	...	32	350	
					609
	Hairs examined for the presence of Ringworm	...	...	...	7
	Other specimens examined	...	...	...	3
	TOTAL	...	...	...	619

In addition to the above, 206 specimens were forwarded to the County Laboratory at Sessions House, Maidstone, for examination as follows :—

	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
134 Sputum examinations for Tubercle Bacilli ...	13	121
12 Blood examinations for Typhoid or Para-Typhoid ...	3	9
5 Urine examinations for Typhoid or Para-Typhoid	—	5
6 Dejecta examinations for Typhoid or Para-Typhoid	1	5
36 Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococci ...	6	30
2 Swabs for Diphtheria Bacillus ...	1	1
8 Tests of Cultures of B. Diphtheriæ for virulence	7	1
3 Miscellaneous specimens ...	1	2
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 174

Also, forty-four samples of milk were submitted to bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory, details of which are set out on page 34, and samples were collected from the Borough water supply every three months and sent to this Laboratory for bacteriological examination—12 such samples being sent during 1939. These are additional to the usual analyses of milk and other foods carried out by the Public Analyst (see page 36).

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.

This statement does not include the ambulances under the control of the A.R.P. Casualty Services.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—This is undertaken by the Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association, which has a staff of seven nurses, and which also undertakes practically all the domiciliary midwifery cases in the Borough.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—The services of a nurse are obtainable from the District Nursing Association 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. Two calls were made during 1939.

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

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—Full details of these will be found on page 20.

School Clinic.—The School Clinic is at the Public Health Offices, 9 and 10, Calverley Terrace, and consists of ten rooms provided by the Education Committee. 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. The number of attendances during 1939 was 18,219—the largest number recorded to date.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Kent County Council has a branch Dispensary for tuberculosis cases from Tunbridge Wells and district, at 34, Calverley Street. Clinics were held each Monday from 5 to 5.45 p.m., and on Thursdays from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.; and 290 patients (155 insured and 135 uninsured) made 859 attendances during the year.

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 2 p.m.

Males— „ at 4 p.m.

Public and Voluntary Hospitals, etc.

Borough Fever Hospital.—This Hospital has an excellent situation with a southern exposure, and stands over 400 feet above sea level. The accommodation for patients is the same as mentioned in the Report for 1938.

Additional accommodation urgently needed for the Staff has been deferred owing to the outbreak of war. Improvements and extensions in the accommodation for patients are also impending, but have been temporarily deferred.

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 89 (63 Tunbridge Wells cases and 26 " outside " cases) representing 2,811 patient-days (Tunbridge Wells cases 1,930, other cases 881 days).

Smallpox Hospital.—The Conjoint Smallpox Hospital catering for the south-west portion of Kent, is situated at Capel: it accommodates 18 adult patients. There were no admissions during 1939.

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

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 normally has 210 beds, including 18 for private patients.

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 orthopaedic 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, and normally has 30 beds.

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.

Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home.—Two hundred and seventy-two confinements took place in this Home during 1939, as compared with 226 in 1938. Of these mothers, 125 were residents of Tunbridge Wells, as compared with 91 during the previous year. They represented 29.8 per cent. of the total Tunbridge Wells mothers for the year, as compared with 23.9 per cent. born in the Home during 1938.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The amount of Poor Law Relief given by the Public Assistance Committee in Tunbridge Wells for the year ended 31st March, 1940, totalled £12,200, as compared with £9,100 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.

The total number of attendances at the Centres during 1939 was 11,013, compared with 10,662 during the previous year. *The 1939 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 376 (303 in 1938), and the individual children 1-5 years numbered 507 (365 in 1938).

Two thousand, nine hundred medical consultations were held, as compared with 2,548 during the previous year, and 5,667 weighings were carried out (5,508 in 1938).

During the year, 302 infants under 1 year attended the Centres for the first time (209 in 1938); 185 children aged 1-5 years (93 previous year) attended for the first time.

The increase in numbers under all headings is practically entirely due to the attendances of evacuee children staying in the Borough.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic.—This Clinic was held at 11, Crescent Road, Dr. Margaret Emslie attending twice each month up to the 25th August, when she left to take up an appointment upon a hospital ship. Dr. C. R. Morison was appointed to carry on the work, commencing duties on 8th September, and owing to the increased numbers attending, extra sessions were held until the end of the year.

Attendances etc., at Infant Welfare Centres, 1939.

	Tunbridge Wells— Tuesday Clinic.		Rusthall— Wednesday Clinic.		Tunbridge Wells— Thursday Clinic.		Totals.	
	1939. (51 sessions).	1938. (51 sessions).	1939. (52 sessions).	1938. (52 sessions).	1939. (52 sessions).	1938. (52 sessions).	1939.	1938.
Number of attendances of Infants under 1 year	1001	799	564	521	1088	1324	2653	2644
Number of attendances of Children 1-5 years	667	488	1061	1114	1572	1449	3300	3051
Number of attendances of Mothers (excluding those at Ante-Natal Clinic)	1484	1168	1296	1312	2280	2487	5060	4967
Total Attendances	3152 (62)	2455 (48)	2921 (56)	2947 (57)	4940 (95)	5260 (101)	11013	10662
CONSULTATIONS WITH MEDICAL OFFICER :—								
Infants	420	262	299	252	541	605	1260	1119
Children	332	198	508	550	800	681	1640	1429
Totals	752	460	807	802	1341	1286	2900	2548

NOTE: Figures in brackets indicate the approximate average attendances.

A total of 181 ante-natal cases attended and 519 consultations were held during the 39 sessions: the following Table gives details of the expectant mothers who attended:—

	BOROUGH RESIDENTS.			OTHER CASES.		
	Primips.	Multips.	Total.	Primips.	Multips.	Total.
Individual expectant mothers ...	57 (44)	89 (99)	146 (143)	15 (1)	20 (1)	35 (2)
Consultations ...	149 (76)	262 (211)	411 (287)	50 (3)	58 (1)	108 (4)

NOTE.—Figures in brackets indicate similar figures for 1938.

Of the " other " cases, 31, representing 101 consultations, were evacuees.

In addition to the above, 29 Tunbridge Wells mothers made 41 attendances for post-natal examinations, as compared with 27 cases and 38 attendances during the previous year.

I beg to submit the following report from Dr. C. R. Morison on the work carried out by him:—

REPORT UPON THE WORK OF THE BOROUGH
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC DURING THE PERIOD
8TH SEPTEMBER, 1939, TO 31ST DECEMBER,
1939.

Patients attending Clinic	...	...	...	...	90
Evacuees	...	...	...	...	24
Total attendances at Clinic	...	...	...	...	435
Attendances of Evacuees	...	...	...	...	76
Number of Births	...	...	...	...	89
Termination of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Live Births	...	...	...	...	87
Number of Still Births	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Primigravidæ	...	...	...	...	35

Number of Multigravidæ	...	...	...	...	55
Confined by District Nurses	...	...	...	...	28
Confined at Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home	...	...	...	...	20
Confined at County Hospital, Pembury	...	...	...	...	21
Confined at Maidstone and elsewhere	...	...	...	...	21

Complications of Pregnancy.

Breech Presentations—External Cephalic Version at 34th week	...	...	...	...	8
Albuminuria of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	21
Cardiac Disease—Mitral Stenosis	...	...	...	...	3
Renal Disease (Pregnancy terminated by Abdominal Hysterectomy and Sterilisation)	...	...	...	...	1
Hyperpiesia	...	...	...	...	2
Contracted Pelvis	...	...	...	...	2
Hypochronic Anæmia	...	...	...	...	11
Undernourished	...	...	...	...	6
Induction of Labour for Post Maturity	...	...	...	...	2
Pyelitis of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	2

Sent to County Hospital, Pembury, for Confinement.

Contracted Pelvis	...	...	...	...	1
Concealed and revealed Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	1
Breech with extended legs (Primigravida) complicated with severe Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	1
Albuminuria—not responding to treatment	...	...	...	...	6
Cardiac Disease (Mitral Stenosis with decompensation)	...	...	...	...	2
Renal Disease—for Termination of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	1

Still Births.

Mrs. C.—5th gravida, attended the Clinic once: she failed to return in spite of all efforts, including visits from a Health Visitor. I was summoned to the Maternity Home, where I found her in a state of collapse owing to severe ante-partum hæmorrhage. I gave her a transfusion and then had her removed to Pembury. She was

suffering from concealed and revealed ante-partum hæmorrhage.

Mrs. C.—primigravida, attended the Clinic once only and failed to return.

It is perhaps a coincidence, but the two Still Births occurred in two patients who failed to return to the Clinic after one attendance. Of the remainder, it was necessary to send twelve to the County Hospital, Pembury, one for termination of pregnancy at an early date on account of renal disease, the remaining eleven were successfully confined and there were no Maternal deaths.

The attendances, in spite of war conditions, have been very satisfactory and the results achieved encouraging.

(Signed) C. R. MORISON.

Orthopædic Treatment.—The arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of orthopædic cases remained the same, and details were set out in previous reports.

During the year, 16 children under school age were seen by Dr. P. L. Richardson, and 21 consultations were held (including 2 evacuees and 2 consultations). Of these, 9 were new cases suffering from the following defects :—

Knock-knee or knees	...	...	...	2
Pes Cavus	...	...	...	1
Genu Varum	...	...	...	1
Valgus Foot	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1
No Orthopædic defect	...	...	...	3

Three of these cases were recommended remedial exercises, and 4 children in all made 18 attendances for this type of treatment. Two boys were admitted to the Kent and Sussex Hospital for lengthening of Tendo Achilles, staying 44 and 20 days.

Three children were discharged as needing no further treatment.

Dental Treatment.—Dental treatment clinics for pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers were continued once each week. Sixty individual children made 144 attendances, and 93 mothers made 190 attendances to see Dr. Alex. Buchan, 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.	
134	293	98	39	48	15	71

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. 3s. 9d. was given in nine 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	...	280
				Total visits	...	601
(b)	To children under 1 year of age	...	...	First visits	...	401
				Total visits	...	1,676
(c)	To children between the ages of 1					
	and 5 years	...	...	Total visits	...	3,222
(d)	Where infants have died	...	...	Total visits	...	16
(e)	Found no one at home	...	...	...	...	892

Child Life Protection.—On December 31st, 1939, there were within the Borough 103 children under the care of 33

registered foster-mothers, as compared with 81 children boarded-out with 27 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 50 and 60 children in residence.)

Three hundred and twelve visits of inspection were paid during the year.

In five instances (6 in 1938) failure to comply with the provisions of Part VII. 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.—One hundred and sixty-five households (including 19 evacuee families) received assistance during the year, of which 130 (14 evacuee) were supplied with 12,248½ pints of fresh milk (105 families and 10,859 pints of milk during the previous year), at an estimated cost to the Borough Council of £153. In addition, food and drugs (various dried milks, cod liver oil and malt, etc.) to the value of £29. 1s. 5d. were issued free of cost (£32. 14s. 4d. in 1938), and food valued £1. 2s. 6d., was sold at half price.

Food and drugs to the value of £115. 6s. 2d. were sold at cost price.

The Medical Staff also issued 220 certificates to families for milk to be supplied through the Public Assistance Committee.

The Corporation gave direct assistance with Maternity Home fees in five 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.

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.—The treatment of maternity cases is undertaken by agreement with the Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home, but

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.—This is drawn from the same sources as before, namely springs around the Pembury area and from an artesian borewell at Pembury, and also from an artesian borewell at Saints' Hill, Fordcombe. The supply is controlled by monthly bacteriological examinations.

Certain of the springs which gave unsatisfactory analyses were kept out of action for a few months during 1939, and steps were taken to improve the drainage of certain premises in the vicinity.

Chlorination of the water supplied to the parish of Frant in East Sussex from the Tangier Wells commenced towards the end of the year, and has given satisfactory results.

The approximate number of houses and flats supplied at the end of 1939 was 10,342 within the Borough, and 786 outside.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Sewage from the Borough drains towards the North and South Sewage Farms, where there were no alterations during the year under review. Effluents from these Farms were examined and proved satisfactory, though the small stream flowing through the North Farm was found to be somewhat contaminated with trade effluents, before it reached the Farm.

The installation of the two electric centrifugal pumps at Hurstwood Pumping Station was not completed by the end of the year owing to war conditions holding up supplies.

Closet Accommodation.—Conditions remained entirely as set out in the Annual Report for 1938.

Public Cleansing.—Arrangements continued as in 1938.

The number of dust receptacles in the Borough was

approximately 12,050 : 9,482 tons (58,731 cubic yards) of house and trade refuse were dealt with by the Cleansing Department during the year.

Street gullies are emptied and flushed at least four times a year, and the number of cleansings amounted to 11,449.

Schools.—All schools in the Borough 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 1939.

With regard to the milk supplied to schools, 17 samples were taken during the year and examined bacteriologically. Details of the results will be found on page 34.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—The Corporation Indoor Baths has an up-to-date filtration plant.

The water of the Open-Air Bath, which also belongs to the Borough Council, was chlorinated, as it was found in 1938 to give unsatisfactory analyses. Samples taken in mid-August, 1939, showed the water from both the deep and shallow ends of the Bath to be a good water, and free from B. Coli organisms.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—The following is a summary of the action taken during the year :—

Number of Council houses found to be infested	...	17
Number of Council houses disinfested	...	17
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	41
Number of other houses disinfested	...	41

Infested houses were treated by the issue of a hand spray together with a supply of " Zaldecide " insecticide for use by the tenant.

Housing.—Six houses were demolished during 1939, and 100 houses and 55 flats were built by private enterprise and 140 Corporation houses were completed during the year.

The following Table summarises the work during the year :—

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HOUSING.

The following information is required by the Minister

HOUSING.

The following information is required by the Minister

of Health in connection with the Housing Act and overcrowding :—

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)	567
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	4228
(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	265
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2018
(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	448

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	498
--	-----

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	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	15

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	21
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	20

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	6

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	...	...	...	...	8
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	8
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	64
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	12
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	37
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	268
(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	...	...	...	...	Nil.

It will be observed that six houses were demolished during the year consequent to the making of demolition orders, these being Nos. 1 to 6, Sunnyvale Terrace. At the end of the year 19 of the 21 houses comprising the Albion Square Clearance Area were vacant, and at the time of writing this report the remaining two are vacant. The question of demolishing this property remains in abeyance in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health.

During the year, the Minister of Health caused a local Inquiry to be held regarding the application of the Corporation to deal with certain property in the Borough by means of a Compulsory Purchase Order. The Minister decided to confirm the order without modification, and subsequently issued the Royal Tunbridge Wells (North Street) Housing Confirmation Order, 1939. Further action in this case also remains in abeyance.

Defects Remedied.—The number of defects remedied during the year numbered 2,831.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—During the year, 94 visits were made to farms and 132 to dairies. The following Table gives the number of samples of milk examined, these being in addition to those submitted for analysis under the provision of the Food and Drugs Act.

		<i>Tested.</i>	<i>Satisfied Test.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>
From Farms—Accredited Milk	... ..	15	13	2
" " Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	7	6	1
Schools—taken by local Sanitary Inspectors	... ..	6	5	1
" " " Kent County Council	... ..	11	11	—
" " Examined for Tuberculosis by Kent County Council	... ..	5	4	1

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

Dealers' licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	...	...	3
" " Pasteurised Milk	... ..	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised Milk	... ..	...	...	1
Pasteurisers' Licences	... ..	...	...	3

Four farms in the Borough are licenced for the production of Accredited and one for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Meat and Other Foods.—On the 1st day of October, 1939, the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into operation, and this Act repealed many Sections of the Public Health Acts respecting slaughterhouses, and unsound food, and also repealed Acts or parts of Acts dating back to the reign of Henry VIII. The law relating to slaughterhouses has been strengthened and local authorities now have power to reduce the number of private slaughterhouses, and to establish public slaughterhouses, and cold air store in connection therewith.

Under the present law, all slaughterhouses have to be licenced, so that the term "registered" slaughterhouse is now obsolete. Licences remain in force for a period not exceeding thirteen months.

At the end of the year, four houses were in use in the Borough, this being the same number as in the previous year. During the year, 836 visits were paid to slaughterhouses, principally at times of slaughter, and 5,994 carcasses together with the offals were examined. Three hundred and nine visits were paid to other food premises (excluding bakehouses)—chiefly butchers' shops.

Food weighing 2 tons 16 cwts. 2 qtrs. 24 lbs. was found

to be diseased or unsound, and was condemned and destroyed, and particulars of this are given hereunder :—

Beef	(Home killed)	...	2759 lbs.	(All Tuberculous)
Beef Offal	" "	...	1278 "	(1226 lbs. tuberculous)
Pork	" "	...	134 "	
Pigs' heads	" "	...	1030 "	(All tuberculous)
Ox Livers	" "	...	273 "	(104 lbs. tuberculous)
Other offals	" "	...	245 "	(80 lbs. tuberculous)
Mutton	...	...	116 "	
Imported Beef	...	...	314 "	
Imported Offals	...	...	81 "	
Fish	...	...	7 "	
Liquid eggs	...	...	88 "	
Tinned ham	...	...	14 "	
Tinned Beef	...	...	6 "	
Bacon	...	...	7 "	

The following information is given on the instructions of the Minister of Health :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	533	16	279	2623	2570
Number inspected ...	533	16	279	2596	2570
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	20	1	Nil	5	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	3.9	6.2	Nil	0.2	1.2
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	36	5	2	Nil	95
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	7.4	31.2	0.7	Nil	3.7

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, any district with a population of less than 40,000 would cease to be the authority for the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts and Regulations as from the 1st October, 1939, unless otherwise ordered by the Minister of Health. Application was made to the Minister of Health for the Corporation to retain its powers under the Act and Regulations. The Minister of Health instructed one of the Medical Officers of the Ministry to visit Tunbridge Wells and make enquiries connected with the arrangements made by the Council for administering the Acts and Regulations. Following this visit, consent was given for the Council to retain its powers. During the year, 115 samples were submitted for analysis, and of these four were found to be adulterated, these being samples of milk. Proceedings were instituted against the vendor of one of these samples, a conviction being obtained, there being a fine of £2 and 13s. 0d. costs. No infringements of the Artificial Cream Act, The Public Health (Condensed and Dried Milk Regulations), and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations were detected.

The following Table gives the number and description of the samples analysed :—

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT.
Samples Analysed During 1939.

Nature of Article.	Examined.			Adulterated.			Action taken.
	Formal.	Informal	Total.	Formal.	Informal	Total	
New Milk ...	53	11	64	4	—	4	No. 944—Deficient in fat—7 per cent. No proceedings.
Cream ...	—	6	6				No. 974—Deficient in fat—6 per cent. No proceedings.
Butter ...	—	5	5				No. 5—Deficient in fat—2 per cent. No proceedings.
Margarine ...	—	1	1				No. 42—Contained 10½ per cent. extraneous water.
Lard ...	—	2	2				Vendor convicted and fined £2 and 13/- costs.
Cheese ...	—	1	1				
Dripping ...	—	1	1				
Sausage Meat ...	—	2	2				
Meat Roll ...	—	1	1				
Jam ...	—	3	3				
Tapioca ...	—	1	1				
Ground Rice ...	—	2	2				
Coffee ...	—	1	1				
Currants ...	—	1	1				
Sultanas ...	—	1	1				
Sauce ...	—	2	2				
Tinned Fish ...	—	2	2				
Tinned Peas ...	—	2	2				
Tinned Fruit ...	—	2	2				
Pepper ...	—	1	1				
Sugar ...	—	1	1				
Cocoa ...	—	1	1				
Ground Almonds ...	—	1	1				
Vinegar ...	—	1	1				
Whisky ...	—	2	2				
Mercury Ointment ...	—	1	1				
Boric Ointment ...	—	1	1				
Tinct. of Iodine ...	—	1	1				
Camphorated Oil ...	—	2	2				
Castor Oil ...	—	1	1				
Am. Tinct. of Quinine ...	—	2	2				
TOTALS ...	53	62	115	4	—	4	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year, 92 visits were made to factories without mechanical power, and 41 to those with mechanical power, when the following defects were found :—

Lack of artificial light in W.C.'s	...	...	...	4
Lack of natural light in W.C.'s	...	...	...	1
W.C. apartments dirty	...	...	...	1
W.C. floor defective	...	...	...	1
No sex indication on W.C. door	...	...	...	1
No fastener on W.C. door	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses—lack of limewashing	...	...	...	7
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	1

Of these, 15 had been remedied at the end of the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

During the year many ratepayers made application for the services of the Rat-catcher, while in addition to the work thus entailed, systematic visits were made by him to places likely to harbour rats, such as allotments and slaughterhouses. Owing to the need for war economy, it is essential that food stuffs be protected against the ravages of the rat, and it is a matter of surprise that the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries does not insist on the employment of many more full-time Rat-catchers in view of the wastage caused by this rodent. The cost entailed would be more than balanced by the saving in food.

One thousand, seven hundred and forty-four rats were actually accounted for in the Borough during the year, while in addition many hundreds must have been destroyed when gassing was resorted to. To emphasise the usefulness of systematic rat destruction, I would mention the fact that rats commence to breed at the early age of three to four months, that six or seven litters a year are not unusual, and that litters on an average consist of 10. Therefore, it is

estimated that a pair of rats and their descendants could produce 1,130 rats in a year.

(Signed) HARRY T. TAYLOR,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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

(A) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

One hundred and eleven cases of infectious disease were notified during 1939, compared with 124 in 1938. 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, 1939.

Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet													
Fever ...	5	—	1	—	—	4	3	2	2	8	3	—	28
Diphtheria	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	4	16
Erysipelas	1	1	3	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	10
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	1	3	1	7	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	20
Puerperal													
Pyrexia	1	—	1	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	10
Cerebro-													
Spinal													
Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enteric													
Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Acute Ant :													
Poliomye-													
litis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Encephalitis													
Letharg-													
ica ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Whooping													
Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	14	18
Totals	10	5	10	10	3	7	7	7	7	10	14	21	111

AGES, Etc., OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

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 ...	28 (4)	—	—	2	2	2	15	4	1	2	—	—	—	26	—
Diphtheria ...	16 (2)	—	—	—	1	—	9	3	—	2	—	1	—	16	—
Erysipelas ...	10 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	—	1
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum	2 (—)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	20 (1)	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	3	1	4	5	2	17*
Puerperal Pyrexia	10 (5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2	—	—	5	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	2 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Acute Ant.															
Poliomyelitis	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis															
Lethargica ...	1 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
†Measles...	2 (—)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Whooping Cough	18 (—)	1	—	2	1	—	9	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

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.

†Made notifiable as from 23rd October, 1939.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-eight cases were notified, giving a case rate of 0.8 per thousand population, as compared with 1.89 for England and Wales. The average number of cases per annum in the quinquennium 1934-38 was 61.

The disease produced no fatality.

The type of the disease continued mild, and 26 cases were treated in the Borough Fever Hospital, the average period of stay being 32 days.

Diphtheria.—The attack rate per thousand population was 0.47 as compared with 1.14 for England and Wales generally. The cases numbered 16 (30 in 1938), of which 2 were inmates of institutions in the Borough. There were no deaths from this disease.

All 16 cases were admitted to the Borough Fever Hospital for treatment, and the average length of stay was 45 days : in addition, 4 "carriers" of the Diphtheria bacillus were isolated and treated in the Hospital, their length of stay averaging 18 days.

The Table on page 42 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 Borough. This anti-toxin can be obtained at the Public Health Offices **at any hour** ; *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.*

The **Immunisation Clinic**, started in March, 1938, continued throughout the year, and the following Table sets out the work of this Clinic :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1939.

	Pre-school children	School children	Total
Preliminary Schick Test :			
Negative	—	1	1
Positive	—	7	7
1st. Injection	23	27	50
2nd. Injection	21	25	46
3rd. Injection	24	26	50
4th. Injection (after Positive Schick Test)	—	2	2
Final Schick Test :			
Negative	33	27	60
Positive	—	2	2
COMPLETELY IMMUNISED DURING YEAR	33	26	59
Attendances	135	154	289

Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture (T.A.M.) was used, three injections of 1 c.c. being given at fortnightly intervals.

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.

Five-yearly period.	No. of Cases Notified.	Attack Rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths Registered.	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1891-1895	165	1.14	31	0.22
1896-1900	664	4.33	65	0.42
1901-1905	92	0.54	4	0.02
1906-1910	92	0.51	10	0.06
1911-1915	526	2.93	28	0.15
1916-1920	237	1.42	15	0.09
1921-1925	94	0.54	4	0.02
1926-1930	139	0.79	8	0.05
1931-1935	110	0.63	4	0.02
*1936	30	0.86	2	0.06
*1937	13	0.36	0	0.00
*1938	30	0.85	2	0.06
*1939	16	0.47	0	0.00

* Inserted for comparison.

Erysipelas.—Ten notifications were received, giving a case rate for the Borough and for England and Wales of 0.29 and 0.34 respectively. There was one fatality.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases of this disease were notified during 1939, 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 notifications of this disease were received, compared with 26 during 1938. It was most prevalent in April.

Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia are the varieties notifiable.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Ten cases were notified, 5 being Borough mothers.

Three cases occurred in the Kent and Sussex Hospital and 3 in the Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home : 2 were admitted to the Borough Fever Hospital for treatment, staying 15 and 7 days.

No deaths occurred amongst these mothers.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—One case was notified during the year. The patient, a member of H.M. Forces, was admitted to the Kent and Sussex Hospital, dying three days later.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases were notified giving a case rate of 0.06 compared with 0.04 for England and Wales. Both cases were admitted to the Borough Fever Hospital making good recoveries, staying 35 and 33 days.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—One case of mild type was notified from the Kent and Sussex Hospital.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—One case was notified, the patient, a lad of 15 years, dying 3 days later.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—These diseases were made compulsorily notifiable by the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, as from 23rd October, 1939. Two cases of Measles and 18 cases of Whooping Cough were notified between that date and the end of the year.

There was one death from Whooping Cough.

Tuberculosis.—The number of persons whose names were on the Register of Cases at the end of 1939 was 156 (89 Pulmonary and 67 Non-Pulmonary), compared with 143 (82 Pulmonary and 61 Non-Pulmonary) at the end of the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
5-10	2	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
10-15	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
25-35	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	3	2	—	1	—	1	—	1
45-55	2	1	—	—	1	3	—	—
55-65	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	11	7	3	4	6	1	2

Of the 13 deaths, one case of pulmonary tuberculosis had not been previously notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations.

The Tuberculosis death rate for 1939 was 0.38: the Pulmonary death rate was 0.29—both figures are the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

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

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Five-yearly Period.	No. of Pulmonary Deaths.	Pulmonary Death Rate.	No. of Non-Pulmonary Deaths.	Total Deaths.	Tuberculosis Death Rate.
1891-1895	174	1.21	103	277	1.93
1896-1900	131	0.86	91	222	1.45
1901-1905	167	0.98	61	228	1.34
1906-1910	154	0.87	48	202	1.13
1911-1915	133	0.75	46	179	1.00
1916-1920	144	0.87	64	208	1.27
1921-1925	112	0.65	32	144	0.84
1926-1930	106	0.61	21	127	0.73
1931-1935	66	0.38	19	85	0.49
*1936	14	0.39	3	17	0.48
*1937	12	0.34	4	16	0.45
*1938	11	0.31	3	14	0.39
*1939	10	0.29	3	13	0.38

* Inserted for comparison.

Improvements in housing and better nourishment account for the steady reduction in the mortality from Tuberculosis.

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 1939, together with those of the preceding seven years—whether occurring amongst school children or others. There was one death from Whooping Cough.

	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.
*Measles	3	503	47	668	1	31	4	251
*Whooping-cough ...	221	78	155	191	81	279	25	319
Chicken-pox	134	264	178	12	176	262	60	221
German Measles ...	28	7	4	6	1	14	1	5
Mumps	6	15	8	15	552	6	7	4

* These two diseases were made compulsorily notifiable as from 23rd October, 1939, and the figures for 1939 include those so notified.

Eight deaths were attributed to **Influenza**, 5 of which were persons over 55 years of age.

Two deaths occurred from **Diarrhoea** and **Enteritis**.

CANCER.

Seventy-five deaths from Cancer occurred in 1939, as compared with 100 in 1938: they represent 14 per cent. of the total deaths in the Borough during the year. The average number of deaths from this disease during the past 10 years was 79.

The Treatment Centre for the Borough is at the Kent and Sussex Hospital where a Cancer Clinic was held once weekly.

The Table on the following page shows the relative incidence of the disease in sexes, age groups and sites of attack in 74 of the 75 deaths.

DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1939.

		MALES.							FEMALES.								
		Under 30 yrs.	30-40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60-70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.	Over 80 yrs.	Total	Under 30 yrs.	30-40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60-70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.	Over 80 yrs.	Total
Totals	...	74	2	1	1	16	9	4	33	—	—	3	6	10	16	6	41
Stomach	...	16	—	—	—	3	3	3	9	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	7
Breast	...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	2	—	8
Colon, Bowel	...	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	6
Rectum	...	7	—	—	—	3	3	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lung	...	5	—	1	1	2	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Liver	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Intra-abdominal	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	4
Pancreas	...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Uterus	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Prostate	...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bladder	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Esophagus	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Spinal Cord	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Ovary	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bone, Mandible	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchus	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pharynx	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mediastinum	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhodent Ulcer	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suprarenal	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Heart	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tongue	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Testicle	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

There has been no change in the arrangements for these services as set forth in the Annual Report for 1938.

One hundred and sixty-seven disinfectant baths were given to 38 persons during the year, whilst their clothing was dealt with in the steam sack disinfector. Disinfection of rooms was carried out in 102 houses.

The need for a large steam disinfector in the Town should be borne in mind as there is none in the Department.

NUTRITION.

Instruction on the nutrition of infants continued to be given to the senior girls attending the elementary schools by members of the Public Health Nursing Staff throughout the year.

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 KEMP.

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.)

*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 :

JOHN A. SIMONS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Appointed 1/1/1939*).

*Ophthalmic Surgeon :

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

†Assistant School Medical Officer :

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H. (*Appointed 25/9/1939*).

W. G. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (*Resigned 30/9/1939*).

†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.*

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888

IN pursuance of the Statute in that behalf made, the following
is the list of the names of the persons who have been elected

to the office of Mayor and Aldermen for the year 1900, and
the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of

Councillors for the year 1900, and the names of the persons
who have been elected to the office of Councillors for the year

1901, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the
office of Councillors for the year 1902, and the names of the

persons who have been elected to the office of Councillors for the
year 1903, and the names of the persons who have been elected

to the office of Councillors for the year 1904, and the names of
the persons who have been elected to the office of Councillors for

the year 1905, and the names of the persons who have been
elected to the office of Councillors for the year 1906, and the

names of the persons who have been elected to the office of
Councillors for the year 1907, and the names of the persons who

have been elected to the office of Councillors for the year 1908,
and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of

Councillors for the year 1909, and the names of the persons who
have been elected to the office of Councillors for the year 1910,

and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office
of Councillors for the year 1911, and the names of the persons

who have been elected to the office of Councillors for the year
1912, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the

office of Councillors for the year 1913, and the names of the
persons who have been elected to the office of Councillors for the

year 1914, and the names of the persons who have been elected
to the office of Councillors for the year 1915, and the names of

the persons who have been elected to the office of Councillors for
the year 1916, and the names of the persons who have been elected

to the office of Councillors for the year 1917, and the names of
the persons who have been elected to the office of Councillors for

the year 1918, and the names of the persons who have been
elected to the office of Councillors for the year 1919, and the

names of the persons who have been elected to the office of
Councillors for the year 1920, and the names of the persons who

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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 submit the Annual Report upon the work of the School Medical Department during the year 1939. 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-sixth report presented since I commenced duty as your School Medical Officer.

On 31st December, 1939, there were within the area of the Borough, one provided 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 was 2,727, compared with 2,759 during the previous year.

During the year 6,663 examinations were made by the Medical Staff, and the number of attendances made by children at the School Clinic was 18,219—easily a record.

As a Reception Area, we were faced with many problems in the Autumn. Approximately 3,190 persons, the majority school children, arrived in the Borough, those attending elementary schools numbering 1,134. A medical squad, comprising the School Medical Officer, the Assistant School Medical Officer and the School Dental Surgeon, and the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. C. R. Weekes), whose services were kindly lent by the County Council for the

occasion, examined all children before distribution to billets occurred. Twelve elementary school children were isolated in the Borough Open-Air School—which was vacant for the holiday period. One had Diphtheria, 3 Chicken Pox and the rest were contacts or had contagious skin diseases. The School Nursing Staff, kindly assisted by Miss Knight and other members of the District Nursing Association Staff, examined all for cleanliness. Vigorous treatment of the most infested persons was started at the School Clinic before distribution to billets occurred, and was continued till late hours. Hard work by the Nursing Staff did much to smooth some of the difficulties of the billeting officers, whose excellent organisation on arrival enabled the inspections to be got through without loss of time.

Instructional Classes in Mothercraft were given by two of the Child Welfare Nurses, Miss Page and Miss Rice Oxley, to the senior girls.

It only remains for me to express to the members of the Education Committee, to my fellow Officials, and not least to my fellow workers on the staff of the School Medical Department, my genuine feeling of gratitude for their support, sympathy and for the year's sterling work recorded in this brief Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. LINTON.

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

6th June, 1940.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1939.

Average number of children on the Borough School Registers during Year ended 31st December, 1939						2,727
Average attendance at the Borough Elemen- tary Schools during the Year ended 31st December, 1939						2,473
Number of Medical Examinations :—						
(a) In the Schools	...	...	...	2,178		
(b) At School Medical Centre	...	...	...	4,485		
Total				6,663	*(507)	
Number of examinations by the School Dental Surgeon						4,030 *(782)
Number of treatments for Minor Ailments :—						
(a) At Open-air School	...	...	...	3,336		
(b) At School Medical Centre	...	...	...	12,768		
Total				16,104	*(2,298)	
Number of treatments given by the School Dental Surgeon to 1,279 individual children						2,148
Total number of attendances at the School Medical Centre for <i>all</i> purposes						18,219
Number of attendances for treatment (remedial exercises, massage, electrical treatment, etc.) at School Orthopædic Clinic						953
Number of operations for removal of Tonsils and/or Adenoids, under Local Authority's arrangements						82
Number of administrations of General Anaes- thetics for teeth extractions						373
Home visits by School Nursing Staff						1,658

*Note—Figures in brackets indicate those relating to evacuee children included in the total.

STAFF.

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

Dr. P. A. Crowley took up duties as Assistant School Medical Officer on 25th September, 1939, succeeding Dr. W. G. Evans, who left on 30th September to take up the appointment of Medical Officer of Health for the City of Canterbury.

Following upon the death of Mr. Walker Wood at the end of 1938, Mr. John Simons commenced duties as Aural Surgeon on 1st January, 1939.

In order to deal with the influx of evacuees, a School Nurse was supplied by the London County Council, and Miss E. B. Holmes commenced duties in the Borough on 10th November, 1939. In addition, Miss D. G. Cash was appointed a part-time clerk on the 17th November, and arrangements were also made for a part-time Medical Officer to commence duties early in 1940.

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 medical record cards are used from infancy to the end of school life.

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). The number of Routine Medical Inspections carried out was 855, compared with 1,018 during the previous year.

In addition, 45 children were specially inspected at the request of the teachers, and 504 re-inspected in the schools.

At the School Clinic, 2,003 special examinations and 2,482 re-inspections took place, making a total of 4,485, of which 507 related to evacuee children.

One hundred and thirty-seven special inspections and 637 re-inspections were made at the Borough Open-Air School.

The grand total of medical examinations carried out during 1939 was therefore 6,663, compared with 6,814 during the previous year and 6,217 in 1937.

Findings of Medical Inspections.

The following Table shows the defects found on medical inspection—those found on Routine Medical Inspection relate to Tunbridge Wells children only, but the defects discovered at special examinations include those found amongst evacuees.

	ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.								2,185 Special Examina- tions.	
	282 Entrants.		255 Second Age Group.		252 Third Age Group.		66 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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3
Body ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Scabies ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	1
Impetigo ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	1
Other Diseases (Non- Tuberculous) ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	67	5
Eye—										
Blepharitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	1
Conjunctivitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22	1
Keratitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Defective Vision (ex- cluding Squint) ...	1	—	9	6	12	1	2	2	20	—
Squint ...	7	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	11	2
Other Conditions ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	55	2
Ear—										
Defective Hearing ...	2	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	13	—
Otitis Media ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	38	—
Other Ear Diseases ...	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	61	7
Nose and Throat—										
Tonsillitis only ...	2	21	4	17	2	4	2	6	45	18
Adenoids only ...	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tonsillitis and Adenoids ...	6	5	1	—	2	—	—	2	15	7
Other Conditions ...	8	1	4	4	4	1	2	2	112	7
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous) ...	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	18	4
Defective Teeth ...	11	5	14	2	19	1	2	1	42	—
Defective Speech ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumatism ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	15	2
Heart and Circulation—										
Heart Disease—										
Organic ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Functional ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1
Anaemia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lungs—										
Bronchitis ...	2	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	21	3
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	2
Tuberculosis—										
Pulmonary—Definite Suspected ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Non-Pulmonary—										
Glands ...	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	4	7
Bones and Joints ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Forms ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nervous System—										
Epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Chorea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Other Conditions ...	—	—	1	5	—	1	—	—	3	5
Deformities—										
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Spinal Curvature ...	—	7	8	6	3	14	2	3	2	—
Other Forms ...	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	33	5
Other Defects and Diseases	18	8	3	7	4	4	4	2	607	91

(a) MALNUTRITION.—The nutrition of all children undergoing Routine Medical Inspection is now classified in accordance with the terms of Administrative Memorandum No. 124. As requested by the Board of Education, the summary of results set forth in Table II on page 83, relate only to those children inspected up to 31st August, 1939, in order that returns may be comparable so far as possible with those of previous years. Classification of degrees of nutrition is notably difficult, and there is no doubt that individual inspectors vary in interpreting and classifying their findings.

(b) UNCLEANLINESS.—(i) *Tunbridge Wells children.* Seven thousand, five hundred and five heads were inspected for cleanliness during 1939, and of these 2.4 per cent. showed the presence of infestation with vermin or their eggs, compared with 2.5 per cent. in 1938.

The same four schools as in the previous year had a clear record throughout 1939, namely—St. James' Senior Boys, St. James' Infants, St. Mark's Junior Mixed and Infants and King Charles' Senior Boys.

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 7,649, of this total 117 were re-inspections in school and 27 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 1938 and 1922, the year in which a vigorous campaign was started.

INSPECTIONS OF HEADS FOR YEAR 1939.

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, 1939.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1938.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1922.
St. James' Sen. Boys ...	367	—	—	0.0	0.0	5.2
St. James' Sen. Girls ...	312	3	—	1.0	1.4	8.6
St. James' Infants ...	392	—	—	0.0	0.0	5.8
St. Barnabas Jun. Mixed	714	7	1	1.1	2.4	—
St. Barnabas Infants ...	315	2	—	0.6	2.0	14.4
St. Mark's Jun. Mixed and Infants ...	278	—	—	0.0	0.0	—
Christ Church Jun. Mxd. and Infants ...	368	2	—	0.5	0.5	34.2
King Charles' Sen. Boys	352	—	—	0.0	0.0	1.3
Murray House Sen. Girls	301	3	—	1.0	0.6	4.7
St. Peter's Jun. Mixed...	295	4	—	1.4	2.4	—
St. Peter's Infants ...	150	4	—	2.7	1.5	28.8
St. John's Jun. Mixed ...	426	19	1	4.7	6.6	—
Down Lane Infants ...	250	8	1	3.6	1.5	8.9
St. Luke's Infants ...	263	22	9	11.8	10.8	20.6
St. Augustine's Mixed	281	20	4	8.5	6.5	31.3
Royal Victoria Sen. Boys	318	3	—	0.9	0.6	7.7
Holy Trinity Sen. Girls	226	20	4	10.6	8.7	24.9
Rusthall Boys ...	647	8	1	1.4	1.1	10.9
Rusthall Girls ...	672	10	3	1.9	2.9	28.0
Rusthall Infants ...	404	6	—	1.5	3.3	13.8
Open-Air Mixed ...	174	6	6	6.9	3.2	—
Total ...	7,505	147	30	2.4	2.5	14.7

The 177 heads found infested represented 113 individual children.

Parents are helped in every way to rid their children of this trouble. No prosecutions were undertaken in 1939.

(ii) *London evacuee children.* Approximately 1,134 children were inspected for cleanliness on arrival from

London early in September. In addition, routine inspections for cleanliness were carried out in the schools as often as required—some schools receiving as many as four visits in as many months—and 1,452 heads were inspected under this heading. Of these 2,586 heads examined, 201 or 7.8 per cent., were found to be infested.

Details of the numbers cleansed are given on page 64.

(c) MINOR AILMENTS AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN.—As will be seen in the Table on page 58, 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.—Sixty-five children were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for defects of vision or for squint, as compared with 49 in 1938.

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 339 defects of the nose and/or throat were discovered amongst the children. Of the children undergoing routine inspection, 4.7 per cent. were referred for treatment compared with 5.7 per cent. the previous year.

(f) EAR DISEASE AND DEFECTIVE HEARING.—One hundred and thirty-five cases were noted, 126 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.—Forty-six of the children undergoing a routine medical inspection (5.4 per cent.), and 42 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. The large reduction during the past three years has been achieved by the employment of a whole-time dental surgeon, whose work has made substantial inroads upon dental disease.

(h) ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.—Ninety-five children were found to be suffering from some deformity (92 in 1938), of whom 57 (38 in 1938) 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.—Two definite cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered during the year, and one other was classed as "suspected". Amongst the 19 old cases seen, 3 were found to be in need of treatment.

(j) HEART DISEASE AND RHEUMATISM.—Ten children were found to be suffering from diseases or disorders of the heart and circulation, and 19 children were classed as suffering from Rheumatism. Fifteen rheumatic children were referred for treatment.

(k) OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES.—Under this heading, which includes debility, injuries, etc., 748 defects were found, of which 636 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 1939, included the following :—

Visits to Houses where the following Diseases have occurred.

Scarlet Fever	4
Diphtheria	5
Measles	—
German Measles	38
Mumps	7
Whooping Cough	253
Chicken Pox	169
Sore Throat	26
Ringworm (Scalp)	—
„ (body)	—
Verminous Heads	20
Verminous Bodies	—
Impetigo Contagiosa	4
Scabies	7
Infectious Eye Disease	—
Other Diseases	—
Total visits	533

Home Visits arising out of Medical Inspections, and for other information	1,125
Cultures taken	159
Number of Heads Inspected and Re-inspected (including evacuees)	10,357
Visits paid to Elementary Schools (all purposes)	304

Five hundred and four medical re-inspections were carried out at the schools, and the results were as follows :—

Cured	139
Improved	193
Stationary	152
Worse	20

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 parents' means. Full particulars concerning this school will be found on page 73.

For children found to be slightly under-nourished, milk is provided in school either free or at the parents' expense, according to circumstances. Milk is given once or twice a day in accordance with the needs of the individual child (see page 74 for further details of this scheme).

(b) **UNCLEANLINESS.**—When Borough 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 43 Tunbridge Wells cases during 1939.

With regard to evacuee children, difficulty has been experienced in persuading the foster mothers to cleanse the heads. The School Nursing Staff has therefore shouldered a considerable amount of extra work in order to get these children clean. During the four months ended 31st December, 1939, 196 of the 201 children found to be infested with vermin or their eggs received 530 treatments at the School Cleansing Centre.

In the case of Scabies and other parasitic skin diseases, disinfectant baths are given in the Cleansing Station at the Health Offices, whilst the patient's clothing is being dealt with by steam sterilisation in a Willesden Sack Disinfector. Fifteen Tunbridge Wells children received 58 baths, and 18 evacuees had 77 baths.

(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.	
	Borough children :	Evacuee children :	Borough children :	Evacuee children :
Minor Ailments :—				
Injuries, cuts, abrasions	237	73	1,139	330
Septic wounds ...	199	47	1,327	280
Sores, spots ...	103	63	480	454
Boils ...	82	27	402	162
Warts, corns, whitlows	72	10	777	49
Sprains, bruises ...	37	5	118	11
Burns, scalds ...	29	4	260	15
Chilblains ...	21	4	137	14
Bites, stings ...	21	1	87	3
Miscellaneous ...	155	19	651	88
Skin Diseases :—				
Impetigo ...	139	44	1,152	323
Eczema ...	7	4	96	108
Herpes ...	15	2	72	6
Scabies ...	11	7	60	43
Urticaria ...	9	1	17	1
Ringworm ...	11	—	180	—
Miscellaneous ...	21	7	97	28
Total ...	1,169	318	7,052	1,915

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 73.

(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, 425 examinations were made by Dr. Davies (including 25 attendances made by 15 evacuee children), and spectacles were prescribed for 76 children.

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

One hundred and thirty-seven 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.	
	Borough children :	Evacuee children :	Borough children :	Evacuee children :
Conjunctivitis	26	3	107	6
Styes	51	6	177	12
Blepharitis	13	4	141	11
Miscellaneous	33	1	103	1
Total	123	14	528	30

In addition to the above, 39 children had 183 applications of atropine to their eyes, including 3 evacuee children receiving 10 applications.

(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 87, 91 children suffering from defects of the nose or throat, or both, received treatment during the year. Eighty-nine 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. Seven operations were known to have been carried out privately, of which 2 were previously recommended operation by the School Medical Staff. The total number recommended for treatment was 209, and 86 received operative treatment, a percentage of 41.

In addition to the above, many children received treatment at the School Clinic for nasal catarrh, etc. (see page 68).

It is noteworthy that Scarlet Fever occurring in children

whose tonsils have been removed is less in relative incidence, less severe, and less liable to complications than in those who have enlarged and unhealthy tonsils.

(f) **EAR DISEASE AND DEFECTIVE HEARING.**—Owing to the increased volume of work, arrangements were made as from 1st April, 1939, for the Aural Surgeon to attend the School Clinic fortnightly instead of monthly. One hundred and thirty-one children, of whom 94 were new cases, made 346 attendances to see Mr. Simons (including 12 evacuee children making 23 attendances), and appended is a synopsis of the new cases dealt with :—

Ear Cases.

Chronic suppurative otitis media	...	19
Chronic middle ear catarrh	... ..	5
Acute middle ear catarrh	... ..	3
External otitis	... ..	1
	—	28

Nose Cases.

Chronic Rhinitis	... ..	11
Adenoids	... ..	6
Nasal Obstruction (Septum)	... ..	4
Antrum Infection	... ..	3
Epistaxis	... ..	2
Nasal Obstruction (Hyper. Turbs)	... ..	2
Polypus	... ..	1
	—	29

Throat Cases.

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	... ..	18
Chronic Tonsillitis	... ..	16
Acute Tonsillitis	... ..	3
	—	37

The School Nurses treated 305 cases at the School Clinic as follows :—

Disease or Defect.	No. of Cases treated.		No. of treatments given.	
	Borough children :	Evacuee children :	Borough children :	Evacuee children :
Ear Cases :—				
Otorrhoea	41	7	882	110
Deafness, wax in ear ...	27	8	158	44
Miscellaneous	47	16	282	97
Nose and Throat Cases :—				
Nasal Catarrh, etc. ...	90	6	1,277	57
Miscellaneous	59	4	291	45
Total	264	41	2,890	353

In addition to the above, 27 children had 457 treatments at the Open-Air School (see page 73).

(g) DENTAL DEFECTS.—The following is a report made by the School Dental Surgeon upon the year's work :—

ANNUAL DENTAL REPORT FOR 1939.

During the year, routine dental inspections were carried out at each of the Borough Elementary Schools, and in addition all evacuated school children were dentally inspected towards the end of the year. Three thousand, nine hundred and twenty-five inspections were made (3,143 local children and 782 evacuee children), and of these 2,011 children, or 51.2 per cent., were found to require treatment. The percentage of local children requiring treatment was 53.1 per cent. (70 per cent. in 1938, 86 per cent. in 1937, and 91 per cent. in 1936), and evacuee children 43.9 per cent. It should be noted that a number of Tunbridge Wells children were inspected twice during the year, having advanced from junior to senior schools.

One thousand, two hundred and seventy-nine local children attended at the School Clinic for treatment, representing a percentage of 76.7 of those recommended for treatment: they made 2,148 attendances for treatment.

Included in the above figures were 105 " specials " treated—a reduction of 35.6 per cent. in toothache on the previous year.

One thousand, seven hundred and five fillings were inserted in permanent teeth, and 510 permanent teeth were extracted : 115 temporary teeth were filled and 1,673 extracted. Three hundred and seventy-three general anæsthetics were administered with the assistance of the Assistant School Medical Officer, and 468 other dental operations, such as dressings, gum treatment, scaling and polishing, were carried out.

All the above treatment figures relate to Tunbridge Wells children, as you will remember that evacuee children have, by arrangement with the London County Council, been referred for treatment to Guy's Hospital Dental Clinic which has been established in Upper Grosvenor Road.

In an endeavour to interest the children in Dental Hygiene, talks with demonstrated experiments were given in 19 out of the 21 schools.

Orthodontics (regulation of teeth) is now in its second year in the Borough, and 17 children were treated, 127 visits being made and 11 movable appliances supplied.

It is interesting to report that the healthiest teeth were to be found at the Borough Open-Air School where tooth brush drill is carried out twice a day—but the other schools were close behind. The best attendance for treatment is held by St. Augustine's School.

It is gratifying to report that many patients have been treated during the year who in the past have neglected to attend.

The work of the Dental Department has continued very smoothly during the year—thanks to the help and encouragement of the Education Committee, Dr. Linton and the members of his staff, the teachers and parents.

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

Further details of the Dental Surgeon's work are given in Table V., on page 89.

(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 eighteen children attended these Clinics during 1939, and 230 consultations were held (including 3 evacuee children making 3 attendances). Of these, 46 were new cases, and the following are details of the conditions from which they were found to be suffering :—

Stoop	...	...	...	9
Kyphosis	...	...	...	7
Old Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	4
Flat Feet	...	...	...	3
Scoliosis	...	...	...	3
Kypho-Lordosis	...	...	...	3
Defect of Toes	...	...	...	2
Knock-knee	...	...	...	1
Torticollis	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	10
No Orthopædic Defect	...	...	...	3
				—
Total	...	...	...	46
				—

During the year, 21 children were discharged as needing no further treatment, and 11 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.

Eighty-three children were treated under the Local Authority's scheme, 81 of whom attended the Remedial Exercise Class for treatment (remedial exercises, massage, electrical treatment), making 953 attendances.

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 28 (including 2 evacuee children)—compared with 27 at the end of 1938. Five cases were in attendance at the Borough Open Air School, 20 at ordinary elementary schools, 2 in a special hospital and 1 at no school.

(j) HEART DISEASE AND RHEUMATISM.—Children found requiring treatment are referred to Hospital or to their own medical attendant : 19 were thus referred during 1939.

During the year under review, one girl was sent by the Education Committee to a special heart hospital 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 was the same as in previous years, details of which were set out in my last Annual Report.

The following table records the incidence of various infectious diseases amongst Elementary School children during the year, together with comparative figures for 1938 :—

Disease.	Boys.	Girls.	Total 1939.	Total 1938.
Scarlet Fever	3	9	12	18
Diphtheria	3	4	7	14
Ac. Ant. Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1
German Measles	11	16	27	5
Measles	1	—	1	375
Whooping Cough	56	63	119	58
Mumps	4	1	5	14
Chicken Pox	61	53	114	200

As will be seen above, major infectious diseases were again slight in amount. Whooping Cough was prevalent during the spring months, and Chicken Pox during June and July.

There were no deaths during the year from infectious diseases amongst the elementary school population.

No schools or classes were closed on account of infectious disease, and no "low attendance certificates" were issued under the Elementary Education Provisional Code, 1922, Amending Regulations No. 2, 1924.

Nine hundred and seventy-three notices were sent from the Public Health Offices to the Head Teachers of the schools, excluding children for various diseases, and 1,005 freeing notices were also sent. In addition to the above, 22 exclusion notices for definite periods were issued.

The Borough Open-Air School.

Seventy-eight individual children attended the Borough Open-Air Day School during 1939, as compared with 86 during the previous year : 38 were in attendance the whole year.

The average increase in weight per month amongst the 78 children referred to was 0.63 lbs. (compared with 0.62 lbs. in 1938, 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 38 children who were in attendance the whole year was 0.53 lbs. (0.46 lbs. in 1938) per month. The lowest individual gain amongst the 38 children was 0.5 lbs., and the greatest gain 10 lbs. Eleven scholars gained half a stone or more, but only one child failed to gain weight during the seven weeks she was in attendance.

Close medical observation is kept on each child, and factors likely to influence his or her health are carefully weighed and put into force when necessary.

A School Nurse (Miss Donaldson) attended at the School each day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Besides supervising the children's meals, rest periods, etc., she also gave the following treatments for various minor ailments :—

		<i>No. of cases.</i>	<i>Treatments.</i>
Skin diseases	... ..	40	406
Eye ailments	... ..	29	598
Ear ailments	... ..	27	457
Miscellaneous (bruises, chilblains, etc.)	... ..	159	1,875
Total	... ..	255	3,336

NOTE : These cases include a number from elementary schools in the neighbourhood.

The Borough Open-Air School, amongst its other uses, deals adequately with the more marked cases of malnutrition that occur amongst the school population.

Physical Training.

The Borough Education Committee continued to use the services of Mr. Munday and Miss Warwick, who paid periodic visits to advise the teachers on the best methods of physical training in the schools.

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 1939 was 17,244 including 3,372 by evacuee children (14,295 in 1938).

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

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. At a survey made in the Spring of 1939, it was found that

51 per cent. of all the scholars on the school registers had this milk in school, compared with 49 per cent. in 1938, 45 per cent. in 1937, and 41 per cent. in 1936.

The number of Tunbridge Wells children provided with free milk under this Scheme by the Local Education Authority was 155 during 1939,—including 7 children who received a supply twice daily—at an approximate cost of £34 15s. 4d. In 1938, 95 children were supplied at an approximate cost of £24 5s. 0d. Every child in the Open Air School received $\frac{1}{3}$ pint milk in a sealed bottle, and where necessary extra milk was given at another hour of the day.

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.

The percentage of parents attending at the routine medical inspections was 79, as follows:—

Entrants	93%	(94% in 1938)
Second Age Group	83%	(81% „ „)
Third Age Group	60%	(61% „ „)
Other Routine Inspections ...	82%	(76% „ „)

In addition, 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. The

interest and care which the Teachers show in arranging the distribution of milk to children in schools is of particular value.

(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 Education Committee.

The following extracts from the Report of the Secretary records the year's work done by the Association:—

The total number of children under the supervision of the Association on January 1st, 1939, was 23. During the year 3 new cases were added, bringing the total to 26. Of these the details are as follows:—

1. <i>Disposals—</i>					
Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	2
Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Friendly Supervision	...	...	...	...	1
					— 3
2. <i>Supervised for Education Committee under 16 years of age—</i>					
Attending Elementary School	...	...	...	...	11
Attending Open-Air School	...	...	...	...	1
Attending no School	...	...	...	...	5
At Residential Special School	...	...	...	...	2
					— 19
3. <i>Supervised for Education Committee over 16 years of age—</i>					
At Home in Employment	...	...	...	...	3
At Home Unemployed	...	...	...	...	1
					— 4
					26
Total number of children and young people under the supervision of the Association, December 31st, 1939					
					23

Reports.

Twenty-six 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 Statutory or Friendly Supervision was suggested.

Visits.

Members of the staff of the Association have paid upwards of thirty 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.

It was anticipated in the Report rendered at the end of 1938 that the training at the Tonbridge Special School would be very much missed and it was hoped that some adequate alternative arrangement would be provided. This, however, proved to be impossible as the Board of Education would only approve of the childrens' return to the Elementary School.

Enquiries have been made in the schools now attended by the ex-special school children and it has been very gratifying to note the kindly interest that is devoted to them, no effort being spared to enable them to take their part with the others, but progress in 3R work is very slight in every case. The fact that the older lads are now under Masters is undoubtedly satisfactory.

Although the Special School is now closed we cannot emphasize too strongly the need for ascertaining the feeble-minded child during the early school years. If they are not reported until just before they leave school very little can be done to help, as early contact with parents and children is essential if useful advice during school life and later during adolescence is to be given.

(Signed) S. G. NUGENT.

(iii) The local branch of the **Invalid Children's Aid Association** continues to render valuable help when called upon to obtain vacancies in convalescent homes or to supply extra nourishment during the period of absence through

illness or holidays. One hundred and seventy cases were dealt with in 1939, of these 29 were sent to Convalescent Homes, etc., and 21 were given nourishment at their homes : 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 to the Education Committee.

(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 4 out of 74 cases assistance was given in 1939.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

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

Instruction in Mothercraft was continued throughout the year at the Tunbridge Wells Child Welfare Centre, the Scholars receiving such instruction were Spring Term—Rusthall Girls ; Summer Term—Murray House (King Charles) Girls' ; and Autumn Term—Holy Trinity 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 Tunbridge Wells Children for whom the Local Education Authority was responsible at the end of 1939 :—

(a) BLIND.—There was one partially sighted boy in a residential special school, and a similar boy in attendance 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.—Fourteen detailed examinations of children presented for mental defects were made during 1939, of which 12 were first examinations, the children being classed as follows :—

Normal intelligence	...	1 boy.
Neurotic or unstable	...	1 boy and 1 girl.
Dull and backward	...	5 boys and 1 girl.
Feeble-minded	...	2 boys.
Imbecile	...	1 girl.

Both children re-examined were placed in the same category as when first examined, *viz.*, 1 dull and backward and 1 feeble-minded.

The total number of ascertained feeble-minded children at the end of the year was 19 (11 boys and 8 girls), as follows:—

At elementary schools	...	...	8 boys and 4 girls.
At Special Schools	...	...	1 boy.
At Other Institutions	...	...	1 boy and 1 girl.
At no school or institution	...	...	1 boy and 3 girls.

The following-up and home supervision of mentally defective children is undertaken by the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, and extracts from the Secretary's report will be found on page 76.

(d) **EPILEPTIC.**—There were no children suffering from severe epilepsy amongst the elementary school population.

(e) **PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.**—Under this heading at the end of the year were classed 92 children. Of these, 57 were in attendance at the Open Air School, 29 were attending elementary schools, 5 were in various institutions and 1 child was at no school or institution.

Full details of the work carried out at the Borough Open-Air School will be found on page 73.

(f) **CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE DEFECTS.**—There was one child classified under this heading, namely, a boy suffering from feeble-mindedness and tuberculous abdominal glands, and who was at no school or institution.

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. These nursery classes did not meet after the summer holidays, owing to the outbreak of war and the need for accommodating evacuee schools. 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.

Sixty-eight certificates were granted to school children under the Employment of Children Bye-laws during 1939, as follows :—

Newsagents' Deliveries	...	...	30
Butchers' „	...	...	8
Greengrocers' „	...	...	7
Grocers' „	...	...	7
Bakers' „	...	...	6
Miscellaneous „	...	...	6
Houseboys ...	...	...	2
Tailors' Deliveries	...	...	2
			—
Total	...	...	68
			==

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 ; both of these were granted at a later date after the 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 213 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 treat-

ment, but are remitted in necessitous cases. The sum of £27 4s. 6d. was collected in this way during 1939.

With regard to operations for tonsils and/or adenoids, the arrangements remained the same and details will be found in previous Annual Reports. The average contribution made by the parents in respect of the 13 operations carried out during 1939 was five shillings and sevenpence.

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.

There were no special Inquiries conducted during the year under review.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

The 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	282
Second Age Group	255
Third Age Group	252

Total	789
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Number of other Routine Inspections	66
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Grand Total	855
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	2,185
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Number of Re-Inspections	3,623
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Total	5,808*
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* Including 507 inspections and re-inspections of evacuee children.

TABLE II

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING
THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS UP TO 31st AUGUST, 1939.

Age-groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	178	21	12	135	76	22	12	—	—
Second Age-group	157	30	19	116	74	11	7	—	—
Third Age-group	187	46	25	120	64	21	11	—	—
Other Routine In- spections	47	9	19	34	72	4	9	—	—
TOTAL	569	106	19	405	71	58	10	—	—

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL BLIND AND DEAF 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	...	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	...	2

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

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	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

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	...	...	...
Ringworm-Body	...	...	...
Scabies	...	...	...
Impetigo	...	...	...
Other skin disease	...	...	...
<i>Minor Eye Defects—</i>			
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	...	...	...
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	...	...	...
<i>Miscellaneous (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)</i>	...	...	...
Total	2,184	37	2,221

NOTE: Figures in brackets, which are included in the totals, relate to evacuee children.

TABLE IV.—continued.

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

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.													
Received Operative Treatment.								Received other forms of Treatment. (4)		Total number treated. (5)			
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)								Total. (3)	
								(i)	(ii)			(iii)	(iv)
—	—	82	—	—	1	6	2	—	1	88	2		
(i) Tonsils only.				(ii) Adenoids only.				(iii) Tonsils and adenoids.				(iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.	
												91	

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 without education. (i)	Non-residential treatment at an orthopædic clinic. (iii)	
Number of children treated ...	2	—	118 (3)	4	2	126 (3)

NOTE : Figures in brackets, which are included in the totals, relate to evacuee children.

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	410	...	...
6	356	...	...
7	448	...	...
8	418	...	...
9	427	...	...
10	430	...	...
11	499	...	...
12	438	...	...
13	456	...	...
14	43	...	...
Total	3925	...	...
(b) Specials	105	...	...
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	4030 (782)	...	...
(2) Number found to require treatment	2011 (343)	...	...
(3) Number actually treated	1279	...	...
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	2148	...	...
(6) Fillings:—		...	...
Permanent teeth	...	...	...
Temporary teeth	...	...	...
Total	1820	...	...
(7) Extractions:—		...	...
Permanent teeth	...	...	...
Temporary teeth	...	...	...
Total	2183	...	...
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions		...	...
(9) Other operations:—		...	...
Permanent teeth	...	...	...
Temporary teeth	...	...	...
Total	468	...	...

TABLE VI.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i.)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	3	(2,586)
(ii.)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	10,091	(201)
(iii.)	Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	314	(196)
(iv.)	Number of individual children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	239	(196)
(v.)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	...	...	—	—
(a)	Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	—	—
(b)	Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	...	...	—	—

NOTE: Figures in brackets, which are included in the totals, relate to evacuee children.



Form 307 M.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939, BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY TO THE LOCAL MENTAL DEFICIENCY AUTHORITY.

Total number of children notified 2.

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 ...	1	—
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	1	1

