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BOROUGH OF



WATFORD

Annual Report

ON

health, Sanitary Conditions

ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1936, BY

William J. Cox, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, Medical Superintendent of Watford Joint Isolation Hospital. Assistant School Medical Officer, Herts. County Council

INCLUDING REPORTS ON
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS. WATFORD DENTAL
CLINIC AND WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL



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WATFORD

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
1 ST. ALBANS ROAD,
WATFORD.

May, 1937.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Fifteenth Annual Report, which is also the Fifteenth Health Report of the Borough of Watford.

It is actually the Sixty-fourth Annual Report for this district, as it was preceded by forty-nine Health Reports of the former Urban District.

This years' report is an ordinary report and is, therefore, a little briefer than the full Survey Report which is published every fifth year. It contains an account of a survey of housing conditions under the Housing Act, 1935, which shows the amount of overcrowding under the legal standard laid down by that Act.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the valuable assistance I have received from various other officials of the Borough in carrying out my duties, and particularly from Mr. S. Jump, Senior Sanitary Inspector, whose help has been invaluable, particularly in connection with housing matters. I am also indebted to him for some of the statistical figures in this Report dealing with sanitary inspection, etc.

This year some particulars appear on page 54 of the work of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which is very helpful to Public Health work.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. COX.

ARRANGEMENT OF ANNUAL REPORT.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital,

*Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme :—

WILLIAM J. COX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer (for Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics) :—

WINIFRED PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.

*Assistant Medical Officer (for Wiggshall and North Watford Centres and also for Pre-School Clinic and Immunisation Centre) :—

MARGARET WARD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Dental Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre :—

SIDNEY W. FISK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

S. JUMP, M.S.I.A., CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

*Meat and Food Inspector :—

R. V. JACOB, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

*Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :—

A. W. NICOL, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

A. S. HIBBERT, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

Inspector under Shops Act :—

A. CORKE.

*Health Visitors :—

MISS G. M. HAMMOND, General Training, and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS ELSIE F. POTTER, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS M. ROBERTSON, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS I. V. E. THURLEY, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

Clerks :—

(Public Health) R. A. SMITH.

(Maternity and Child Welfare) Miss D. V. JENNINGS.
Miss G. M. BROADHEAD.

* Denotes salary contribution made by Exchequer grants.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—5,275 acres.

†Population to Mid-year 1936—64,110 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses—13,453 (Census, 1931).

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, Dec. 31st, 1936, was approximately 17,000

Number of families or separate occupiers—14,799 (Census 1931).

Rateable value—£577,577 (April 1st, 1937). (See further particulars below).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,265 (April 1st, 1937).

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS OF RATEABLE VALUE OF THE BOROUGH ON 1st APRIL, 1937.

The following particulars have been kindly supplied by Mr. A. E. Barker, Chief Collector of Rates and Valuation Officer :—

	£	Rate Poundage for half-year beginning 1st April, 1937
Parish of Watford—No. 1 District ...	297,764	5/6 in £
Parish of Watford—No. 2 District ...	203,292	5/6 in £
Metropolitan Police District (part of Oxhey)	21,274	5/8 in £
Leavesden, etc., Differential Rating Area ...	8,435	4/8 in £
Nascot Wood, etc., Differential Rating Area	46,812	5/- in £
	<hr/> £577,577 <hr/>	

NOTE.—The above includes the value in respect of Government Properties.

Water Rate for whole of Water Supply Area ... 6d. in £

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE
YEAR 1936.**

(see also page 8)

Live Births } (Total 954) {	Legitimate	906	M. 470	F. 436	} Birth rate 14.7
	Illegitimate	48	23	25	
		954	493	461	

Still Births—25

Deaths—655

Death Rate—10.2

λ Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :

From Sepsis 1

Other Puerperal causes ... 2

Death-rate of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births :

Legitimate 33.1

Illegitimate 62.5

Total 38.6

Deaths from measles (all ages) 1

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) ... 3

Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age) 3

† See estimated population below.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF WATFORD.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Watford at Mid Year 1936 is 64,110, and this figure has been adopted for compiling our local statistics.

BIRTH RATE.—The number of births in the Borough of Watford during the last year after correction for inward and outward transfers was 954 compared with 896 in 1935. This gives a Birth Rate of 14.7.

This Birth Rate is slightly lower than that of the whole country for 1936 which was 14.8.

STILL BIRTHS.—Thirty-four still births were notified during the year compared with 25 in 1935. This gives a rate of .5 per 1,000 population as compared with .61 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

The following table is also interesting for purposes of comparison. In it the vital statistics for the Borough of Watford are compared with similar statistics for the whole country, London, and other groups of towns.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE A.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1936.

ENGLAND AND WALES, LONDON, 122 GREAT TOWNS AND 143 SMALLER TOWNS AND BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	122 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	143 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census).	London Administrative County.	WATFORD.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:					
Live	14·7	14·9	15·0	13·6	14·7
Still	0·61	0·67	0·64	0·53	0·50
Deaths:					
All causes	12·1	12·3	11·5	12·5	10·2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·07	0·09	0·04	0·14	0·01
Scarlet Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Whooping Cough... ..	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·06	0·03
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05	0·00
Influenza	0·14	0·14	0·15	0·14	0·05
Violence	0·52	0·45	0·39	0·52	0·35
Notifications:					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2·53	2·18	2·48	2·57	1·13
Diphtheria	1·39	1·31	1·26	1·69	0·23
Enteric Fever	0·06	0·05	0·06	0·06	0·07
Erysipelas... ..	0·40	0·38	0·35	0·44	0·23
Pneumonia	1·11	1·10	0·96	0·99	0·60
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age... ..	59	63	55	66	38·6
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5·9	8·2	3·4	14·4	0·00
Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Sepsis	1·40	} Not available		} 1·04	1·04
Others	2·41			} 2·08	2·08
Total	3·81			} 3·12	3·12

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WATFORD SINCE 1890

YEAR	POPULATION estimated to middle of year	BIRTHS		DEATHS		
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate.	
1890	16,000	328	20.50	225	14.0	{ Census 1891 gave popula- tion as 16,819
1891	16,519	396	23.54	220	13.0	
1892	19,400	547	28.19	276	14.22	
1893	20,500	580	28.78	265	12.92	
1894	21,500	610	28.37	225	10.46	
1895	23,200	724	31.20	367	15.8	
1896	24,000	691	28.58	285	11.9	
1897	25,300	679	26.83	258	10.2	
1898	26,500	754	28.45	311	11.7	
1899	27,500	760	27.63	355	12.9	
1900	28,500	830	29.12	408	14.3	{ Census 1901 gave popula- tion as 29,327
1901	29,527	944	31.90	363	12.2	
1902	31,000	823	26.50	348	11.2	
1903	31,600	909	28.70	375	11.8	
1904	33,048	928	28.00	380	11.4	
1905	34,633	946	27.3	373	10.7	
1906	35,237	954	27.0	377	10.6	
1907	36,379	914	25.1	428	11.7	
1908	37,521	896	23.8	350	9.3	
1909	38,663	935	24.1	400	10.3	
1910	39,805	887	22.3	375	9.4	{ Census 1911 gave popula- tion as 40,939
1911	41,200	907	22.0	418	10.1	
1912	42,570	897	21.0	389	9.1	
1913	43,670	885	20.2	434	9.9	
1914	45,000	969	19.0	450	10.0	
1915	41,640	872	20.9	510	12.2	
1916	41,436	783	17.3	491	11.7	
1917	40,650	625	13.7	475	11.3	
1918	50,502	596	11.8	577	12.8	
1919	48,113	624	12.9	509	11.0	
1920	48,027	1,077	22.4	407	8.4	{ Figure shown for popula- tion repre- sents popula- tion after de- duction of drafts to Army Figure shown for popula- tion includes men demo- bilised
1921	45,910	890	19.3	426	9.2	
1922	46,610	915	18.9	448	9.6	
1923	47,100	866	18.3	405	8.5	
1924	48,628	847	17.7	481	9.8	
1925	48,990	847	17.2	484	9.8	
1926	50,033	775	15.4	477	9.5	
1927	52,580	825	15.4	543	10.03	
1928	54,460	842	15.4	511	9.38	
1929	54,670	834	15.2	644	11.7	
1930	55,870	864	15.4	535	9.5	{ Census 1931 gave popula- tion as 56,799
1931	56,500	829	14.6	525	9.2	
1932	57,400	819	14.2	602	10.4	
1933	57,370	809	14.01	629	10.7	
1934	57,800	848	14.6	621	10.7	
1935	63,200	896	14.4	580	9.3	
1936	64,110	954	14.7	655	10.2	

Birth and Death rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths for the Borough after allowing for outward and inward transfers is, according to the Registrar-General's return, 655, as compared with 580 in the previous year.

This gives a *Death Rate* of 10.2 per 1,000 from all causes which compares favourably with London's *Death Rate* of 12.5 and with the *Death Rate* of the whole country, which was 12.1 per 1,000.

The following table gives a complete list of deaths from all causes.

TABLE B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.
All Causes	335	320
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2. Measles	1	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough... ..	2	1
5. Diphtheria... ..	—	—
6. Influenza	4	1
7. Encephalitis Lethargica... ..	—	1
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	21	8
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	4
11. Syphilis	1	—
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	43	50
14. Diabetes	3	8
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	17	15
16. Heart Disease	92	94
17. Aneurysm	3	2
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	13	17
19. Bronchitis	7	6
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	17	15
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	5
22. Peptic Ulcer	6	3
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—
24. Appendicitis	1	1
25. Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	1	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	1	3
27. Other Digestive Diseases	10	5
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	10
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
30. Other Puerperal Causes	—	2
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	16	13
32. Senility	12	16
33. Suicide	—	2
34. Other Violence	24	9
35. Other Defined Diseases	24	28
36. Causes-Ill-defined or Unknown... ..	2	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):—		
Smallpox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—

INFANT DEATHS.—Under the age of 12 months. These number 37, giving an *Infant Death Rate* of 38.6 per 1,000 births. It will be seen from the comparative table of Birth and Death Rates

given on page 8, that the Infant Death Rate of Watford is lower than that of London which is 66 and the whole country which is 59.

Particulars of the various causes of death under the age of 12 months are given in the following Table.

TABLE C.—DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

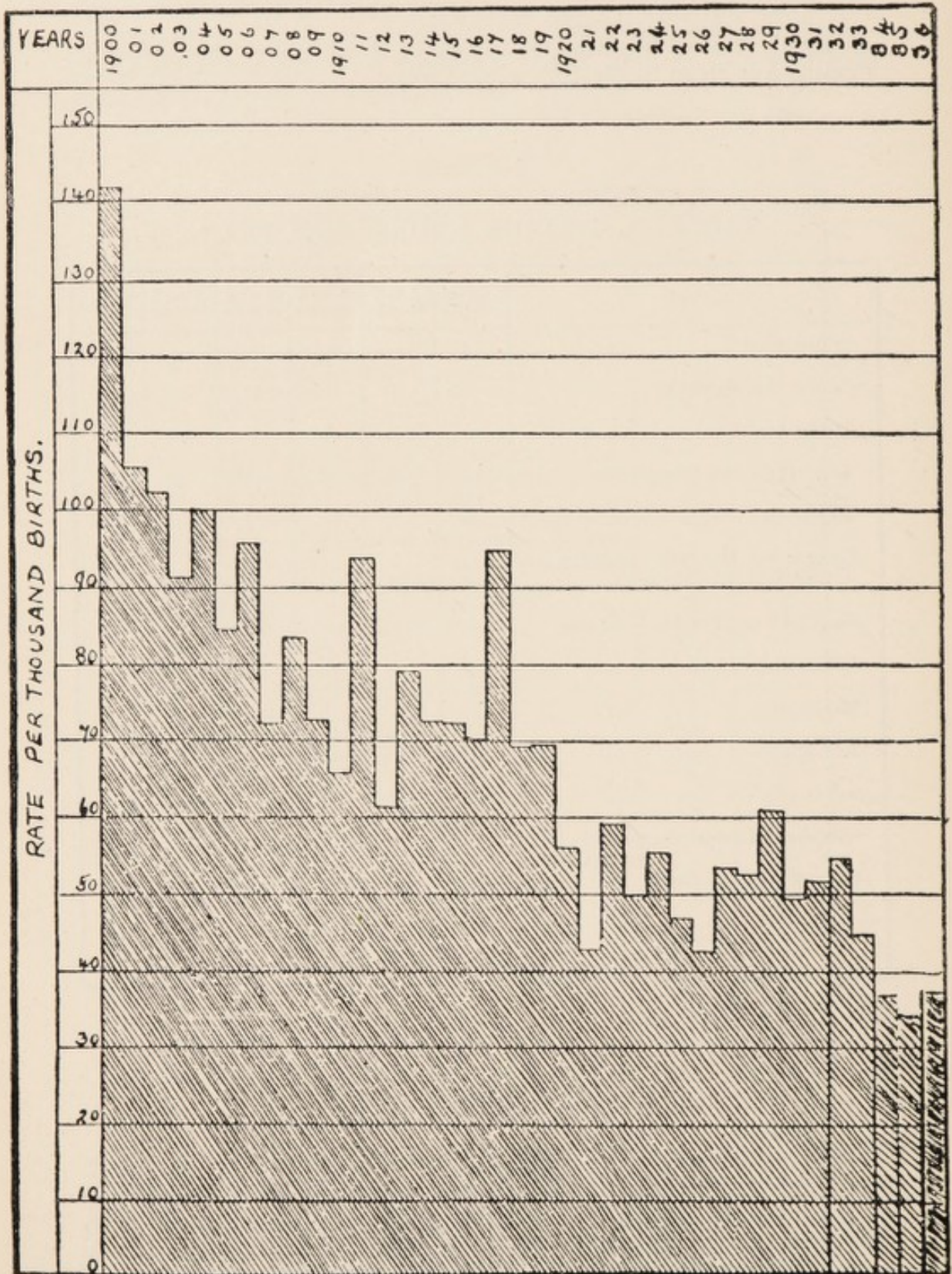
CAUSE.	Under Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 9 Months	9 to 12 Months	TOTAL
Suffocation	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Cardiac Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	—	1	1	1	2	5
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Prematurity ...	24	4	—	—	—	28
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestinal Hæmorrhage and obstruction	—	1	—	—	—	1
Laryngeal Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	25	6	2	1	3	37

FALL IN INFANT MORTALITY.

Fortunately one is again able to report a very low Infant Mortality Rate of 38.5 as compared with 33.4 last year, and 37.7 in 1934. It is possible that in the future the very low death rate of 33.4 in 1935 may be still further reduced owing to the many agencies which are at work for the benefit of both mother and child.

INFANT MORTALITY IN WATFORD

This Diagram shows fall since the year 1900.



SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

These conditions so far as they affect health have already been dealt with in previous reports, so that there is no need to dwell on them in great detail this year.

There are certain local conditions prevalent which favourably affect the health of the borough. Among the chief of these are the large number of open spaces and parks, the absence of slums, and an atmosphere which is not heavily smoke laden. In addition there is also the beneficial effect of a gravel sub-soil in most parts of the borough, which ensures absence of damp for building sites.

Unemployment is not so serious as in some industrial districts, as the following figures show.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WATFORD.—I am indebted to Mr. Salter, Manager of the Watford Labour Exchange for the following figures.

On the date of the last official figures published, December 14th, 1936, the number of persons registered as unemployed at the Watford Employment Exchange was as follows:—

Men. 21-65	Young Men. 18-20	Boys. 14-17	Women. 21-65	Young Women. 18-20	Girls. 14-17	Total.
1,409	148	12	103	9	8	1,689

Included in this figures are 358 adults and 111 young persons at the Government Training Centre, Watford, who have mainly come from depressed areas and are now undergoing training.

The area covered by the Watford Employment Exchange includes Bushey, Elstree and Boreham Wood, Aldenham, Abbots Langley, part of King's Langley and Langleybury and it is estimated that the number of persons unemployed in the *Borough of Watford* excluding the men at the Training Centre at the date mentioned above was approximately 1,020 persons.

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(See page 5)

(b) HOME NURSING AND MIDWIVES.

The Watford Borough District Nursing Association was founded in 1935. This is actually a branch of the Herts. County District Nursing Association, from which it arose, and with which it is affiliated. The Association's work is of great value to the town from a public health point of view as visits are paid by the nurses to various infectious diseases (chiefly the non-notifiable diseases). The following is a list of visits of this character during the year 1936.

Pneumonia, 573; Influenza, 177; Whooping Cough, 63; Influenzal Pneumonia, 2; Measles, 92; Measles with complications, 41.

In recognition of this fact the Corporation made a grant of £60 to the Association. In the year 1935 the grant was £42, but it was felt that in 1936 this grant should be increased.

The family subscription is 6s. 6d. per annum, but in respect of attendance on domestic servants, the householder pays 7s. 6d. per annum. At the present time there are over 6,000 members enrolled. There are nine nurses and a superintendent in residence at the Home in Alexandra Road. During the last year 25,914 visits have been paid by the nurses as compared with 19,010 visits in the previous year. Larger premises are required if the work is to be carried out efficiently, and a plot of land has been purchased on which to build the new Nurses' Home.

MIDWIVES. — The Herts. County Council is the supervising authority for Midwives, whose services may be engaged from the Home in King Street. In addition there are four midwives in private practice in the Borough, which is therefore well catered for in this respect.

(c) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

For general pathological and other forms of laboratory investigation the medical practitioners of Watford usually rely upon the Peace Memorial Hospital. A Pathologist and whole time laboratory assistant have been appointed.

Diphtheria swabs from the Borough are sent to the Peace Memorial Hospital for examination; also certain other pathological specimens.

(d) LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.

The undermentioned Acts have been adopted in the Borough of Watford:—

- The Infectious Disease (Notification Act), 1889.
- The Infectious Disease (Prevention Act), 1890.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- The Baths and Wash-houses Acts.
- The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
- The Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907 (part).
- The Notification of Births Act, 1907.

The following Local Act and Orders are in force in the Borough of Watford :—

The Watford Urban District Council Act, 1909.

The Borough Council has made bye-laws or regulations for the following matters :—

- New Streets and Buildings.
- The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.
- Nuisances.
- Common Lodging Houses.
- Slaughter Houses.
- Pleasure Grounds.
- Bathing Place.
- Houses Let in Lodgings.
- Offensive Trades.
- Water Supply.
- Commons.
- Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
- Keeping of Poultry.
- Dogs (fouling of public footways).
- Smoke Abatement.
- Wireless.

(e) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The Herts. County Council is the supervising authority for the inspection of maternity and nursing homes. Watford is fairly well supplied with such institutions. The new Maternity Home of the Herts. County Nursing Association situated in King Street and for the use of cases in Watford and District was opened in 1931. It has 22 beds and is well equipped in every way. There is no doubt that this institution is greatly appreciated by the mothers of the Borough. The Home contains two wards of eight beds each, five single beds, and one ward for isolation purposes. During the last year 377 cases were admitted, which included 280 cases from the Borough of Watford, and 97 cases from the County. In connection with the Maternity Home there is an Ante-Natal Centre, at which 312 expectant mothers attended in 1936, making 2,845 attendances.

(f) **MATERNAL MORTALITY.**

Following the report on Maternal Mortality by Dr. Janet Campbell in 1924, increased interest has been taken in this matter. In 1928 in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health, the Committee on Maternal Mortality drew up an Inquiry Form for the investigation of maternal deaths which was circulated to Local Authorities to be used in inquiries by the Medical Officer of Health.

Since it was issued this Inquiry Form has been in use in connection with all maternal deaths occurring in this Borough, reports on each case having been sent up to the Ministry.

It should be stated that for cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia in the Borough of Watford, Mr. John Ellison, F.R.C.S.E. acts as specialist when required, and that his services are available to assist practitioners when necessary. The Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for this specialist service.

With regard to Maternal Mortality of the year 1936 Watford is very fortunate, as a glance at TABLE A (under the heading Maternal Mortality) will show. During the year one death occurred from Puerperal Sepsis and two deaths from other puerperal causes. This gives a total Maternal Mortality Rate of 3.12 per 1,000 births as compared with 3.81 for the whole country.

(g) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

These are the same as in the previous year. In addition to Motor Ambulances in use at the Isolation Hospital for removal of infectious cases, there are also the Corporation Ambulances provided in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(h) **CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

These are the same as in the previous year, with the addition of a Post-Natal Centre which started during the year 1935.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from deep wells and is moderately hard.

Samples are analysed by Messrs. Beale and Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories at regular intervals.

The following very satisfactory report is that of a sample of water received by the analysts on January 19th, 1937.

Appearance	...	...	...	Bright, slight chalky deposit.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal.
Odour	...	...	...	Nil.
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7·5
Free Carbonic Acid	...	...	...	0·4
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	...	380
Total Solids, 180° C.	...	...	...	25·0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	2·7
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0·64
Nitrites	...	...	...	Absent.
Hardness :—				
Permanent...	...	...	...	10·0
Temporary	...	...	...	5·0
Total	...	...	...	15·0
Metals	...	...	...	Absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 37°	...	...	...
C.	...	...	...	0·01

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of bacteria per c.c. :—

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C.	8
On Agar in 24 hrs. at 37° C.	1
The Bacillus Coli	... Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis	
Sporogenes)	... Absent in 100 c.c.

REPORT.

This is a bright water containing a slight deposit of Chalk. It is of normal colour, neutral reaction and moderate hardness. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is entirely free from metals and of a very high degree of organic and bacterial purity.

We regard the water as pure and wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) JOHN F. BEALE
for DRS. BEALE AND SUCKLING.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

I am indebted to Mr. S. Jump, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the following table which is a copy of particulars which have to be supplied to the Ministry of Health each year, showing full details of cost, etc., of this service. The particulars, however, relate to the twelve months ending 31st March, 1936.

Item.	Particulars.	I.—Collection, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded		II.—Disposal, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded		TOTAL, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded	
		Included (3)	Excluded (4)	Included (5)	Excluded (6)	Included (7)	Excluded (8)
(1)	(2)						
A	REVENUE A/c	£	£	£	£	£	£
B	Gross Expenditure	7,564	6,911	4,783	4,783	12,347	11,694
B	Gross Income ...	333	333	1,828	1,828	2,161	2,161
C	Net Cost ...	7,231	6,578	2,955	2,955	10,186	9,533
D	UNIT COSTS	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
D	Gross expenditure, per ton ...	9 8·6	8 10·5	6 1·7	6 1·7	15 10·3	15 0·2
E	Gross income, per ton ...	5·1	5·1	2 4·2	2 4·2	2 9·3	2 9·3
F	Net cost, per ton	9 3·5	8 5 4	3 9·5	3 9·5	13 1	12 2·9
G	Net cost, per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
G		380 11 7	346 4 2	155 10 6	155 10 6	536 2 1	501 14 8
H	Net cost, per 1,000 population ...	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
H		114 8 3	104 1 8	46 15 1	46 15 1	161 3 4	150 16 9
J	RATE POUNDAGE						
J	Net cost; equivalent rate in the £	3·320	3·021	1·357	1·357	4·677	4·378
K	Percentage of J to total rates in the £ ...	2·593%	2·360%	1·060%	1·060%	3·653%	3·42%

1. Total refuse collected (in tons) ...	15,568	5. Number of Houses and premises	19,000
2. Population, Midsummer, 1933 ...	63,200	6. Rateable Value ...	£547,387
3. Area (Statute acres) ...	5,275	7. Product of a penny rate ...	£2177·443
4. Weight (in cwt.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	13·5	8. Total rates in the £ ...	10s. 8d.

9. Method of collection :—	Number of vehicles	Percentage of refuse collected
Horse Vehicles ...	—	—
Mechanical vehicles ...	9	100%
Container system (combination of mechanical and horse vehicles)	—	—

METHOD OF DISPOSAL :—

Burnt in Meldrum's Destructor.

Average length of haul to disposal ... 2 miles.

Nine S. & D. freighters are used for the collection of house refuse.

One of the freighters, which is mounted on pneumatic tyres, is used for the collection of fish offal and slaughterhouse offal, and on this work is employed approximately half a day, the rest of the time on house refuse collection. Fish and slaughterhouse offal is collected in a very satisfactory and much more economical manner than was previously the case with horse-drawn vehicles.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A Water Carriage System for sewage is in general use in Watford with the exception of certain areas which are still not connected up with the sewer. The following private streets in Garston come in this category :—First Avenue, Second Avenue, Sheepcot Drive. In the following districts connections with the sewer are now available :—Garston Lane, St. Albans Road, Horseshoe Lane, and Sheepcot Lane, and within a short period it is expected that sewerage will be available for the remaining streets in Garston with the exception of Sheepcot Drive.

In addition there is undoubtedly great need for a main sewer to drain the village of Leavesden. Until this is constructed, the insanitary condition of certain areas cannot be dealt with satisfactorily.

REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1936.

Visits to Courts and Alleys...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Infected Houses	...	...	...	...	...	90
„ Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	1,498
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	451
„ Inspected (Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	332
„ re-Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	654
„ Inspected Rents Act	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ re-Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	—
Special visits to Houses, Insanitary Areas	...	...	...	...	...	286
„ Enquiries <i>re</i> Housing	...	...	...	...	...	8
Workshops Inspected	}	...	...	...	...	234
Bakehouses „						
Factories „						
Inhabited Vans Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	43
Urinals Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	12

DISINFECTION, ETC.

Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	191
" " Consumption	...	...	...	...	...	54
" " Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	16
" for Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	75
School Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	39
Hospital Wards, etc., Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	14

BEDDING, ETC., DISINFECTED.

Mattresses	...	...	27	Blankets	...	...	493
Beds	...	...	133	Sheets	...	...	348
Pillows	...	...	171	Sundries	...	...	484
Bolsters	...	...	161				

BEDDING, ETC., DESTROYED.

By request of owners.

Beds	...	...	12	Counterpanes	...	...	—
Sundries	...	...	124	Mattresses	...	...	25
Sheets	...	...	10	Pillows	...	...	11
Blankets	...	...	8	Bolsters	...	...	5

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A bye-law has been adopted in Watford but it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the past year.

The bye-law prescribes that the emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes, from any building other than a private dwelling house, shall until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be a nuisance.

Health Education.

Distribution of the monthly journal "Better Health" has been continued during the past year. In addition short popular "talks" have been given by the Health Visitors at the Infant Welfare Centres. This method of health propaganda is now a recognised feature of the Centres, a short address lasting about five minutes being given each week at each Centre.

The School for Mothers which assembles in the Hut once a week, is now held on Thursday afternoon at the same time as the Ante-Natal Clinic. This amalgamation has been found useful and demonstrations have been given to the mothers on cookery with both gas and electric cookers.

INSPECTION UNDER SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Mr. A. Corke has carried out this work and is responsible for the following classification:—

CLASSIFICATION OF SHOPS.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHOPS	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,160
SHOPS EMPLOYING ASSISTANTS	...	...	...	...	...	...	659
SHOPS EMPLOYING YOUNG ASSISTANTS	...	...	...	...	...	...	334
SHOPS OPEN AFTER 8 p.m.	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
SHOPS OPEN ON HALF HOLIDAY	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
SHOPS OPEN ON SUNDAY	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
TRADES.		No.		TRADES.		No.	
Theatres	...	6		Brought Forward	...	1,029	
Licensed Premises	...	82		Valet Service	...	13	
Grocery and Provisions	...	94		Stationers	...	15	
Drapery, etc.	...	74		Wardrobe Dealers	...	14	
Butchers	...	63		Corn Merchants	...	7	
Hairdressers	...	78		Libraries	...	7	
Tobacconists	...	13		Cooked Foods	...	10	
Tob. and Confectioners	...	88		Wallpaper Merchants	...	4	
Tob., Confec., and Café	...	51		Toy Dealers	...	6	
Tob. Confec., and News.	...	45		Florists	...	9	
Tob., Confec., and General	...	64		Photographers	...	4	
Gent's Outfitters	...	45		China and Glassware	...	4	
Greengrocers	...	52		Saddlers and Sports	...	5	
Bakers and Confectioners	...	35		Pawnbrokers	...	3	
Chemists	...	29		Opticians	...	4	
Piano and Music	...	4		Petrol Sales	...	4	
Boot and Shoe Retailers	...	29		Baby Carriage Specialist	...	3	
Furniture Stores	...	25		Woodwork Specialists	...	2	
Cycle Dealers	...	15		Sewing Machines	...	3	
Ironmongers and Hardware	...	18		Builders' Merchants	...	3	
Fishmongers	...	22		Canine Specialist	...	1	
Leather and Grindery	...	17		Furrier	...	1	
Dairies	...	14		Umbrella Specialist	...	1	
Jewellers	...	14		Tea and Coffee Specialists	...	2	
Art Wool Stores	...	12		Foot Specialist	...	1	
Wireless and Electric Stores	...	36		Chain Stores	...	2	
Naturalist and Nurserymen	...	2		Ice Cream Merchant	...	2	
General Providers	...	2		Cooker Specialists	...	1	
Carried Forward	...	1,029		Total	...	1,160	

SHOPS ACT, 1924.

LIST OF VISITS PAID AND ACTION TAKEN IN 1936.

Routine visits, Inspection of Records, etc.	2,527
Visits paid to shops on Wednesday, Early Closing Day ...	1,069
Evening visits to shops and observation on shops after Legal Closing Hours, allowed to be open for Exempted Goods	2,010
Reports submitted to Town Clerk of infringements of Shops Act for consideration	13
Summons taken out ...	1
Fines imposed in Cases ...	1
Warnings sent to remainder	12
Warnings issued <i>re</i> infringements of Shops Act	72
New Shops added to records	64

MEASURES TAKEN TO SECURE HEALTH AND COMFORT OF SHOP WORKERS.

Heating installed in shops	10
Lavatory accommodation now provided in shops	3
Work outstanding in above cases	1
Notices of exemption Lavatory accommodation issued to shops	2
Hairdressers By-Laws, 1936. Copies issued to Hairdressers	63

New Acts passed to come into operation on January 1st, 1937 :

1. Retail Meat Dealers' Shops (Sunday closing) Act, 1936.
2. Shops Act, 1936, affecting Lending Books and Periodicals for purpose of gain.
3. Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936, to come into operation on May 1st, 1937.

IV.—HOUSING.

(a) UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Prior to 1924 no attempt had been made to provide housing accommodation for tenants displaced from insanitary houses which had been demolished. Much had been done in the way of scheduling unfit houses, and there was in existence a complete list of houses which needed to be dealt with. A good start was made in 1924 with the demolition of houses in Ballard's Buildings and New Street. Here, at that time, existed Watford's chief slum of 48 houses. The first stage of demolition of insanitary houses with re-housing of displaced tenants was in the period 1924-1928, when 152 houses were demolished as detailed in the following list:—

LIST OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED 1924-1928.

(First stage of slum demolition with re-housing)

	Houses
Ballard's Buildings and New Street	48
Butcher's Yard and Meeting Alley	41
Beechen Grove, Nos. 19 and 21	2
Loates Lane	3
Lamb Yard	6
Red Lion Yard	10
Watford Heath	3
Lower High Street	6
Tipple's Yard	2
Cassio Hamlet	7
Woodman's Yard	4
Watford Fields	8
Wheatsheaf Cottages	2
Chalk Hill	1
Three Crowns Passage	3
Prospect Place	2
Rickmansworth Road	2
Hempstead Road	2
	—
	152
	—

LATER STAGES OF DEMOLITION.

(1928 to 1936 as below).

	Houses
1, 2, 3, New Road ...	3
10 to 22 Chapman's Yard } 4 to 21 New Road }	29
3 to 13 Chater's Yard } 7 to 10 Albert Street }	15
16 to 19 Red Lion Yard ...	4
34 to 37 Red Lion Yard ...	4
2 to 8 Beechen Grove } 13 Loates Lane ... }	5
1 to 7 Grove Circus } 15 and 17 Beechen Grove }	9
Wells' Yard ...	23
Upper Paddock Road } Van Yean Cottages }	8
43 to 47 Riverside Road } 67 to 81 Riverside Road }	11
Watford Heath ...	3
239 High Street ...	1
Home Farm Cottage ...	1
Timber Yard Cottage ...	1
14 Watford Fields ...	1
40-46 Aldenham Road ...	4
Wright's Buildings ...	5
24 and 25 Meeting Alley ...	2
Making a total of ...	281

at the end of 1936.

HOUSING MATTERS DEALT WITH IN 1936.

As shown by the above table there are 11 more demolitions to report in addition to those of last year. Various representations were also made to the Council about certain houses in Leavesden, and the Ministry of Health confirmed their Clearance Orders with regard to houses in Fearnley Street and at Leavesden.

(b) SCHEMES TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE.

The active part played by the Borough of Watford in municipal housing has been referred to in previous reports. When, however, so much has been done there is always a list of families who desire a Corporation house. Mr. Pickering's list still has the names of about 500 families, some of whom are already in possession of a house. At the time of writing this Report there is a definite proposal to erect 120 additional houses for relief of shortage.

(c) CORPORATION HOUSING SCHEMES COMPLETED.

(At the end of the year 1935).

The list of houses given below includes not only those erected to relieve shortage, but also houses built for the re-housing of tenants from insanitary areas which have been demolished.

LIST OF HOUSES OWNED BY CORPORATION**ASSISTED SCHEMES. 1919 ACT (Total 953).**

Harebreaks (C. Brightman and Son)	828
Harebreaks (Garden Cities Co.)	47
Sydney Road	28
Rickmansworth Road	10
Rose Gardens	40

PRE-1919 SCHEME.

Willow Lane	22
--------------------	----

1923 ACT SCHEME.

Rookery Road	40
---------------------	----

1924 ACT SCHEME (Total 444).

Wiggenhall Hall Estate	122
Harebreaks (Gammons Farm Estate)	124
Eastbury Road (Thorpe Crescent)	80
Harebreaks (Leggatts Way and Elm Grove)	18
Leavesden Green Estate	100

1930 ACT SCHEME (Total 150).

Leavesden Green	130
Water Lane (4 cottages and 16 flats)	20

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEMES (Total 112).

Leggatts Way	16
Harebreaks	54
Blackwell Drive	24
Eastbury Road	18

Grand Total (at end of 1936) 1,721

ADVANCES FOR HOUSE PURCHASE.

Much has been done by the Corporation in assisting private enterprise by means of loans. Mr. J. Ginger, the Borough Treasurer, reported to the Housing Committee on April 9th, 1936, that the position with regard to advances to the 1st April, 1936, for purpose of acquiring houses, was as follows :—

	Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts 1899-1923		Housing Act 1925 Section 92		TOTAL.	
	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £
Amount Offered ...	1,424	822,145	159	121,000	1,583	943,145
Amount Advanced...	1,418	820,085	159	121,000	1,577	941,085
Amount Repaid ...	—	334,947	—	79,500	—	414,447
Amount Outstanding	—	£485,138	—	£41,500	—	£526,638

(d) HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1936.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	418
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING - HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	783
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,653
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	332
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	654
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
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	632

II. 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	542
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

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	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

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

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

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	11

D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
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

(e) HOUSING ACT 1935.

REPORT ON SURVEY FOR OVERCROWDING

This survey has now been completed. Altogether 14,913 houses have been visited. The result of the enquiry was that 325 houses needed to be revisited and all the rooms measured.

In the case of Council houses 25 (or 1.5 per cent.) were found to be definitely overcrowded. In the other houses 72 (or .5 per cent.) were overcrowded.

The details of the survey are here submitted. In the case of Council houses it may be possible to remedy overcrowding by transfer of tenant. To remedy overcrowding in other houses it would be necessary to build or provide about 56 houses.

The houses investigated were as follows :—

Privately owned houses ...	...	13,216	
Council houses ...	...	1,697	
			Total 14,913
Total Number of Houses Measured ...	...	...	325
Total Number of Houses Overcrowded ...	...	...	97

COUNCIL HOUSES

Number measured ...	...	...	66
Number overcrowded ...	...	...	25
Two bedroom non-parlour type ...	...	...	1
Three bedroom non-parlour type ...	...	...	24
Parlour Type ...	...	...	0
			25
Overcrowding due to large families ...	...	...	21
Overcrowding due to lodgers ...	...	...	3
Overcrowding due to two families ...	...	...	1
			25

OTHER HOUSES

Number measured ...	...	...	259
Number overcrowded ...	...	...	72
Overcrowding due to large families ...	...	...	56
Overcrowding due to lodgers ...	...	...	13
Overcrowding due to two families or subletting ...	...	...	3
			72

ANALYSIS OF OVERCROWDED FAMILIES
COUNCIL HOUSES

Number of Families			Number of Persons in Family		
4	6
2	6½*
7	7
5	7½
3	8
1	8½
1	9
1	9½
1	10
25					

With regard to overcrowding in Council property, the overcrowding might probably be remedied by transferring the overcrowded families to other larger houses owned by the Council.

OTHER HOUSES

Number of Families			Number of Persons in Family		
3	2½*
8	3
6	3½
2	4
1	4½
8	6
8	6½
7	7
1	7½
10	8
11	8½
2	9
3	9½
1	10
1	10½
72					

Due to lodgers ... 13

Due to two families
or subletting ... 3

16

leaving 56 cases to be dealt with by provision of new houses (or other houses if available).

* Two children under the age of 10 years count as one person.

V. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following tabulated statement (required by the Secretary of State) gives details of inspections, etc.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	102	38	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	126	41	—
Workplaces Other than Outworkers' premises	6	2	—
Total	<u>234</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>—</u>

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Reme- died. (3)	Retferred to H.M. In- spector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	68	68	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	8	8	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	4	4	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
{ not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—
Total	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK.

There is one cowshed in occupation in the Borough and in this shed there are 34 cows kept, the milk from which is used in the district. Besides this there are no less than 52 different milk supplies produced in other districts, which come into the Borough.

During the year 114 samples of milk have been taken and these have been examined by Drs. Beale and Suckling for tuberculosis, etc. The following table shows the result of these examinations:—

Number of Samples	...	...	115
Number found satisfactory	...	...	97, or 84.34 per cent.
Number found with tubercle bacilli	...	...	4, or 3.47 per cent.
Number found with blood or pus cells	...	...	14, or 12.17 per cent.

In all cases where the samples were not satisfactory the Authority for the district in which the milk was produced was communicated with, and each case was dealt with by the Authority responsible.

In addition to these samples, in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, systematic samples have been taken of "Certified" and "Grade A" (T.T.) milk, in certain cases.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.—Under this Order there are four licensed vendors of Grade A (T.T.) milk, but there are no producers in the Borough of milk under special designations. There is one licensed apparatus in the Borough for the pasteurisation of milk, and this process is partially and unofficially carried out in connection with some of the milk sold from two other dairies.

There is evidence that the amount of milk sold under special designations is increasing and this is undoubtedly a satisfactory development.

(b) MEAT.

Watford is an important centre for the slaughter of animals, and the Kosher method is practised at one large slaughter house in the town. A full-time officer is engaged in food inspection, the greater part of his time being employed in connection with duties at the slaughter houses.

The following is a tabular statement of the number of slaughter houses in the town:—

		In January,		In December,	
		In 1920	1930	1936	
Registered	...	6	6	4	...
Licensed	...	5	5	4	...
Total	...	11	11	8	...
		—	—	—	

1936.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Total number of Animals examined.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
4,402	10,872	13,287	3,214

Condemned and Destroyed.

2,693 st.	English Beef.
235 st.	Imported Beef.
7 st.	English Mutton.
88 st.	Pork.
6 st.	Frozen Mutton.
4 st.	Veal.
134	Beasts and all Organs (Weight, 8,673 st.)
29	Calves and all Organs.
319	Beasts' Lungs.
238	„ Livers.
278	„ Heads.
278	„ Tongues.
159	„ Other Organs.
369	Cows' Udders.
10	Sheep and all Organs (Weight 69 st.)
141	Sheep's Plucks.
36	„ Kidneys (frozen).
12	„ Heads.
45	Pigs and all Organs (Weight 567 st.)
139	„ Heads.
179	„ Plucks.
5 st.	Haddocks.

- 25 st. Cod.
- 5 st. Skate.
- 12 st. Catfish.
- 23 st. Dabs.
- 17 st. Mixed Fish.
- 3 Boxes Kippers.
- 5 Boxes Dried Haddocks.
- 9st. Fish Fillets.
- 111 Tins Corned Beef.
- 33 Tins various Fruits.
- 27 Rabbits
- 20 Tins frozen Lambs' Livers.
- 4 Tins Ox Tongues.
- 6 Tins Asparagus.
- 5 Tins Ham.
- 11 Tins Salmon.
- 77 Tins Milk.
- 2 Tins Pilchards.
- 17 Tins Tomatoes
- 129 lbs. Bacon
- 2 cwts. Potatoes
- 16 Tins Chicken and Ham Roll
- 6 Tins Pork and Beans
- 1 Box Bloaters

TABLE SHOWING EXTENT OF TUBERCULOUS DISEASES IN ANIMALS EXAMINED,
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1936.

Kind of Animal.	Number Examined.	Of which were Tuberculous.	Heads	Thorax.			Abdomen.								Udders	Entire Carcases Condemned owing to Tuberculosis.
				Lungs	Hearts and Pericardii	Serous Membranes	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Uteri	Serous Membranes	Mesenteries		
Beasts	4,402	3 Bulls 254 Cows 29 Heifers 43 Bullocks <hr/> 329	276	298	148	195	175	126	117	119	122	85	122	122	79	3 Bulls 107 Cows 9 Heifers 3 Bullocks <hr/> 122 <hr/> 1
Sheep	10,872	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Pigs	13,287	212	166	172	18	34	25	22	22	22	22	4	22	22	3	22 Pigs
Calves	3,214	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1 Calf	
Totals	31,775	542	443	471	167	230	201	149	140	142	145	89	145	145	82	145

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.—Fortunately during 1936 there was a comparatively slight incidence of scarlet fever, only 73 cases, as compared with 91 in 1935 and 240 in 1934. In 1934 the outbreak of scarlet fever was the greatest since 1907 when 254 cases occurred. Most of the cases of 1936 were of a mild type and no death occurred. The table on the next page shows that an increased incidence of scarlet fever tends to recur about every fourth year. At the present time the type of scarlet fever generally tends to become milder. Even with the milder type of illness now prevalent, scarlet fever is still a dreaded disease, and this dread is justifiable on account of the complications which occur. Hospital isolation of cases is still a necessity, as the milder cases are often very infectious, and are not necessarily free from complications.

PREVALENCE OF SCARLET FEVER IN WATFORD

since 1892.

Year	Total number Scarlet Fever cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000	Number cases sent to Hospital	Number of deaths
1892	52	2.5	No Record	—
1893	364	18.0	268	7
1894	60	2.9	No Record	1
1895	66	3.0	64	3
1896	44	1.5	38	—
1897	46	1.8	41	—
1898	33	1.3	31	2
1899	190	7.0	No Record	4
1900	150	5.4	136	—
1901	130	3.9	119	3
1902	264	8.8	231	1
1903	155	5.0	130	2
1904	220	7.0	198	4
1905	117	3.4	98	—
1906	197	5.6	175	7
1907	254	7.0	225	5
1908	92	2.5	82	2
1909	121	2.8	106	—
1910	120	3.0	110	2
1911	102	2.4	93	1
1912	80	1.9	61	2
1913	58	1.4	58	—
1914	116	2.8	92	1
1915	100	2.3	94	2
1916	74	1.7	70	No Record
1917	26	0.6	26	—
1918	25	0.6	23	—
1919	164	4.0	138	—
1920	213	4.7	173	1
1921	181	4.0	149	—
1922	64	1.4	50	—
1923	35	0.7	29	1
1924	24	0.5	20	—
1925	149	3.0	131	None
1926	183	3.6	147	1
1927	91	1.7	79	2
1928	183	3.3	152	1
1929	190	3.4	151	1
1930	118	2.1	103	1
1931	64	1.1	52	None
1932	45	0.7	41	None
1933	89	1.5	83	2
1934	240	3.9	225	1
1935	91	1.4	84	None
1936	73	1.1	67	None

DIPHTHERIA.—During the last year almost a record was created with regard to the low incidence of diphtheria in the borough. Only 15 cases occurred, with no death. Other low records are 28 cases in 1934 and 20 in 1933. In 1926, 16 cases occurred and in 1923 only 14. This small number of cases is very satisfactory. A table showing the prevalence of diphtheria in Watford since 1900 is given on the next page.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC.—In 1935 a Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic was started. The following figures show the work which has been done during the last two years.

					1935	1936
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	539	705
Injections	...	...	...	...	405	149
Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	50	27
Positive Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	30	12
Negative Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	15	12
Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	72	71
Positive Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	1	1
Negative Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	71	70

It will be seen from the above figures that the treatment has generally been successful only two out of 141 failing to give a positive Schick Test.

The persons immunised were chiefly children under the age of 5 years, as it was thought best to concentrate mainly on this age period. In addition certain adults received treatment, chiefly the staff of the Isolation Hospital who usually need protection owing to the fact that they are exposed to the risk of infection, and others who applied for immunisation. A system of three injections was used, T.A.M. in the case of children under 5 years and T.A.F. in the case of adults. Preliminary Schick and Post-Schick tests were also used. The response and the results may be considered fairly satisfactory for the first year of working. Dr. Margaret Ward is the Medical Officer in charge of this clinic.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Five cases of enteric fever were notified during the year 1936 compared with three in 1935. No case proved fatal. These cases were not connected with each other in any way.

ERYSIPELAS.—Fifteen cases were notified as compared with 18 in the previous year and 25 in 1934.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—Seventeen cases were notified, thirteen being mild cases described as puerperal pyrexia and four being notified as puerperal fever. One death occurred from puerperal sepsis.

PREVALENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN WATFORD

since 1900

Year.	Total Number Diphtheria Cases Notified.	Attack Rate per 1,000.	Number cases sent to Hospital.	Number of Deaths.
1900	106	3.4	85	9
1901	80	2.7	66	6
1902	95	3.1	71	8
1903	114	3.6	102	10
1904	38	1.1	24	1
1905	85	2.4	66	4
1906	129	3.6	100	3
1907	218	5.7	164	15
1908	125	3.2	84	8
1909	82	2.0	59	3
1910	33	0.8	22	1
1911	61	1.5	46	3
1912	30	0.7	20	3
1913	58	1.3	43	3
1914	89	2.0	68	4
1915	75	1.8	62	7
1916	77	1.9	67	6
1917	88	2.2	72	3
1918	58	1.3	44	5
1919	64	1.4	48	1
1920	45	0.9	34	1
1921	36	0.8	34	1
1922	61	1.3	45	3
1923	14	0.3	9	1
1924	27	0.6	25	5
1925	30	0.6	30	4
1926	16	0.3	14	1
1927	25	0.5	22	2
1928	43	0.8	39	2
1929	164	3.0	160	7
1930	178	3.2	170	11
1931	94	1.7	90	6
1932	61	1.1	60	2
1933	20	0.3	19	—
1934	28	0.5	25	2
1935	15	0.2	15	1
1936	15	0.2	15	None

The *attack rate* recorded for 1936 (0.2 per 1,000) is the lowest which has ever occurred in the Borough of Watford, being the same as in the previous year, when the same number of cases occurred. It is also satisfactory that no death occurred from this disease.

CHICKEN POX AND MEASLES are not notifiable diseases in this Borough.

PNEUMONIA (which includes primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia).—Thirty-nine cases were notified. This notification is of some value at times when influenza is prevalent, in order to show the extent of the epidemic, and also the number of serious cases.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—The usual seasonal occurrence of these diseases resulted in three deaths from whooping cough, and one from measles.

INFLUENZA.—There were five deaths from influenza in 1936 compared with six in 1935 and six in 1934. The epidemic which prevailed was very widespread, but fortunately the mortality was low.

VENEREAL DISEASES are dealt with by the County Council. No treatment centres have been established in the County owing to facilities for treatment which are easily available in London. Cases of this disease occasionally present themselves at the Public Health Offices, and are directed to obtain treatment at one of the London hospitals. In certain necessitous cases, who were unable to afford the fares to London, the County Council has, from time to time, defrayed this expense in order to assist the obtaining of treatment.

TABLE E shows that no case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

TABLE E.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	At Hospital				
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil				

TABLE F shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths from this disease.

TABLE F.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	4	2	2	5	—	1	—	—
10	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
15	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
20	9	4	1	1	2	—	—	—
25	5	8	2	2	2	7	—	1
35	6	3	2	1	2	—	—	—
45	9	2	2	—	3	—	—	—
55	13	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	52	25	12	10	17	9	1	2

Of the 29 cases who died from tuberculosis, 26 were notified and 3 un-notified

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. It was not found necessary to take action under the powers given by either of these. There are only three cowsheds in the Borough and none of these employ workers suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. With regard to compulsory removal to hospital of persons in an infectious state suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, up to the present time no cases have arisen where removal was so urgent as to justify the exercise of compulsion.

VISITS TO TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.—These are paid by the Health Visitors of the Borough. The object of the visit is chiefly to ensure that precautions against infections are taken, to advise about general care of the health, and to ascertain whether home and sanitary conditions are satisfactory. During the year 343 visits of this nature were paid. There are several shelters in use by patients in the Borough.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

(a) STATISTICS.

The following three tables give statistics of the work, including that of previous years for the sake of comparison:—

I. Visits by Health Visitors.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
First visits	683	750	723	785	689	826	942	987
Re-visits	2855	3094	3155	3088	3036	3278	2328	4096
Visits 1-5 years	1075	2145	2062	1283	1555	2020	2066	2957
Ante-natal Tuberculosis, Dental visits, etc.	120	319	285	218	223	240	195	243
	455	538	545	382	354	417	503	589
Total visits paid	5088	6846	6770	5756	5857	6781	6034	8872

II. Attendances at the Centres.

Centre.	Weighings.	Consulta- tions.	Number of Infants on Books.	New Cases Examined.
Leggatts Way ...	1,703	532	151	82
The Hut ...	3,456	799	366	215
Wiggenhall House ...	3,243	883	236	165
North Watford...	4,201	1,111	389	222
Totals...	12,603	3,325	1,141*	684

* The above figure of 1141 infants on the books refers to children under the age of 18 months. In addition there are 459 other children (the so-called 'toddlers') attending the the centres, making a total of 1594 children under five years on the books.

III. Other Statistics.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
<i>Ante-natal clinic:—</i>								
Mothers attending	282	257	264	231	200	220	298	312
Total attendances	832	809	848	768	568	767	896	866
<i>Dental Clinic:—</i>								
Ante-natal cases	29	43	34	31	36	34	79	60
Nursing mothers	57	56	80	76	55	50	52	58
Children ...	69	68	76	82	115	135	119	126
<i>Orthopædic Centre:—</i>								
Cases referred for treatment...	45	34	63	63	73	100	97	99
<i>Free Milk:—</i>								
Number of Cases	82	87	109	114	112	107	107	161
<i>Post Natal Clinic:—</i>								
Mothers Attending ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	38
Number of Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	58	59

ATTENDANCES OF INFANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.—299 children were brought to the various centres from places outside the Borough, such as Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, King's Langley, Abbot's Langley, Bushey, Aldenham, Bricket Wood, Elstree, etc. Such cases are at liberty to attend if the parents wish it, and a small grant is available from the County Council funds in respect of such attendances. There were 1,071 attendances on the part of the 299 cases mentioned. The above figures include 28 children attending the Dental Clinic, 26 at the Toddlers' Clinic, and 24 Ante-Natal cases.

(b) RED CROSS ORTHOPÆDIC CENTRE.

Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S., attends as consultant at the Centre which is now held in Queen's Road. A large number of cases are referred each year from the Infant Welfare Centre. A block grant of £40 per annum is given by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee towards the cost of treatment, and a further grant for splints. In addition, cases referred for treatment at the Orthopædic Hospital are also assisted. Particulars of the number of cases referred to the orthopædic centre since its opening will be found in the table of statistics at the beginning of this section of the report. The following is a list of 99 cases referred this year. In some cases splints, and in others alterations to shoes, or valgus insoles were ordered.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE CASES FOR 1936.

WATFORD.

The following figures have been supplied by Miss M. Kirby.

Knock Knees	...	...	...	...	34
Bow Legs	...	...	...	...	21
Congenital Club Feet	...	...	...	...	13
Flat Foot	...	...	...	...	12
Congenital Wry Neck	...	...	...	...	4
Spastic Paralysis	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Dislocation of Hip				...	2
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	12
				—	
				99	
				=	

(c) **PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC.**

This is sometimes known as the Toddlers' Clinic, but actually it deals with children between the ages of eighteen months and five years. The Medical Officer, Dr. Margaret Ward, reports as follows :

During the year 53 sessions were held; 385 new cases were examined, and 373 re-examined. The total attendance was 1,245.

It will be seen that there was almost an equal number of boys and of girls attending. These have been grouped together under the various headings, but during the process of tabulating it was possible to note any differences which existed between the sexes.

It appeared that in nutrition and muscular tone there was practically no difference between boys and girls. Dental caries and late dentition were more common in girls, but enlarged glands were more frequently found in boys. Functional heart trouble was more common in boys, but, on the other hand, the only two cases of organic heart disease were in girls. Again, constipation, poor appetite, threadworms, behaviour symptoms and enuresis were all more prevalent in girls.

The most interesting differences were found in deformities, where it appeared that genu valgum (knock-knee) was common in girls, but genu varum (bowing of the legs) was quite rare. Out of the 15 cases of the latter, only 2 were girls. Flat foot, also, was rare in girls.

A number of children attending the Pre-School Clinic have gone to the Nursery School at Wiggenhall House. Some were sent on the parents' own initiative, and some recommended as they were difficult to manage at home. These children have all been seen from time to time, and have derived much benefit from the training received there. They appear to be very happy, and some cases show decided improvement physically.

The following table gives the list of defects found. It will be seen that the total number of attendances for the year was 1,245.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TODDLERS, 1936.

Disease, Defect or condition						Total
Nutrition:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	223
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	118
(c) Poor	...	...	...	...	...	44
Muscular Tone:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	228
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	120
(c) Poor	...	...	...	...	...	37
Clothing and Footgear:						
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	379
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cleanliness:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	376
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	4
(c) Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	5
Skin:						
Minor Skin conditions	...	...	...	...	...	19
Eczema	...	...	...	...	...	2
Naevi ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Eye:						
Squint	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ear:						
Otorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1

Disease, Defect or condition					Total
Nose and Throat:					
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	...	87
Enlarged Glands	...	...	...	...	73
Teeth:					
Caries...	...	...	...	...	105
Late Dentition	...	...	...	...	38
Heart and Circulation:					
(a) Functional Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Organic Heart Disease...	...	...	...	...	2
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	16
Lungs:					
Bronchial Catarrh	...	...	...	...	5
Asthma	...	...	...	...	1
Nervous System:					
Minor Retardation	...	...	...	...	23
Behaviour Symptoms	...	...	...	...	70
Alimentary System:					
Poor Appetite	...	...	...	...	47
Constipation	...	...	...	...	44
Threadworms	...	...	...	...	12
Rectal Prolapse	...	...	...	...	2
Genito-Urinary System:					
Enuresis	...	...	...	...	14
Undescended Testes	...	...	...	...	7
Rickets:					
Active	...	...	...	...	4
Healed	...	...	...	...	9
Deformities:					
Genu Valgum	...	...	...	...	44
Genu Varum...	...	...	...	...	15
Flat Feet	...	...	...	...	8
Minor Defects	...	...	...	...	27
Insufficient Sleep	...	...	...	...	27
Vaccinated Children	...	...	...	...	76
Children who had not attended a clinic before	...	...	...	...	89
New Cases	...	...	...	...	385
Re-examinations	...	...	...	...	373
Total Examinations...	...	...	...	...	758
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	1,245

REPORT ON ANTE-NATAL AND POST NATAL CLINIC.

By DR. WINIFRED PIGGOTT.

The Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics have been well attended this year. We have had a total attendance of 925, and have held 74 clinics, which gives an average attendance of 12.5 per clinic.

Of these attendances 866 were ante-natal and 59 post-natal. 312 mothers attended for the first time at the ante-natal clinics and 38 at the post-natal clinics. 19 patients were given letters for their own doctors and advised to go to them for treatment.

63 mothers were referred to the Dental Clinic and the great majority attended there.

8 post-natal cases were sent to the Gynæcological Clinic at the Peace Memorial Hospital for treatment, and 3 ante-natal cases were sent up for X-Ray examination.

I am glad to say that the Post-Natal cases are coming up in greater numbers than when the Clinic first started. It will always be difficult to get the mothers to come up for a routine examination after the baby has arrived, as they find their time fully occupied, but they will come if they think anything is wrong. By giving each mother a special appointment for the next visit we are able to fill up the time of the Post-Natal clinics (two per month) with the overflow from the Ante-Natal clinics, which has made the work much more manageable.

W. PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.

(f) DENTAL REPORT, 1936.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Fisk for the following report :—

The following table shows the number of cases treated :—

Nursing Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	58
Ante-Natal Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	60
Children under 5 years of age ...	...	...	...	...	126
					254
				Total ...	254

Total attendance, 262, Sessions, 22.

Dr. Fisk makes the following comments :—

In order to carry out the work of the Clinic it has been found necessary to hold two Sessions per month.

During the last year the percentage of clearances has diminished and quite a number of mothers require only a few extractions. This is definite progress.

As regards the children, there is little change in their dental condition. Those who attend appear to be fairly well nourished, but it is probable that their diet is somewhat deficient.

The new scheme of giving milk to school children is on trial and it will be interesting to note whether, as time goes on, it plays a part in improving their dentition and lessening the incidence of dental caries. If reports are satisfactory the extension of the scheme to pre-school children would be of great value.

BENEVOLENT FUND, 1936.

Miss Hammond reports as follows:—

This fund is raised by small donations from mothers attending the Clinic, also from the profits on teas provided. In addition money was also raised in connection with a Garden Party. The amount raised during the year, in various ways was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 1935	...	6	19 0
Donations:—			
Dr. M. Ward	...	1	0 0
Mrs. Watson	...	10	0
Mrs. Ruff	...	2	6
Anonymous	...	10	0
Collected in boxes at various Centres	...	16	8
Received from Mrs. Councillor Ward—			
proceeds of Garden Party	...	8	12 6
Received from Miss Potter, per tea profits	...	14	5 0
		<hr/>	
Total	£32	15	8

With regard to expenditure, the cost of sending 29 children and 6 nursing mothers to St. Leonards-on-Sea was £19 13s. 6d. Further expenditure was incurred by provision of surgical appliances, clothing, etc., making a total expenditure of £24 14s. 6d. This left a balance of £8 1s. 2d., which was very satisfactory, after such a good year's work.

Thanks are tendered to Lady Caulcutt for generous gifts of boots and parcels of groceries, to Miss Rogers for coal and groceries, and to the following for various gifts of clothing, etc.—Herts Needlework Guild, Toc H, Mrs. Coats, Miss Chaston, Mrs. Tansley, Mrs. Wareham and Mrs. Wiggs.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Borough of Watford is now responsible for carrying out this work which was formerly done in connection with the old Poor Law Administration. The following figures have been compiled by Miss Hammond:—

Number of persons on register who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year 32
---	-----------

FOSTER CHILDREN.

Coming under observation during 1936 19
--------------------------------------	-----------

Number on books at the end of the year 46
--	-----------

(a) 9 were under twelve months.

(b) 38 were over twelve months and under seven years of age.

Number who entered Watford with their foster children 2
---	----------

Removed from observation during the year:

(a) Number given up 5
---------------------	----------

(b) Died... —
-------------	----------

(c) Legally adopted 1
---------------------	----------

(d) Removed to Institutions 5
-----------------------------	----------

(e) Left Watford 4
------------------	----------

(f) Reached the age of seven 5
------------------------------	----------

Remaining under observation:

(a) Under twelve months 8
-------------------------	----------

(b) Over twelve months 38
------------------------	-----------

TOTAL 46
--------------	-----------

Total number of visits paid 208
-----------------------------	------------

It will be seen from the above figures that the number of children in care of foster mothers in Watford is comparatively small. Miss Hammond reports that generally speaking these children are very well cared for. Most of them are brought regularly to a centre and are thus kept under careful supervision. In addition regular visits are paid to the homes. There is not the least doubt that the co-ordination of this work with that of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the Borough was a useful and necessary development.

DENTAL CLINIC.—A dental clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. The work is steadily increasing and 262 cases received treatment during the past year. Twenty-two sessions were held. Nine mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets, in one case the whole of the cost was paid by the Council, and in three cases assistance was given by paying part of the cost.

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1920.

Under this Order free milk has been supplied to 161 cases during the past year. It is usual to supply a pint of milk per day in necessitous cases, the circumstances being carefully investigated by the Health Visitor. In some cases it is found that dried milk is more useful than fresh milk, as the infant in question is sometimes better suited by this arrangement. The milk may be supplied for an ill-nourished infant or nursing mother or for an expectant mother. Below are given the amounts spent on cases for the period from March, 1930, to March, 1936. It was not possible to give more recent particulars of this expenditure.

EXPENDITURE ON FREE MILK.

	Fresh Milk.			Dried Milk.			TOTAL.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
March, 1930, to March, 1931 ...	75	0	0	43	5	8	108	5	8
March, 1931, to March, 1932 ...	84	7	1	44	16	0	126	3	1
March, 1932, to March, 1933 ...	93	12	4	46	15	3	140	7	7
March, 1933, to March, 1934 ...	72	8	6	38	3	5	110	11	11
March, 1934, to March, 1935 ...	69	3	9	32	18	5	102	2	2
March, 1935, to March, 1936 ...	128	1	0	45	3	0	173	4	0

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.—In the scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare much valuable assistance has been rendered by voluntary workers. We have always relied to some extent in past years on this assistance, but at the present time the number of voluntary workers is greater than in the past and their services are available at all four Centres. In addition to helping at the Centres, some of these ladies also serve on the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, many of them devoting a large amount of time to this form of public service. Their presence at the Centres is very helpful and encouraging to the mothers, and one has much pleasure in placing on record this appreciation of their work which has also included the organising of exhibitions of cookery and needlework for the mothers.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under the Notification of Births Acts 1907 and 1915 all births should be notified to the M.O.H. within 36 hours. Persons competent to notify are the parent, the medical attendant or the midwife in attendance. If the birth is not notified in this way some delay may occur, owing to the fact that the information is then obtained through the Registrar of Births, a period of six weeks being allowed for registration.

The following list gives the number of births notified from various sources including 32 still births:—

Notified by:—

(a) Medical Practitioners and Parents ...	164
(b) Midwives	738
(c) Registrar of Births, not having been previously notified	84

986

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

This Society has a branch in Watford which deals not only with the Watford district but also with the whole of West and Mid Herts. Mr. H. M. Keet is the inspector, who resides at 7 Marlborough Road, Watford. There are many cases where the intervention of this Society is of great value. In 24 families during the year it was found necessary to report certain circumstances to the Society, the interests of 53 children being involved.

The 53 children affected included :—

- 5 recommended for the wearing of glasses by School Medical Officer. Parents refused to obtain. All these children were provided with glasses after warning by the Inspector.
- 2 impetigo and vermin.
- 2 requiring other medical attention.

In these four cases medical attention was obtained and the children cured, after warning by the Inspector.

- 14 in filthy home surroundings due entirely to parental neglect.
- 9 parents neglecting adequately to maintain.
- 6 children left unattended in the home for long periods.
- 15 for other reasons, requiring help, etc., etc.

Public Health cases, however, were only a small proportion of total cases dealt with, which were as follows.

CASES DEALT WITH BY THE SOCIETY IN THE WATFORD DISTRICT AND WEST AND MID HERTS BRANCH DURING PERIOD 1/1/36 to 31/12/36.

No. of cases ... 270 No. of children affected ... 629

of these the following were dealt with in WATFORD :

No. of cases ... 118 No. of children affected ... 258

and of this number the following were reported by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, etc. :

No. of cases ... 24 No. of children affected ... 53

The work of this excellent Society is invaluable and it well deserves all the support which the public is able to give it.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS, WATFORD AREA, 1936.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Watford is responsible for the medical inspection of the following schools—Technical, Leavesden C.E., Leggatts Way, Chater, Field, Parkgate Road, Holy Rood Roman Catholic, Beechen Grove Boys, Higher Elementary and Beechen Grove Special, and the following report, therefore, relates chiefly to these schools. For a fuller account of medical inspection of school children, the Annual Report of the County School Medical Officer should be consulted.

The children of these schools constitute about half the total number in the elementary schools of the Borough, the remaining schools in the town being dealt with by Dr. Buchanan.

The following groups of children were inspected :—

- (1) Those children just admitted to school—entrants.
- (2) Children born in the year 1928 known as the intermediate group.
- (3) The group known as "leavers", in which are included all those children known to be on the point of leaving and those who have not previously been examined.

In all, 1,455 children were examined in the course of routine inspection. Of these 1,455 children 500 (or 34 per cent.) were found to be suffering from defects which required medical treatment. Altogether the 500 children were suffering from 534 defects, as it is quite common for one child to have two conditions which require treatment, as e.g., enlarged tonsils and carious teeth.

TREATMENT OF AILMENTS FOUND.—In the majority of cases, treatment was obtained promptly by parents, on, or shortly after, receiving notification of the defect from the medical inspector.

The following table gives a list of ailments for which parents were advised to obtain treatment either at the hands of their family doctor, or at the Dental Clinic, or in the case of enlarged tonsils, by operative or other treatment by the staff of the Peace Memorial Hospital or their own medical attendant. The results of this procedure are also shown in the table. The figures below refer only to cases which were advised to obtain treatment at a clinic or other medical institution.

Disease.	Number of children affected.	Number treated.	Under treatment.	No action taken by parents.
Carious Teeth ...	305	254	38	13
Tonsils and Adenoids	54	49	5	—
Defective Vision ...	166	153	13	—
Orthopædic cases	5	5	—	—

Only the chief causes of physical defect are referred to in the above table. In addition, advice was given in numerous cases about various ailments such as anæmia, poor nutrition and functional heart disease. In addition the parents of some of these children consulted their own doctor about these matters, acting on advice received at the inspection.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.—During the past year there has been a comparatively small number of operations for these conditions, 54, exactly the number as the previous year. As in previous years expectant treatment has been adopted in cases where this was possible, only the more urgent cases being dealt with surgically. Conditions which were considered to indicate operation were as follows—obstruction to breathing, repeated colds or tonsillitis, cervical adenitis, and cases where there was considerable discharge from the ear, deafness and mouth breathing.

DEFECTIVE VISION.—For this condition 164 children were dealt with in the last year as compared with 162 in the previous year.

It is satisfactory to find that spectacles have been provided for a large number of cases during the past year. This does not indicate an increase of defective sight among school children but rather a realisation on the part of teachers and parents that more care of the eyesight is necessary. It is important that this care should be exercised at an early stage in the child's educational career, if possible as soon as the child enters school, or in bad cases before entering a school. Hence the value of the pre-school examination of the child which is carried out at the Toddlers Clinic.

CARIOUS TEETH.—The figures for the year show that there is very little opposition to treatment on the part of parents or children.

MALNUTRITION.—No extreme cases of malnutrition have been observed during the past year, although there is always a certain proportion of children who are below the average standard of height and weight. In the majority of cases of this type there is no doubt that the extra ration of milk provided at school is very beneficial. There are a few children who have an instinctive dislike for milk and to whom it is not beneficial, but it is of great benefit to the average school child. For those children whose parents are unable to afford the cost of school milk, this can be supplied free, but it is first necessary to obtain a medical certificate of need from a medical inspector of schools. This is readily given in cases where the child is suffering from anæmia or where growth appears to be retarded from lack of nourishment.

CLEANLINESS.—Children are inspected with regard to cleanliness at the time of routine inspection and also by the School Nurse, who makes regular visits to all the schools for this purpose. During the last year inspections of this kind have been held in various schools on 108 occasions, and in addition re-inspections were held on 263 occasions. Altogether there were 26,001 inspections and re-inspections of children. The value of this work is beyond question. It is found to be most necessary after school holidays, and its continuance ensures a high standard of cleanliness in the schools. Again one is able to report that more inspections have been held during the past year than in previous years as the School Nurse has had some assistance in the work. In very few cases has it been necessary to exclude children from school on account of verminous or dirty conditions.

DISINFECTION OF CLASSROOMS—The usual disinfection of classrooms has been carried out by spraying with formalin followed by cleansing and free ventilation. During the year this has been performed in 42 cases compared with 41 disinfections in 1935.

BEECHEN GROVE SPECIAL SCHOOL.—There are usually between 35 and 40 children in this school and the attendance has been well maintained during the last year. The annual medical inspection of all children in the school was carried out in the usual way, 32 children being examined. In addition certain routine inspections were made. The records of these inspections are retained at the Public Health Office for future reference and are useful when the question of discharge from the school arises. The work of the school has been very successful during the past year. Certain types of mentally deficient children are capable of musical appreciation and may be trained as musicians. In certain cases this has been carried out. In addition other subjects are being taught with marked success, as, e.g., housewifery, cooking and gardening. Gardening is particularly useful in the summer months and has a beneficial effect on the health of the children. It gives them some manual training combined with fresh air and exposure to sunlight which most of them need. Scouting is also carried out with a certain amount of success.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.—No complaints have been received during the last year with regard to insanitary conditions in connection with schools or school lavatories. Most of the sanitary appliances are of a good type, but a few trough closets still remain. It is desirable that these should be abolished as soon as possible.

X. DENTAL TREATMENT.

In addition to the School dental work for which the Herts County Council is responsible, there is also a Dental Clinic in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The following figures, however, for which I am indebted to Mr. C. H. Powell, refer to the work in connection with School children. Statistics relating to the Dental Treatment of Mothers and Infants will be found in the section of the Report dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare.

		Totals for period April, 1921 to Dec. 1936		
Number of children examined at School	793	...	23,957	
" " with sound dentures	340	...	9,881	
Attendances of Dentists :—				
Mr. A. C. Wilson (half day)	—	}	...	
Mr. L. Dinnis (half day)	41			
Mr. S. F. Fisk (half day)	41			
Attendances of children	2,661	...	36,287	
Average Attendance—Wednesdays (2 sessions)	36·0	}	...	
" " Fridays (morning)	12·1			
" " Fridays (afternoon)	14·3			
Number of children treated with Nitrous Oxide Gas	1,094	...	10,983	
Attendances of Dr. Reynolds (Anæsthetist)	44	...	447	
Average number treated per attendance	249	...	24·6	
FILLINGS	{ 1st Permanent Molar	331	}	...
	{ Other Permanent Teeth	203		
	{ Temporary Teeth	31		
EXTRACTIONS	{ Permanent Teeth	766	...	7,074
	{ Temporary Teeth	3,848	...	46,796
OTHER OPERATIONS :—				
Scaling, Dressing, etc.	90	...	1,289	

DETAILS—PERMANENT TEETH.

FILLINGS.				EXTRACTIONS.			
No. 1	...	...	122	No. 1	...	...	12
2	...	...	59	2	...	...	15
3	...	...	4	3	...	...	14
4	...	...	8	4	...	...	56
5	...	...	19	5	...	...	76
6	...	...	283	6	...	...	679
7	...	...	30	7	...	...	33
8	...	...	—	8	...	...	—
Total			525	Total			885

XI. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year 1936 the number of cases treated in hospital was 266 as compared with 248 in 1935 and 470 in 1934, when a large number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred. The number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria admitted was slightly less than in the previous year, but a larger number of non-notifiable diseases was admitted. The admission of an increasing number of measles, whooping cough and chicken pox has ensured that the cubicle wards have been well occupied for the greater part of the year. The new part of the hospital has thus proved its value, although the diphtheria block has not admitted a large number of cases. The operating theatre has also proved very useful on several occasions, and the conditions under which operations are now performed are of great benefit to the patients concerned. With regard to erysipelas, 16 cases were admitted, some of which were serious, but fortunately all the patients recovered. Only one death occurred in the hospital during the year. This was a case of septicæmia admitted from another institution, but also complicated by diphtheria infection

The figures for the year 1936 were as follows:—

In Hospital, 1st January, 1936	...	...	...	24
Cases admitted from Watford Borough	...	...	...	153
" " " Watford Rural District	...	...	...	32
" " " Rickmansworth U.D.C.	...	...	...	18
" " " Bushey U.D.C.	...	...	...	30
" " " Chorleywood U.D.C.	...	...	...	2
" " " St. Albans	...	...	...	2
" " " Hemel Hempstead	...	...	...	5
			TOTAL	266
				<hr/>
Patients discharged—cured—during 1936	...	...	...	248
" died in Hospital during 1936	...	...	...	1
" still in Hospital, 1st January, 1937	...	...	...	17
				<hr/>
				266
				<hr/>

The 17 cases in hospital, 1st January, 1937, consisted of 12 scarlet fever, 1 diphtheria, 2 chicken pox, 1 whooping cough and 1 cerebro spinal meningitis.

The following table gives the number of cases admitted from each district, and the total number of cases of each disease.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES ADMITTED FROM
THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN 1936.

District.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Measles.	Mumps.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox	Enteric	TOTALS.
Wattford Borough ...	67	18	7	2	27	1	16	15	—	153
Watford Rural ...	20	1	3	—	2	1	5	—	—	32
Bushey Urban ...	15	9	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	30
Rickmansworth Urban ...	8	—	1	1	2	—	6	—	—	18
Chorleywood Urban ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
St. Albans ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Hemel Hempstead ...	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	5
Totals ...	112	29	16	4	34	2	28	15	2	242

The number of deaths which occurred in the hospital were:—
diphtheria 1.

APPENDIX—INCUBATION AND EXCLUSION PERIODS OF THE COMMONER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table is published for the information of head teachers and others interested in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. It is practically identical with the table published in the official Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education.

It is necessary to have a uniform method of dealing with this matter in all the schools of the Borough and hence the value of publication of this table.

Disease	Incubation period	Interval between onset of illness and appearance of rash	Period of Exclusion.	
			Patient	Contacts
Scarlet Fever	1-8 days	1-2 days	Three weeks after return from hospital, or in the case of patients treated at home, three weeks after release from isolation.	One week after removal of patient to hospital, or in the case of patients at home one week after release from isolation.
Diphtheria	2-10 days	—	Three weeks after end of attack; or until pronounced free from infection by a medical practitioner.	Two weeks after removal of patient to hospital, or in the case of patients treated at home, ten days after release from isolation.
Measles	7-14 days	4 days	Three weeks from date of appearance of rash.	Infants and other children, who have not had the disease, three weeks from date of onset of last case in house.
German Measles	5-21 days	0-2 days	One week from the date of appearance of rash.	Infants and other children, who have not had the disease, three weeks from date of last exposure to patient with rash.
Whooping Cough...	6-18 days	—	Six weeks from commencement of cough.	Infants only, for six weeks from date of onset of last case, or three weeks from date of last exposure to infection.
Mumps ...	12-23 days	—	Until one week after subsidence of swelling.	No exclusion.
Chicken Pox	11-21 days	0-2 days	Three weeks, or until all scabs have disappeared.	Infants and other children, who have not had the disease, three weeks from date of last exposure to infection.
Smallpox	10-14 but usually 12 days	3 days	Six weeks, or until the patient is certified free from infection by a medical practitioner.	Sixteen days unless recently vaccinated, when exclusion is unnecessary.



