

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Watford U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

Watford (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1939

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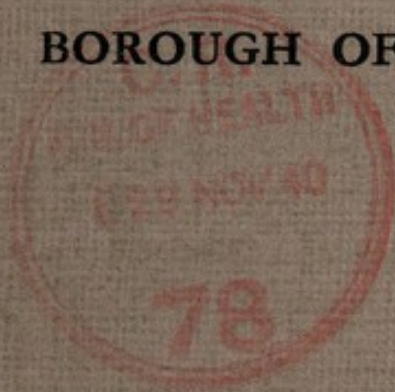


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BOROUGH OF



WATFORD



Annual Report

ON

Health, Sanitary Conditions

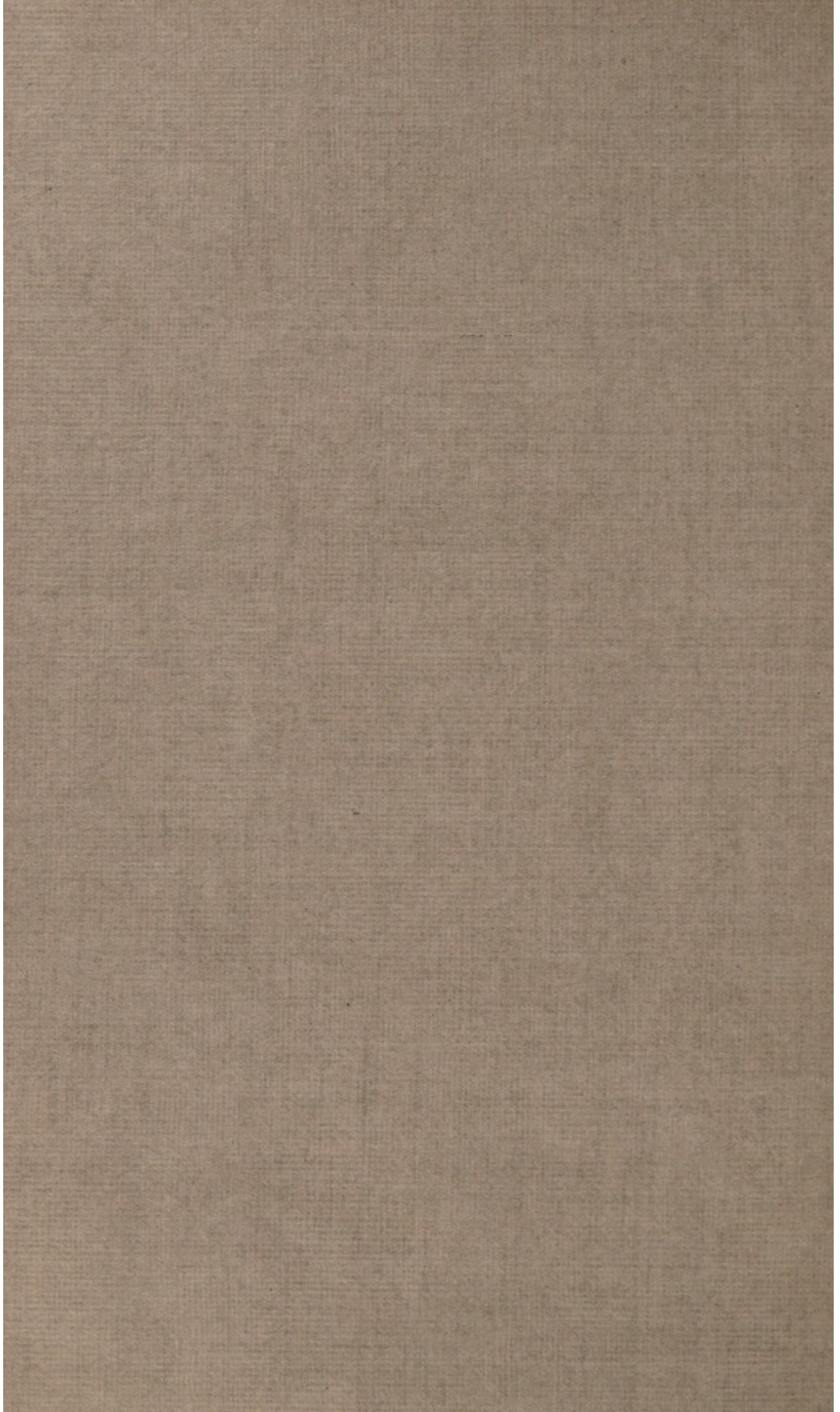
ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1939, 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 REPORT ON
WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL



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WATFORD

Watford Printers Limited, 58 Vicarage Road, Watford, Herts
1940



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
TOWN HALL,
WATFORD.

October, 1940.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

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

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

This year's report is an ordinary report which has been considerably abbreviated owing to the prevalence of war conditions. Certain tables and items of information which are usually published annually, have been omitted entirely in some cases or very much curtailed. Publication of this Report has been considerably delayed by the late arrival of the Registrar General's Statistics.

I have to report a Maternity Mortality which is nil, a low Infant Mortality, and the lowest record of only five cases of diphtheria for the whole year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. COX.

ARRANGEMENT OF ANNUAL REPORT.

I. GENERAL.

List of Public Health Staff.
Vital Statistics.

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

- (a) Nursing in the Home, and Midwives.
- (b) Laboratory Facilities.
- (c) Legislation in force.
- (d) Maternity and Nursing Homes.
- (e) Maternal Mortality.
- (f) Ambulance Facilities.
- (g) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water, Sanitary Inspection, Shops Act.

IV. HOUSING.

Statistics.

V. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Food Inspection, etc.

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious diseases
Cases notified. Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

- (a) Statistics.
- (b) Orthopædic Centre.
- (c) Pre-school Clinic.
- (d) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.
- (e) Dental Clinic.
- (f) Infant Life Protection.
- (g) Milk (Mothers and Children Order).

IX. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

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 of Health :—

THOMAS G. OSLER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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

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

Assistant Medical Officer (for Wiggenhall 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 :—

R. V. JACOB, M.S.I.A., CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

*Meat and Food Inspector :—

G. A. HILLER, M.R. SAN. I.

CERT. R. SAN. INST. (Meat and Foods).

" " " (Sanitary Science).

*Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :—

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

" " " (Meat and Foods).

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

" " " (Meat and Foods).

Inspector under Shops Act :—

A. CORKE.

Health Visitors :—

MISS D. BROWN, 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 G. K. MARSDEN, General Training and C.M.B.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

Clerks :—

(Public Health) R. A. SMITH.

(Maternity and Child Welfare) Miss G. M. BROADHEAD.

Miss S. HOOKER.

* Denotes salary contribution made by Exchequer grants.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—5,275 acres.

†Population to Mid-year 1939—66,520 (Registrar General's Estimate).

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

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, December 31st, 1938, was approximately 18,000.

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

Rateable value—£616,109 (March 31st, 1940). (See further particulars below).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,440 (April 1st, 1939).

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS OF RATEABLE VALUE OF THE BOROUGH ON 31st MARCH, 1940.

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

	£	Rate Poundage for half-year to 31st March, 1940.
Parish of Watford—No. 1 District ...	313,093	6/2 in £
Parish of Watford—No. 2 District ...	215,229	6/2 in £
Parish of Watford—Nascot Wood and Bradshaw Area ...	55,832	6/2 in £
Metropolitan Police District ...	21,370	6/2 in £
Leavesden, etc., Differential Rating Area ...	10,585	5/8 in £
	<u>£616,109</u>	

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

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

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	973	482	491	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.3.
	Illegitimate	51	24	27	
Stillbirths	...	35			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 15.8.
Deaths	...	722			Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.7.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis ...	0	0.00
Other puerperal causes ...	0	0.00
Total ...	0	0.00
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—		
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	36.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	...	125
" " Measles (all ages) ...	...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	2

The above figures indicate no unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF WATFORD.

The Registrar General's estimate of the normal population of Watford at Mid Year 1939 is 66,520, and this figure has been adopted for compiling our local statistics. This makes no allowance for evacuees and refugees, the number of which cannot be exactly estimated.

BIRTH RATE.—The number of births in the Borough of Watford during the last year after correction for inward and outward transfers was 1,024 compared with 1,004 in 1937. This gives a Birth Rate of 15.3.

This Birth Rate is a little more than that of the whole country for 1939 which was 15.0.

STILL BIRTHS.—Thirty-six still births were notified during the year compared with 23 in 1938. This gives a rate of .52 per 1,000 population as compared with .59 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 IN THE YEAR 1939.

ENGLAND AND WALES, LONDON, 126 GREAT TOWNS AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census).	London Administrative County.	WATFORD
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:					
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3	15.3
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44	0.59
Deaths:					
All causes... ..	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9	10.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18	0.04
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age... ..	50	53	40	48	
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2	3.22
Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.74	} Not available			0.00
Others	2.08				0.00
Total	2.82				0.00

DEATHS.—The number of deaths for the Borough after allowing for outward and inward transfers is, according to the Registrar-General's return, 722, as compared with 692 in the previous year.

This gives a *Death Rate* of 10.7 per 1,000 from all causes which compares favourably with London's Death Rate of 11.9 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...					365	357
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria...	...	...	...	—	1
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	2
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	26	12
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	2	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	56	69
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	11
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	19	15
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	103	102
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	16	18
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	13	13
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	15	12
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	3	4
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	5	4
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	2
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	3	3
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	1
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...	...	1	3
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	3	10
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	4	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	19	7
32.	Senility	...	...	...	10	22
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	5	2
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	22	15
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	30	23
36.	Causes-Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	—	—
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 36.1 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 48 and the whole country which is 50.

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 1 Mth.	1 to 3 Mths.	3 to 6 Mths.	6 to 9 Mths.	9 to 12 Mths.	Total.
Suffocation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	2	1	—	—	—	3
Congenital Cardiac Disease ...	2	2	—	—	—	4
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	1	3	1	—	1	6
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Prematurity ...	9	2	1	—	—	12
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis	3	1	1	1	—	6
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningeal Haemorrhage ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Miliary Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Shock and Toxæmia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Convulsions	1	—	—	—	—	1
Laryngeal Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Misadventure (Coroner) ...	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals	20	11	3	2	1	37

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) HOME NURSING AND MIDWIVES.

THE WATFORD AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION has its headquarters at 37 Langley Road. It was founded in 1935, and at first confined its activities to the area of the Borough of Watford. A new home has been built in Alexandra Road.

An annual grant to the Society is made by the Watford Corporation.

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.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Diphtheria swabs from the Borough are sent to the Peace Memorial Hospital for examination; also certain other pathological specimens. Swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital for K.L.B. and haemolytic streptococcus are also examined there. The pathological work at this hospital has recently been greatly extended under Sector IV of the new Emergency Medical Service.

(c) 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.

(d) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The Stanboroughs Maternity Home has ceased to exist since the war time changes at this Institution. The accommodation in Watford is now as follows: King Street Hospital, 25 beds, and Watford P.A.I., 8 beds.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from puerperal pyrexia during the year 1939 and none from "other puerperal causes". This gives a maternal mortality of nil for Watford, as compared with 2.82 for England and Wales.

(f) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

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. These Corporation ambulances now form part of the fleet of ambulances used for A.R.P. and are under the direct control of the Medical Officer of Health.

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

These are the same as in the previous year with the following additional units :—

- (1) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Stanboroughs.
- (2) Ante-Natal Centre, Stanboroughs.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from three sources.

- (I) and (II) *The Borough's own supplies from wells in Watford Fields and at Grove Mill.*

Samples are analysed by Messrs. Beale and Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories once a fortnight. These supplies are sterilised by the chloramine process.

- (III) *A supply from the Colne Valley Water Co. which is distributed to the Oxhey District. This supply is sterilised by chlorination, followed by dechlorination with sulphur dioxide before distribution in the mains.*

The Borough water supply is partly softened by the removal of "temporary" hardness. Reports from our analysts almost invariably shew a high degree of bacterial purity. It may be described as a moderately hard and wholesome water.

REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Housing

Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	57
Houses defective	...	...	57
Re-inspections	...	...	171
Houses rendered fit	...	...	89
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts:			
(i) Upon complaint	...	...	154
(ii) Notice from owner or builder	...	...	1
(iii) Through observation	...	...	—
Houses defective	...	...	154
Re-inspections	...	...	489
Houses rendered fit	...	...	181
Verminous dwellings	...	...	48
Houses inspected for Rent Restriction Act Certificate	...	...	—
Special visits, insanitary areas, overcrowding, etc.	...	...	86
Drains tested (i) Smoke	...	...	2
(ii) Water	...	...	3
(iii) Other	...	...	111

Infectious Diseases

Cases investigated	...	...	98
School Visits	...	...	32
Re-visits, disinfection, enquiries, etc.	...	...	19

Meat and Other Foods (Number of visits paid)

Slaughterhouses	...	...	1,578
Butchers' shops	...	...	839
Fish shops	...	...	902
Food preparing premises	...	...	219
Markets and Stalls	...	...	329
Other food premises	...	...	92

Dairies and Cowsheds

Dairies	437
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

Factories

Power factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	279
Non-power factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Other premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Unreasonable temperature	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary conveniences	{ Insufficient		...	...	...	...	2
	{ Unsuitable or defective		...	...	...	...	7
	{ Not separate for sexes		...	...	...	...	—
Other offences (not outworkers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Smoke nuisances, observations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	150

Other Inspections

Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Manure pits, offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Refuse tip	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Tents and vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rats and Mice Destruction Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Petroleum installations	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Watercress beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	438

SHOPS ACT, 1924.

LIST OF VISITS PAID AND ACTION TAKEN IN 1939.

Routine visits, Inspection of Records, etc.	1,129
Visits paid to shops on Wednesday, Early Closing Day ...	586
Evening visits to shops, and observation on shops, after Legal Closing Hours, allowed to be open for Exempted Goods	666
Reports submitted to Town Clerk of Infringement of Shops Act for consideration	8
Summons taken out	1
Fines imposed in Cases	1
Warnings sent to remainder	7
Warnings issued <i>re</i> infringements of Shops Act	37
New Shops added to records	6
Visits paid to Shops (Sunday Restriction Act)	429

MEASURES TAKEN TO SECURE HEALTH AND COMFORT OF SHOP WORKERS.

Unsatisfactory premises in need of repair, etc. (now in good order)	8
Heating installed in shops	1
Lavatory accommodation now provided in shops	1
Washing Facilities provided	2
Notices of exemption Lavatory accommodation issued to shops	1

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938

Shops Act, 1912. Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, 1928.

Proposed closing orders published on July 13, 1939.

(a) HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	408
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

9 INSPECTION OF DWELLING - HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	211
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	871
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	57
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	228
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	211

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	270
--	-----

III. 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	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 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 | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

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 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 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 |

IV.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV, OVERCROWDING :—

- | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | ... | 104 |
| (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 |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report | .... | ... | ... | Nil |

(b) **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

An Annual Statement of particulars about this work is required by the Ministry of Health and the particulars are as follows :

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. Premises dealt with for bugs, Public Health Department | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Premises dealt with for bugs, Corporation Housing Department | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Total | | | | <u>64</u> |

2. The methods employed were as follows :—
 - (a) Removal of woodwork.
 - (b) Burning by blowlamp to kill eggs.
 - (c) Application of germicidal liquid by brush and spray. Zaldecide is used for this purpose.
3. The methods employed to ensure that the belongings of tenants were free from vermin before removal to Council houses were as follows :—

Belongings were examined and destroyed where necessary, new materials being provided in some cases.
4. The work of disinfestation was carried out by private owners with assistance and supervision by the Public Health Department.

V. FACTORIES

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

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	279	25	—
Factories without mechanical power	59	—	—
Other Premises	—	—	—
TOTAL	338	25	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	78	77	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	2	1	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	7	7	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	9	9	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
TOTAL	100	98	—	—

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK.

There is one cowshed in occupation in the Borough. In this shed there are 35 cows kept, the milk from which is used in the district. Besides this there are no less than 59 different milk supplies produced in other districts, which come into the Borough.

During the year 79 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	...	...	...	79
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	62, or 78.4%
Number found with tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	1, or 1.2%
Number found with blood or pus cells	...	...	...	16, or 20.2%

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 Tuberculin Tested milk.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.—Under this Order there are three licensed vendors of Tuberculin Tested 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 one other dairy.

(b) FOOD INSPECTION.

Total number of Animals examined.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
5,251	8,466	11,132	2,207

Condemned and Destroyed.

5,772 st. English Beef.
268 st. Imported Beef, Mutton and Pork.
67 st. Pork.
98 Beasts and all Organs (Weight 5,908 st.)
9 Calves and all Organs (Weight 70 st.)
3,165 Beasts' Organs.
7 Sheep and all Organs (Weight 55 st.)
153 Sheep's Plucks.
27 Pigs and all Organs (Weight 270 st.)
288 Pigs' Heads and Plucks.
67 st. Fish.
30 lbs. Bacon.
17 Fowls.
466 Rabbits (English and Imported).
1,773 lbs. Canned Food.

1939

	CATTLE <i>excluding Cows</i>	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number Killed	3,114	2,137	2,207	8,466	11,132
Number Inspected	3,114	2,137	2,207	8,466	11,132
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS (1) Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	—	8	—	1	13
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	167	284	—	141	149
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	5.36	13.6	—	1.67	1.46
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY (1) Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	6	80	4	—	10
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	148	715	—	—	143
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.94	32.52	0.18	—	1.37

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.—95 cases occurred, of which 93 were admitted to hospital. No death occurred from this disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Three cases occurred, 2 of paratyphoid B and one of typhoid. No death resulted from these diseases.

DIPHTHERIA.—Only 5 cases occurred, with one death. This small number of cases is almost phenomenal, being the lowest number of cases on record in any year in Watford.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.—This was started in 1935. The following figures show the work which has been done during the last four years.

		1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Total Attendances	...	539	705	436	522	580
Injections	... ..	405	149	285	309	229
Schick Tests	... ..	50	27	15	15	15
Positive Schick Tests	...	30	12	13	6	2
Negative Schick Tests	...	15	12	2	9	13
Post-Schick Tests	...	72	71	65	110	84
Positive Post-Schick Tests		1	1	3	2	0
Negative Post-Schick Tests		71	70	62	108	84

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 cases over 15 years. Preliminary Schick and Post-Schick tests were also used. Dr. Margaret Ward is the Medical Officer in charge of this clinic. The cases dealt with were as follows: 95 pre-school children, 36 school children, one adult, and 5 nurses from the Isolation Hospital who were Schick tested and found negative.

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE injections were also given to 6 cases who made 16 attendances.

ERYSIPELAS.—Nineteen cases were notified as compared with 13 in the previous year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Nineteen cases were notified. No death occurred from this disease nor from "other Puerperal Causes."

PNEUMONIA (which includes primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia).—Twelve 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 incidence of these diseases occurred, but each in a mild form, resulting in no death from either disease.

INFLUENZA.—A comparatively mild type of this disease was prevalent in 1939 which caused 4 deaths as compared with 9 in the previous year.

VENEREAL DISEASES are dealt with by the County Council. Until this year no treatment centres had been established in the County owing to facilities for treatment which were easily available in London. It is now very difficult for cases to receive treatment in London owing to disorganisation of hospital services. The County Council has established a Venereal Diseases Clinic at Oster House, St. Albans, which is known as the Special Clinic. Cases from Watford are referred there.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1939—BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	11	4	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	95	93	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	5	5	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)					3	3	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...		1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...		19	—	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12	1	—

TABLE E shows that two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified, both of which were treated with satisfactory results.

TABLE E.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	Cases			Vision Unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	At Hos- pital				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Two	Nil	Two	Two	Nil	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	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	2	2	—	1	1	4	—	—
25	...	...	7	1	2	—	4	—	1	—
35	...	...	8	3	1	—	8	3	—	—
45	...	...	2	2	—	—	4	—	1	—
55	...	...	8	2	—	—	8	1	1	—
65 and upwards			1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	...		33	12	4	2	27	11	3	—

Of the 41 cases who died from tuberculosis, all were 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 is only one cowshed in the Borough at which none of the workers suffers 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 urgently necessary 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 388 visits of this nature were paid. There are several shelters in use by patients in the Borough.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

The following is a list of activities carried out under the scheme in the shape of clinics and centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road—Tuesdays.

Wiggenhall House—Fridays.

Wesleyan Schoolroom, Harebreaks—Mondays.

Scouts' Hall, Leggatts Way—Tuesdays.

Stanboroughs—Wednesdays.

The following are also held at 1 St. Albans Road :

Pre-School (Toddlers') Clinic—Wednesdays.

Ante-Natal and Mothercraft Centre—Thursdays.

Post-Natal Centre—2nd and 4th Mondays.

Dental Clinic—1st and 3rd Mondays.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held every Wednesday Morning in The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road.

The work has been extended this year by taking over the Stanboroughs Infant Welfare Centre and Ante-Natal Clinic.

(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.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
First visits	826	942	987	991	1080	1022
Re-visits	3278	2328	4096	2889	4468	4345
Visits 1 - 5 years	2020	2066	2957	5127	5201	6602
Ante-natal	240	195	243	251	220	280
Tuberculosis, Dental visits, etc.	417	503	589	520	615	741
Total visits paid	6781	6034	8872	9778	11584	12990

II. Attendances at the Centres.

Centre.	Weighings.	Consultations.	Number of Infants on Books.	New Cases Examined.
Leggatts Way	2,253	552	203	160
The Hut	2,774	354	317	237
Wiggenhall House	2,899	609	184	165
North Watford... ..	3,716	789	397	245
Stanboroughs	299	73	113	69
Totals... ..	13,941	2,375	1214*	876

*The above figure of 1,214 infants on the books refers to children under the age of 18 months. In addition there are 618 other children (the so-called 'toddlers') attending the centres, making a total of 2,147 children under five years on the books.

III. Other Statistics.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
<i>Ante-natal Clinic:</i>						
Mothers attending ...	220	298	312	358	374	434
Total attendances ...	767	896	866	861	1318	1366
<i>Dental Clinic:</i>						
Ante-natal cases ...	34	79	60	47	71	60
Nursing mothers ...	50	52	58	81	92	119
Children ...	135	119	126	127	151	155
<i>Orthopaedic Centre:</i>						
Cases referred for treatment ...	100	97	99	95	108	111
<i>Free Milk:</i>						
Number of Cases ...	107	107	161	199	253	407
<i>Post-natal Clinic:</i>						
Mothers attending ...	—	48	38	41	77	42
Number of attendances	—	58	59	71	86	77

ATTENDANCES OF INFANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.—485 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 2,183 attendances on the part of the 405 cases mentioned. The above figures include 52 mothers and children attending the Dental Clinic, 71 at the Toddlers' Clinic, and 47 Ante-Natal cases.

(b) RED CROSS ORTHOPÆDIC CENTRE.

Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S., who is assisted by Mr. W. Coltart, F.R.C.S., attends as consultant at the Centre which is 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 further grants for splints. In addition, cases referred for treatment at the Orthopædic Hospital are also assisted. At the present time this valuable work is being continued as usual, 111 cases having been dealt with during the last year.

(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 :

The attendance at this clinic during 1939 was well up to the average, except immediately following the outbreak of war.

The standard of nutrition and cleanliness was well maintained.

Among the cases requiring special treatment, the largest numbers were those referred to the dental and orthopaedic clinics. Next in order were those requiring ophthalmic and nose and throat treatment.

Co-operation was kept up with the Oxhey Nursery School, which continued to do its useful work, in spite of adverse conditions.

Number of Sessions.	...	...	...	...	...	52
Consultations, New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	381
Consultations, Old Cases	...	...	...	...	...	333
Consultations, Total Cases	.....	...	...	...	...	714
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	1375
Cases requiring Special Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	194
Cases requiring Home Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	159
Cases requiring No Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	71
Vaccinated Children	...	...	...	...	...	50

(d) REPORT ON ANTE-NATAL AND POST NATAL CLINICS.

By DR. WINIFRED PIGGOTT.

During 1939 there have been 100 sessions and the total attendances have been 1,270, giving an average attendance of 12.7 per session.

The number of first visits was 433 and 746 re-visits at the ante-natal clinics and a total of 81 consultations for post-natal cases.

The outstanding feature of this year's figures is the increase in the number of first visits, i.e., 433 consultations as against 374 last year. This reflects the total increase in the population of Watford and the evacuation of London mothers during the first three months of the war.

(e) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL CLINIC.

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 334 cases received treatment during the past year. Twenty-three sessions were held. Seven mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets, and in one case assistance was given by the Council in paying part of the cost.

(f) 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 Brown:—

Number of persons on register who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year	33
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

FOSTER CHILDREN.

Coming under observation during 1938	32
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

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

(a) 4 were under twelve months.

(b) 47 were over twelve months and under nine years of age

Number who entered Watford with their foster children	3
---	-----	-----	-----	---

Removed from observation during the year:

(a) Number given up or returned to parents	13
--	-----	-----	-----	----

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

(c) Legally adopted	3
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(d) Removed to Institutions	2
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

(e) Left Watford	1
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(f) Reached the age of nine	1
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Remaining under observation:

(a) Under twelve months	7
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) Over twelve months	39
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

TOTAL	46
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Total number of visits paid	224
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(g) **MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER 1920.**

The object of giving grants of free milk to necessitous cases under this order is to ensure improvement of nutrition in both mother and child. There is careful investigation of all cases by the Health Visitor, due care being taken to avoid overlapping with charitable and other organisations performing a similar work. The amount of milk granted has not been limited to one pint per day in cases where more was necessary, and in some instances grants of dried milk were made, also malt and cod liver oil when necessary. The number of cases assisted was as follows: 293 cases received fresh milk free, 114 cases dried milk, and 266 cases were supplied with cod liver oil and malt.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under the Notification of Births Act 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 38 still births :—

Notified by :—

(a) Medical Practitioners and Parents ...	165
(b) Midwives	826
(c) Registrar of Births, not having been previously notified	71
	<hr/>
	1062
	<hr/>

IX. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The number of cases admitted during the year 1939 was 283 compared with 361 in 1938, and 236 in 1937. Including 43 cases who were under treatment in hospital from the previous year, this makes a total of 326 patients treated during the year 1939. The following table gives the number of cases admitted from each district, and also the total number of cases of each disease.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES ADMITTED FROM
THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN 1939.

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pneumonia	Enteric	German Measles	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Totals
Watford Borough ...	93	5	4	-	1	3	2	-	17	-	5	130
Watford Rural ...	23	14	1	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	2	48
Bushey Urban ...	30	13	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	52
Rickmansworth Urban ...	21	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	33
Chorleywood Urban ...	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	19
Hemel Hempstead Rural	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals ...	176	41	7	1	1	3	3	4	26	4	17	283

Only one death occurred in the Hospital in 1939, due to Diphtheria.

