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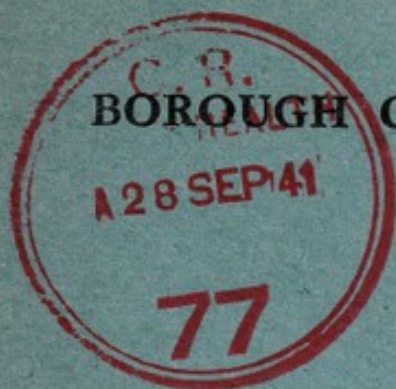
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BOROUGH OF



WATFORD

Annual Report

ON

Health, Sanitary Conditions

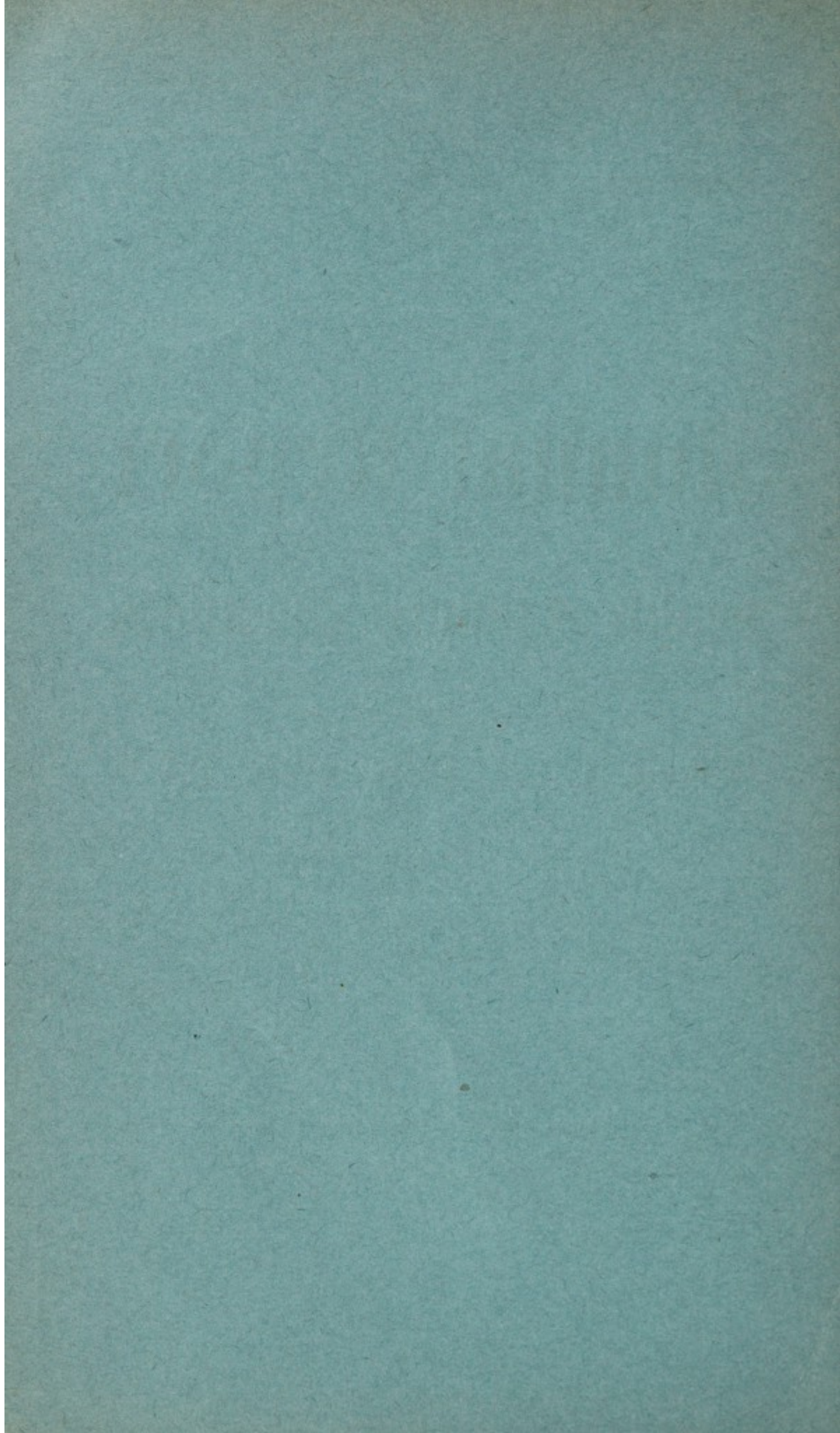
ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1940, 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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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
TOWN HALL,
WATFORD.

August, 1941.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

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

It is actually the sixty-eighth 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. This Report is therefore on similar lines to that of the previous 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.

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).

*Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector :—

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

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

" " " " (Sanitary Science).

*Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :—

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

" " " (Meat and Foods).

J. GREEN, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

" " " (Meat and Foods).

Inspector under Shops Act :—

A. CORKE.

Health Visitors :—

MISS D. BROWN, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS ELSIE F. POTTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS M. ROBERTSON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS G. K. MARSDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

Clerks :—

MRS/ D. READING (temporary).

(Public Health) R. A. SMITH (on active service).

(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 1940—67,430 (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—£630,438 (March 31st, 1941). (See further particulars below).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,460 (April 1st, 1940).

† Excluding military and other temporary population.

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS OF RATEABLE VALUE OF THE BOROUGH ON 31st MARCH, 1941.

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 30th Sept., 1941.
Parish of Watford—No. 1 District ...	321,283	6/5 in £
Parish of Watford—No. 2 District ...	217,484	6/5 in £
Parish of Watford—Nascot Wood and Bradshaw Area ...	58,741	6/5 in £
Metropolitan Police District ...	21,356	6/5 in £
Leavesden, etc., Differential Rating Area ...	11,574	6/3 in £
	<u>£630,438</u>	

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

Water Rate for the whole of Water Supply Area ... 8d. in £

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

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

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	977	502	475	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.1.
	Illegitimate	37	19	16	
Stillbirths	... ..	42			
Deaths	... ..	807			Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.7.
Deaths from puerperal causes:—					
				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
	Puerperal sepsis	... ..		0	0.00
	Other puerperal causes	... ..		6	0.58
	Total	... ..		6	0.58
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
	All infants per 1,000 live births				44.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..				91
" " Measles (all ages)	... ..				0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..				1
" " Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	... ..				4

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 1940 is 67,430, 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 1,014 compared with 1,024 in 1940. This gives a Birth Rate of 15.1.

This Birth Rate is a little more than that of the whole country for 1940 which was 14.6.

STILL BIRTHS.—Forty-two still births were notified during the year compared with 35 in 1940. This gives a rate of .62 per 1,000 population as compared with .55 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 1940.

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 in- cluding London.	148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census).	London Administra- tive County.	WATFORD
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:					
Live	14·6	16·0	15·7	13·7	—
Still	0·55	0·64	0·55	0·44	0·59
Deaths:					
All causes	14·3	15·8	12·8	17·8	11·7
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough...	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·03	0·00
Diphtheria	0·05	0·07	0·04	0·02	0·01
Influenza	0·32	0·29	0·30	0·18	0·03
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age... ..	55	61	54	50	44·3
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4·6	5·9	4·4	5·8	3·9

DEATHS.—The number of deaths for the Borough after allowing for outward and inward transfers is, according to the Registrar-General's Return, 807, as compared with 722 in the previous year.

This gives a *Death Rate* of 11.7 per 1,000 from all causes which compares favourably with London's Death Rate of 17.8 and with the Death Rate of the whole country, which was 14.3 per 1,000.

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

TABLE B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.
All Causes	390	417
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough... ..	—	1
5. Diphtheria... ..	1	1
6. Influenza	3	4
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	2
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	16	16
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	4
11. Syphilis	3	1
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	42	49
14. Diabetes	4	7
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	27	34
16. Heart Disease	102	121
17. Aneurysm	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	7	12
19. Bronchitis	27	24
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	26	23
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	4	4
22. Peptic Ulcer	11	2
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	4	—
24. Appendicitis	4	2
25. Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	—	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	6	12
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	9	9
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes	—	6
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	18	6
32. Road Traffic, etc.... ..	4	4
33. Suicide	1	1
34. Other Violence	18	27
35. All other causes	45	45
36. Causes-ill-defined or Unknown	—	—

INFANT DEATHS.—Under the age of 12 months. These number 45, giving an *Infant Death Rate* of 44.3 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 50 and the whole country which is 55.

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.
Marasmus	2	1	—	—	—	3
Congenital Cardiac Disease ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	5	2	—	—	—	7
Congenital Debility, Malforma- tion and Prematurity ...	21	1	—	—	—	22
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis	1	1	2	—	1	5
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Septicaemia	—	1	1	—	—	2
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	—	2
Hoffmans' Paralysis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	32	7	3	0	3	45

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) HOME NURSING AND MIDWIVES.

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

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.

For these lists see previous Annual Reports. No further Acts have recently been added to the list.

(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 1940 and six from "other puerperal causes". This gives a maternal mortality of 5.9 per thousand births for Watford.

(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 pre-war years with the following additional units :—

- (1) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Stanboroughs.
- (2) Ante-Natal Centre, Stanboroughs.
- (3) Additional Clinics for Diphtheria Immunisation.
- (4) Child Guidance Clinic.

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 1940.**

Housing

Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses defective	...	...	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	17
Houses rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	4
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts :						
(i) Upon complaint	...	...	...	...	...	173
(ii) Notice from owner or builder	...	...	...	...	...	4
(iii) Through observation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses defective	...	...	...	...	...	141
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	480
Houses rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	109
Verminous dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	45
Houses inspected for Rent Restriction Act Certificate						
Drains tested (i) Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Water	...	...	...	...	...	7
(iii) Other	...	...	...	...	...	36

Infectious Diseases

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	155
School Visits	...	...	...	...	...	10
Re-visits, disinfection, enquiries, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	89

Meat and Other Foods (Number of visits paid)

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1,265
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	220
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	201
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	59
Markets and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	257
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	36

**MEASURES TAKEN TO SECURE HEALTH AND COMFORT
OF SHOP WORKERS.**

Unsatisfactory premises in need of repair, etc. (now in good order)	1
Heating installed in shops	4
Lavatory accommodation now provided in shops	3
Washing Facilities provided	1
Notices of exemption Lavatory accommodation issued to shops	1

(a) HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	89
(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)	180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	480
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
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	141

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	109
--	-----

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	1
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 ...	1
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	10
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

(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	45
	Premises dealt with for bugs, Corporation Housing Department	14
	Total	<u>59</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	69	—	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power	17	—	—
OTHER PREMISES	—	—	—
TOTAL	86	—	—

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)	21	21	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	12	10	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	1	1	—	—
(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	34	32	—	—

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 50 different milk supplies produced in other districts, which come into the Borough.

During the year 50 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	...	...	...	50
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	44
Number found with tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	1
Number found with blood or pus cells	...	...	...	5

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.

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.	Total
7,905	32,545	11,576	6,633	58,653

Condemned and Destroyed.

5,648 st. English Beef.
47 st. Mutton.
421 st. Imported Beef, Mutton and Pork.
515 st. Pork.
126 Beasts and all Organs (Weight 7,765 st.)
66 Calves and all Organs (Weight 334 st.)
5,043 Beasts' Organs.
98 Sheep and all Organs (Weight 501 st.)
603 Sheep's Plucks.
186 Pigs and all Organs (Weight 1,398 st.)
1,281 Pigs' Heads and Plucks.
70 st. Fish.
280 lbs. Bacon.
30 lbs. Butter.
48 Rabbits (English and Imported).
1,815 lbs. Canned Food.
12 st. Veal.
38 Calves' Plucks.
90 st. Imported Calves' Kidneys.
614 Eggs.
48 Imported Chickens.
168 lbs. Meat Pies and Black Puddings.
50 lbs. Sausages.

	Cattle <i>excluding</i> Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	5,301	2,604	6,633	32,545	11,570
Number Inspected	5,301	2,604	6,633	32,545	11,570
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
(1) Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	1	5	26	51	46
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	156	273	3	429	211
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Diseases other than Tuberculosis	2.9	10.6	0.4	1.4	2.2
Tuberculosis Only					
(1) Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	16	89	12	—	43
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	281	885	2	—	425
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.6	37.4	0.2	—	4.0

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.—85 cases occurred, of which 79 were admitted to hospital. No death occurred from this disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Only one case of enteric fever occurred, with recovery.

DIPHTHERIA.—Seventy cases of diphtheria occurred with 2 deaths. The great majority of these cases occurred in North Watford, where a Children's Home was involved in the outbreak, which resulted in a large number of "carriers." In this particular institution very few clinical cases occurred, owing to the adoption of a scheme of diphtheria immunisation there. Fortunately the type of disease was mild in character.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—In accordance with paragraph 7 of Circular 2230, the following action was taken in the Borough of Watford. Previous to this a diphtheria immunisation clinic which started in 1935 was already functioning. Dr. Margaret Ward is Medical Officer in charge of this clinic, which deals chiefly with children under the age of five years. Under the new scheme this clinic is being extended to two sessions per week conducted by Dr. Margaret Ward who is also responsible for another clinic, in another part of the town. In addition to these three sessions per week conducted by Dr. Ward, Dr. Osler, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, also attends three sessions per week. He is assisted at one of these sessions by a local practitioner, and also by a technical expert provided by Professor Miles of the Ministry of Health Laboratory, Watford. Assistance is also rendered to Dr. Ward and Dr. Osler by Health Visitors and A.R.P. workers. In addition to the six sessions per week already mentioned, Dr. Osler visits the Schools in the Borough. The head teachers have distributed circulars to the parents with consent form attached, which parents have filled in. In general it may be said that the parents have reacted very favourably to this appeal, and the head teachers have rendered valuable assistance by distributing forms and organising the scheme in their schools. Assistance is given by the School Nurses who are responsible for arranging the sessions at the schools and for entering on the school cards a record of the injections given. In addition a record card of each case is kept at the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics. It has been found that the majority of parents raise no objection to treatment at a clinic or at a session held at the school. In a few cases, parents have expressed a preference for treatment at the hands of the medical attendant of the family. They are at liberty to obtain this treatment from their own doctor at a suitable fee. Several local authorities in this district have an arrangement with local practitioners under which they pay the doctor a fee of 2/6 per injection or 5/- per case. The Borough of Watford has also agreed to carry out this system of treatment and to pay the practitioner's fees in cases where parents are unable to pay a fee. Doctors have been requested to submit accounts for fees in cases where treatment has been given under this scheme. After some experience of the working of a scheme in Watford, it is evident that a high percentage of the population susceptible to diphtheria infection will eventually be protected. With

regard to dosage, a first dose of 0.1 c.c. is given, followed after an interval of four weeks by a dose of 0.3 c.c. The prophylactic used is Alum Precipitated Toxoid supplied by the Ministry of Health. The new arrangements as outlined in this report began at the end of 1940. Up to this time, Dr. Margaret Ward conducted her clinic as in previous years, and her Report here follows :—

REPORT ON DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC, 1940

Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	863
Injections	...	...	...	...	...	560
Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	...	12
Positive Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	...	8
Negative Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	...	4
Final Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	...	140
Positive Final Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	...	3
Negative Final Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	...	137
Additional Injections	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cases attending	...	...	...	...	...	192
Cases aged under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	129
Cases aged 5 to 15 years	...	...	...	...	...	54
Cases aged over 15 years	...	...	...	...	...	9
Material used for Injections : T.A.M., A.P.T., and T.A.F.						

WHOOPING COUGH Injections (preventive and curative) : 73.

ERYSIPELAS.—Seventeen cases were notified as compared with 19 in the previous year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Nine cases were notified. No death occurred from this disease but there were 6 deaths from "other Puerperal Causes."

PNEUMONIA (which includes primary pneumonia and influenza pneumonia).—Sixteen 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 measles and one from whooping cough. A hundred and thirty-one cases of whooping cough were notified and 134 cases of measles.

INFLUENZA.—A comparatively mild type of this disease was prevalent in 1940 which caused 7 deaths.

VENEREAL DISEASES are dealt with by the County Council, a clinic for Watford has now been opened at Shrodells Hospital. The times of attendance are as follows :—

Men.—Tuesdays, 5 - 7 p.m.; Fridays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Women and Children.—Mondays, 5 - 7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 - 12 noon.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1940—BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Disease.				Total	Cases	
				Cases	admitted to	Total
				Notified.	Hospital.	Deaths.
Erysipelas	...	...	...	17	8	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	85	79	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	70	64	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)				1	1	Nil
Cerebral-spinal Fever	...	...	...	14	12	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	9	—	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	16	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	134	7	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	131	4	1

TABLE E shows that one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified, which was treated with satisfactory results.

TABLE E.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

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

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	2	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	2	—	—	1	3	—	—
20	4	7	—	—	3	4	1	—
25	7	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
35	4	4	1	1	5	2	—	—
45	7	1	—	—	7	2	—	—
55	4	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	31	21	1	3	23	14	1	—

Of the 38 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 387 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.
 Balmoral Road Mission Hall—Mondays.
 Scouts' Hall, Leggatts Way—Tuesdays.
 Stanboroughs—Wednesdays.

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

Pre-School (Toddlers') Clinic—Wednesdays.
 Ante- and Post-Natal Centre—Mondays and Thursdays.
 Dental Clinic—1st, 2nd and 3rd Mondays.
 Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held every Wednesday Morning in The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road.
 Additional sessions are also being held.

(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	1940
First Visits ...	826	942	987	991	1080	1022	1106
Re-visits ...	3278	2328	4096	2889	4468	4345	4108
Visits 1 - 5 years ...	2020	2066	2957	5127	5201	6602	5471
Ante-natal ...	240	195	243	251	220	280	79
Tuberculosis, Dental visits, etc. ...	417	503	589	520	615	741	1023
Total visits paid ...	6781	6034	8872	9778	11584	12990	11787

II. Attendances at the Centres.

Centre.	Weighings.	Consultations.	Number of Infants on Books.	New Cases Examined.
Leggatts Way ...	3,549	821	273	268
The Hut ...	3,919	554	382	365
Wiggenhall House ...	4,055	664	215	286
North Watford... ..	4,982	1129	376	280
Stanboroughs ...	3291	688	301	274
The Hut Toddlers ...	1282	654	576	440
Totals... ..	21,078	4,510	2123	1913

III. Other Statistics.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
<i>Ante-natal Clinic:</i>							
Mothers attending ...	220	298	312	358	374	434	441
Total attendances ...	767	896	866	861	1318	1366	1356
<i>Dental Clinic:</i>							
Ante-natal cases ...	34	79	60	47	71	60	83
Nursing mothers ...	50	52	58	81	92	119	116
Children ...	135	119	126	127	151	155	182
<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	† Nil
<i>Post-natal Clinic:</i>							
Mothers attending ...	—	48	38	41	77	42	52
Number of attendances	—	58	59	71	86	77	91

ATTENDANCES OF INFANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.—614 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 2,210 attendances on the part of the 614 cases mentioned. The above figures include 52 mothers and children attending the Dental Clinic, 54 at the Toddlers' Clinic, and 57 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 £55 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.

† Scheme superseded by Government Scheme in 1940.

(c) REPORT ON PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC, 1940.

Number of Sessions	...	...	...	...	...	51
Consultations, New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	380
Consultations, Old Cases	...	...	...	...	...	296
Consultations, Total Cases	...	...	...	...	...	676
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	1,281
Cases requiring Special Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	208
Cases requiring Home Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	199
Cases requiring No Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	42
Cases from Other Boroughs	...	...	...	...	...	91
Vaccinated Children	...	...	...	...	...	104

The Pre-School Clinic held 51 sessions during 1940, with a good average attendance. Of the 380 new cases examined, nearly a quarter had come into Watford from other boroughs, as a result of war conditions. Some of these newcomers are making a long stay in the town, and others have been merely birds of passage. For this reason, the figures in this table have been compiled from a mixed variety of children, but the total results have not been greatly affected thereby. The attendance of old cases was less than usual, and this was probably due in part to the moving away from the town of some of our regular attenders.

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

(d) 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 381 cases received treatment during the past year. Thirty-three sessions were held. Five 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.

(e) 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 38

FOSTER CHILDREN.

Coming under observation during 1940 40
Number on books at the end of the year 39

(a) 4 were under twelve months.

(b) 35 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 9

(b) Died... .. —

(c) Legally adopted 2

(d) Removed to Institutions —

(e) Left Watford 4

(f) Reached the age of nine 1

Remaining under observation:

(a) Under twelve months 2

(b) Over twelve months 37

TOTAL 39

Total number of visits paid 282

IX. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The number of cases admitted during the year 1940 was 417, compared with 283 in 1939, and 361 in 1938. 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 1940.

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Enteric	German Measles	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Totals
Watford Borough ...	89	103	8	15	2	23	7	4	4	1	256
Watford Rural ...	30	7	3	1	-	2	-	1	7	7	58
Bushey Urban ...	17	4	2	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	29
Rickmansworth Urban ...	18	8	-	2	1	-	2	-	3	-	34
Chorleywood Urban ...	2	-	-	-	-	9	2	-	3	11	27
Totals ...	156	122	13	21	3	36	11	6	17	19	404

Seven deaths occurred in the Hospital in 1940: Diphtheria 1, Whooping Cough 1, Cerebro-sp. Fever 5.

In addition, the following 13 cases were admitted from districts outside the area of the Joint Hospital Board:—

Hemel Hempstead.—Cerebro-spinal fever 2.

Hendon—Scarlet Fever 3, Diphtheria 5.

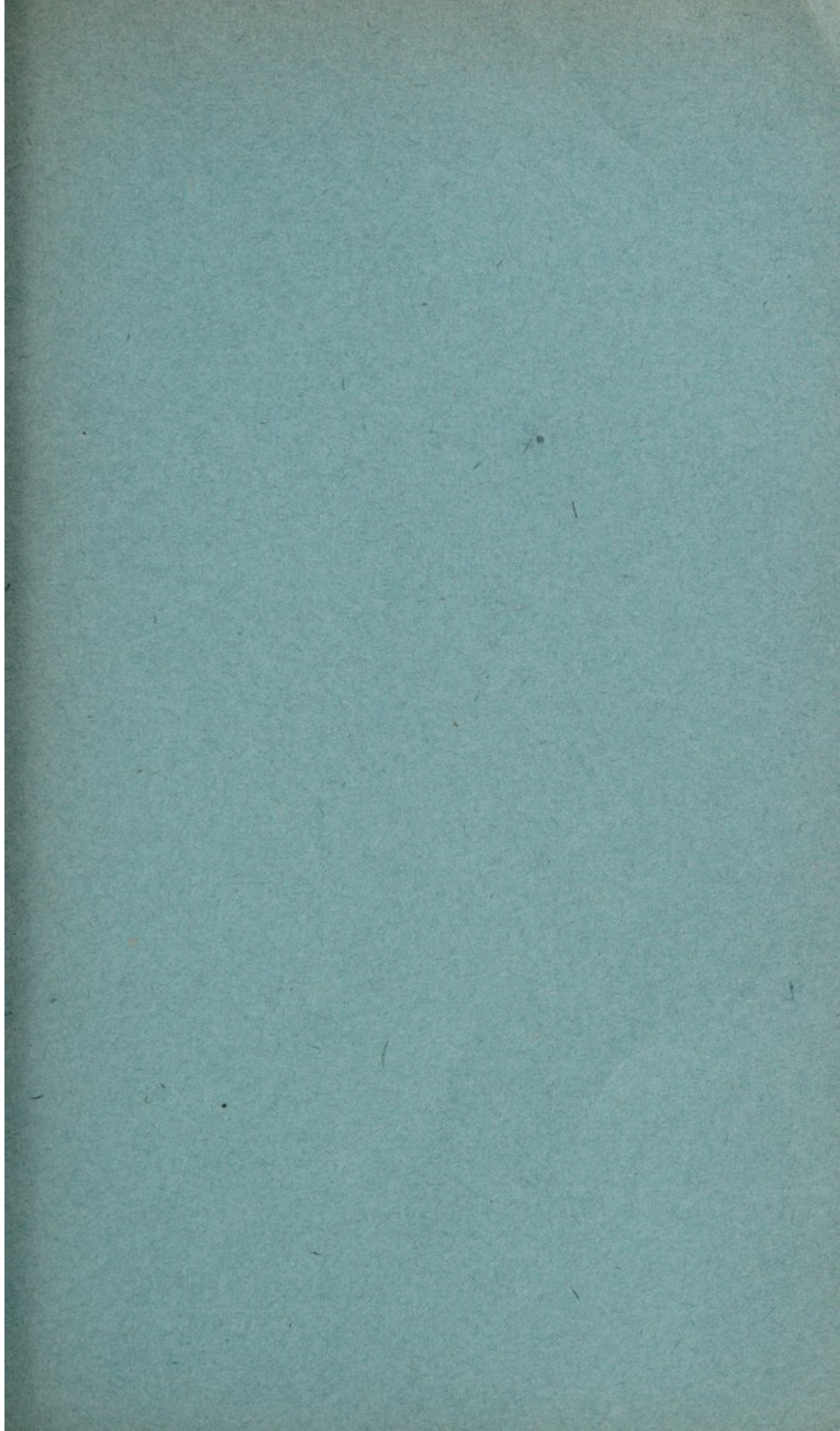
St. Albans—Cerebro-spinal fever 1.

Berkhamsted—German Measles 2.

This brings the total number of cases treated during the year to 417.

It should be noted that the figure of 103 cases of diphtheria for the Borough of Watford includes 32 carriers. These were mainly from the Ashby Road Children's Home. Of the 71 remaining cases 7 were found to have negative swabs after admission. This reduces the number of cases of clinical diphtheria for the Borough of Watford to 64. Of the total number of 24 cases admitted as cerebro-spinal fever, 6 of these proved on further investigation not to be cases of this disease, reducing the actual number of cases to 18. These six cases were meningismus due to the onset of another infectious disease, such as whooping cough or measles, and where the cerebro-spinal fluid was drawn off by lumbar puncture, a negative report was obtained with reference to the presence of meningococcus. With regard to 159 cases sent in as scarlet fever, 24 of these failed to respond to a bacteriological test, the haemolytic streptococcus being absent from swabs taken from the throat.

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