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BOROUGH OF



WATFORD

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Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

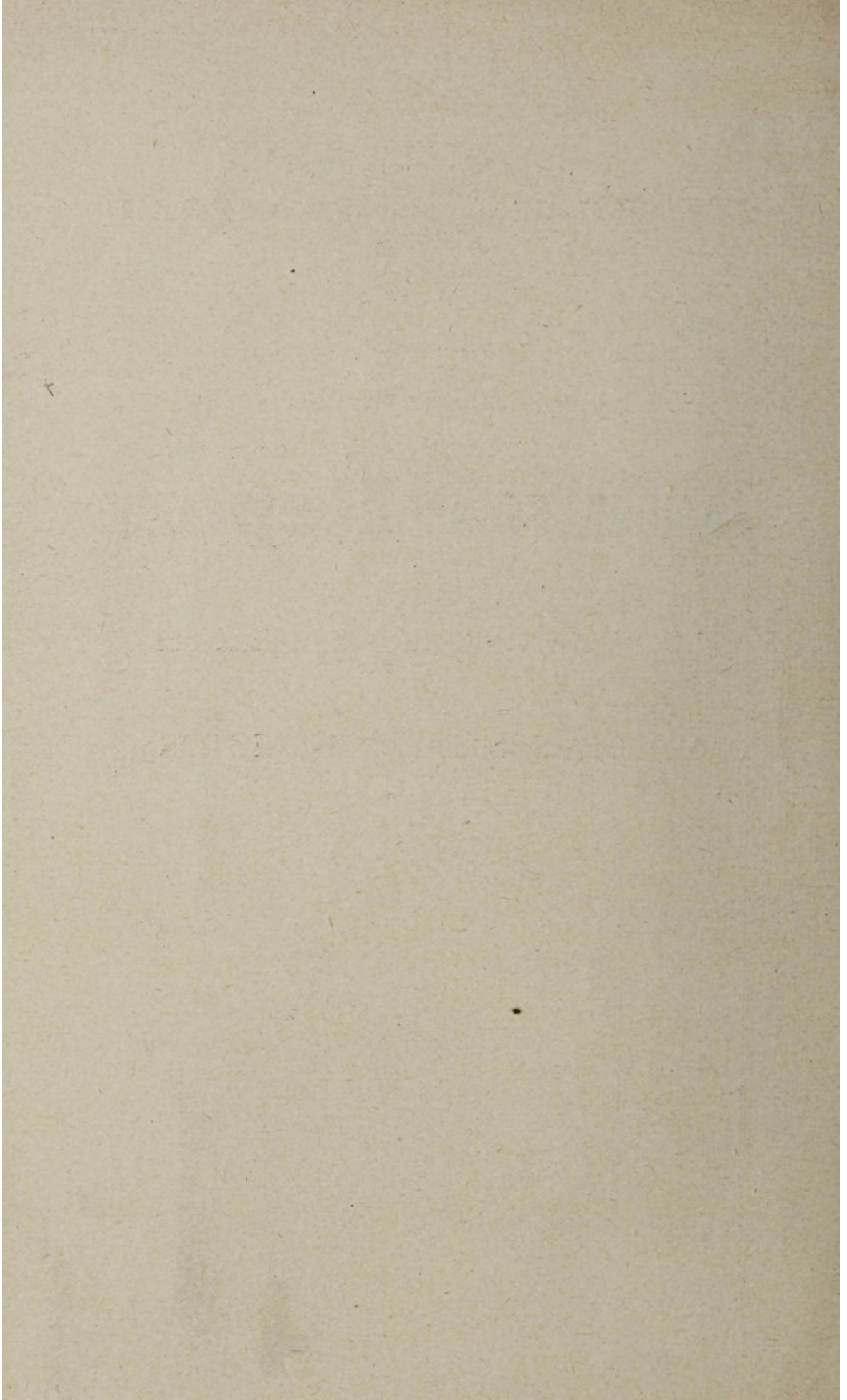
1943

R. C. M. PEARSON
M.D., M.R.C.P. (Ed.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

R. V. JACOB
M.S.I.A. (Cert. San. Inst.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector



1. Members of the Health Committee, 1942-1943

Chairman: COUNCILLOR F. G. HELSBY

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR L. C. JOHNSON

His Worshipful the Mayor: ALDERMAN T. H. SIMMONS

The Deputy Mayor: COUNCILLOR W. H. PRICE

ALDERMAN L. H. ANDREWS	COUNCILLOR C. HIPWELL
ALDERMAN MRS. ARMITAGE	COUNCILLOR H. HORWOOD
ALDERMAN H. J. BRIDGER	COUNCILLOR R. LEACH
ALDERMAN G. W. CHILTON	COUNCILLOR A. R. PALMER
COUNCILLOR MRS. BEALL	COUNCILLOR MRS. PRIMETT
COUNCILLOR MRS. BRIDGER	COUNCILLOR MRS. WARD

2. Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1942-1943

Chairman: COUNCILLOR MRS. WARD

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR MRS. BRIDGER

His Worshipful the Mayor: ALDERMAN T. H. SIMMONS

The Deputy Mayor: COUNCILLOR W. H. PRICE

ALDERMAN MRS. ARMITAGE	COUNCILLOR R. W. NORTH
ALDERMAN H. J. BRIDGER	COUNCILLOR A. R. PALMER
ALDERMAN H. COATES	COUNCILLOR MRS. PRIMETT
COUNCILLOR MRS. BEALL	MRS. COATES
COUNCILLOR A. G. DILLINGHAM	MRS. DICKENS
COUNCILLOR H. GRAY	MRS. GRAY
COUNCILLOR C. HIPWELL	MRS. HARRIS
COUNCILLOR R. LEACH	MRS. PATERSON
COUNCILLOR A. C. LLOYD	MRS. WIGGS

3. Members of the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital Board, 1942-1943

Chairman: J. WRIGHT, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman: W. ADAMS, ESQ.

MRS. E. ALLEN	R. A. FLINT, ESQ.
MRS. ARMITAGE	F. G. HELSBY, ESQ.
E. J. BAXTER, ESQ.	R. G. MORRIS, ESQ.
E. W. BEVAN, ESQ.	T. J. O'SULLIVAN, ESQ.
L. BOUNDY, ESQ.	W. H. PRICE, ESQ.
T. G. REES DAVIES, ESQ.	J. G. SHAW, ESQ.
F. H. DAZELEY, ESQ.	MISS G. A. STACEY
T. C. DOWNER, ESQ.	MRS. M. A. WARD

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the Joint Isolation Hospital—

WILLIAM J. COX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (to May 31, 1943).

R. C. M. PEARSON, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.P. (ED.), D.P.H. (from May 17, 1943).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health—

THOMAS G. OSLER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (to August 7, 1943).

*Senior Assistant Medical Officer—

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

*Assistant Medical Officers—

WINIFRED PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. (to November 30, 1943).

PHYLLIS I. KAY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S. (ED.).

ALISON GILES, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from August 12, 1943).

BARBARA ROWNTREE, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from August 10, 1943).

A. H. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from August 9, 1943).

*Dental Officer—

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

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

†§R. V. JACOB, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector—

†§G. A. HILLER, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors—

†§J. GREEN, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

†§R. JOHNSON, F.S.I.A.

†§E. AVISON, M.S.I.A. (to October 31, 1943).

Inspector under Shops Act—

A. CORKE.

Senior Health Visitor and Infant Life Protection Visitor—

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

Health Visitors—

||MISS E. POTTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

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

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

||MISS E. PUNSHON, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerical Staff—

R. A. SMITH (on active service), MISS G. BROADHEAD, MISS M. TRAVIS, MISS M. SHERLOCK, MRS. PETTIT, MRS. FARQUHARSON, MRS. MOORE (to November 6, 1943), MRS. RYAN (to July 10, 1943).

*Part-time Officers. †Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
‡Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.
§Meat Inspector's Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
||Health Visitor's Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
WATFORD.
September, 1944.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my first Annual Report and the twenty-second of its kind for the Borough.

The report relates in the most part to details of the second half of the year, but vital statistics and details of work done at the Clinics, etc., cover the whole of 1943.

The first aspect of this type of Annual Report should be informative—to put facts in a readable form and to draw inferences which may be of interest not only to members of the Council but also to the people of Watford. It is hoped that such a report may be available in years to come and widely read by those interested in the health of the Borough; it may perhaps even stimulate those not so interested at present. War-time restrictions, together with shortage of staff prevent this being done at present.

The year 1943, however, was remarkable for the fact that the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in The Avenue was finished and opened by the Minister of Health, a very commendable achievement considering the difficult times. This Clinic is being used to its full capacity and may prove to be short of accommodation in the near future.

The health statistics of the Borough reveal nothing unusual. The birth rate is well maintained and the death rate, slightly influenced by a sharp epidemic of influenza in the latter part of the year, remains almost constant. There was a rise in the infantile mortality rate to 40, which as far as can be ascertained was not influenced by the prevalence of Sonne Dysentery during the summer months. The maternal mortality rate, again unaffected by sepsis, was slightly higher than in 1942.

It is to be hoped that the interest shown by the general public for health matters will lead to a greater demand for talks on subjects related directly or indirectly to health. Much is being done by broadcasting, the Press, posters, etc., but to clinch it all there must be someone who can answer questions, and who could be better qualified than the Family Doctor and the Staff of the Health Department, working in close touch with each other?

I much appreciate the interest shown by Members of the Council in the work of the Health Department, the staff of which I should like to thank for their co-operation and loyal support during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. M. PEARSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	5,275
Estimated population* to mid-year 1943	67,880
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	18,500
Rateable value at 1.4.1944	£646,531
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,670

*Civilian population only.

Number of Live Births—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	546	509	1055
Illegitimate	40	28	68
TOTAL	<u>586</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>1123</u>

Number of Still Births—

Legitimate	21	6	27
Illegitimate	—	2	2
TOTAL	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>29</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still)	607	545	1152
Total number of Deaths	430	411	841

Deaths from—

Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	2
All Puerperal causes	2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	—
Measles	2
Scarlet fever	—
Whooping cough	3
Diphtheria	1
Influenza	24
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2
Violence	35
Cancer	119

Deaths (under 1 year)—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	31	11	42
Illegitimate	2	1	3
TOTAL	33	12	45

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1943

	Watford	England and Wales	London Administrative County	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns
Rate per 1000 population—				
Live Births	16.5	16.5	15.8	18.6
Still Births	0.43	0.51	0.45	0.63
Annual Death Rate—				
All causes	12.4	12.1	15.0	14.2
Measles	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Whooping cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Diphtheria	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.04
Influenza	0.35	0.37	0.27	0.36
Typhoid, etc.	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1000 live births—				
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	1.8	5.3	10.4	7.9
Maternal Mortality Rate—				
(per 1000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.39		
Other puerperal causes	1.74	1.45		
All puerperal causes	1.74	1.84		
Death Rate of Infants				
under 1 year of age—				
All infants, per 1000 Live Births				40
Legitimate infants, per 1000 Legitimate Live Births				40
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births				44

Comparative Rates

	Watford 1943	Watford 1942	England and Wales 1943	England and Wales 1942
Birth Rate (Live Births)	16.5	17.4	16.5	15.8
Death Rate	12.4	10.9	12.1	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	40	28.4	49	49
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.74	1.50	1.84	2.01

SECTION "B"

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. General

(a) DOMICILIARY NURSING.

THE WATFORD AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION has its Headquarters in Alexandra Road. An annual grant to the Association is made by the Watford Corporation.

The people of Watford who require nursing care at home are most fortunate to have such an up-to-date nursing service,

with 10,000 contributory members. I should like to pay tribute to the good work done, for cases of infectious illness, complications of pregnancy, etc., as shown in the following table, for the year ended June 30, 1943 :—

Disease	Visits
Lobar pneumonia	522
Chickenpox	8
Mumps	13
Measles	142
Rubella	33
Influenza	362
Influenzal pneumonia	28
Erysipelas	17
Other diseases occurring in children under 5 years of age	1954
Complications of pregnancy	394
Complications occurring after child-birth	871

(b) ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Towards the end of the year various types of Jaundice were made notifiable by General Practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health. It is hoped that this type of notification for research purposes will bear fruit and lead to a close liaison between research workers and Medical Officers of Health working in a defined area (in this case the Eastern Region).

(c) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Medical Service Laboratory at the Peace Memorial Hospital makes it possible to have almost any bacteriological or pathological specimen examined as well as obtain the normal laboratory aids to diagnosis.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In addition to two Motor Ambulances in use at the Isolation Hospital for removal of infectious cases, there are three Borough Ambulances, provided in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, for the removal of cases of general sickness, accident, etc.

(e) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In view of changes which have taken place during the year it is worth giving a list of the various Clinics held in the Borough which are the responsibility of the Corporation.

Child Welfare Clinics—Central.*†‡
 Harebreaks.‡
 Wiggshall.
 Stanboroughs.*
 Leggatts Way.

Scabies Clinic—1 St. Albans Road.
 Watford Public Assistance Institution.

* also Ante Natal and Post Natal.
 ‡ also Diphtheria Immunisation.

† also Dental.

On March 26 the new Central Clinic in The Avenue was opened by the Minister of Health (Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, P.C., M.C., M.P.)

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee are to be congratulated on finishing this building, which, even with its spacious accommodation, is already working almost to full capacity. A full description will be given when more space is available.

(f) HEALTH EDUCATION.

Several talks have been given to varied audiences by the Medical Staff, Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors on subjects relating to their work. It is hoped that there will be an even greater demand for knowledge which can be imparted by persons with specialised experience of this type. Mothercraft teaching, for instance, has been in progress for several years and is about to be reorganised into definite courses of instruction.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare

(a) 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 Maternity Home, 25 beds, and Watford Public Assistance Institution, 31 beds; Private Nursing Homes, 29 beds.

The question of Maternity Home accommodation has been giving considerable concern. The agreement with the Hertfordshire County Council to take Watford maternity cases into the County Maternity Home in King Street (25 beds) has been continued and the overflow accommodated in Shrodells Public Assistance Institution. This arrangement, whilst working smoothly, has still proved insufficient due to the fact that many young mothers are in lodgings and the difficulty of obtaining domestic help for domiciliary cases.

(b) DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

The Hertfordshire County Council is the supervising authority for Midwives, whose services may be engaged from the Maternity Home in King Street. In addition, there were four midwives in private practice in the Borough at the beginning of the year, but two gave up and one died during the period.

Table showing Distribution of Notified Births as between Institutional and Domiciliary Confinement.

Year	INSTITUTIONAL			Total	Midwives	DOMICILIARY		Grand Total
	King St.	Shrodells	Private Nursing Homes			Doctors and Parents	Total	
1943	395	288	384	1,067	486	80	566	1,633

(c) CLINIC SERVICES.

The work carried out at the various clinics, which were held as set out above, may be seen from Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. Towards the end of the year it was possible to move the Harebreaks Clinic from Balmoral Road to more spacious premises in Harebreaks Church Hall.

A. MATERNITY SERVICES.

TABLE 1.—*Number of Attendances at Clinics during the Year 1943.*

1943	CENTRAL CLINIC		STANBOROUGH'S		Total	Post Natal Clinic Total Attendts	School for Mothers Total Attendts
	First Attendts	Sub. Attendts	First Attendts	Sub. Attendts			
Jan.	33	69	16	26	144	3	26
Feb.	19	66	8	44	137	5	27
Mar.	46	70	8	49	173	8	36
April	28	65	12	51	156	3	49
May	31	58	9	31	129	3	31
June	19	79	4	26	128	4	39
July	30	81	18	46	175	7	30
Aug.	37	49	11	27	124	5	30
Sept.	24	63	18	42	147	10	47
Oct.	41	71	10	40	162	12	60
Nov.	30	70	9	36	145	11	46
Dec.	24	65	12	32	133	2	47
TOTAL	362	806	135	450	1,753	73	468

TABLE 2.—*Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics, 1939 to 1943.*

Year	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	Total Attendances
1939	434	932	1,366
1940	441	915	1,356
1941	687	1,299	1,986
1942	586	1,433	2,019
1943	497	1,256	1,753

B. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

TABLE 3.—*Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc., at Infant Welfare Centres during the Years 1939 to 1943.*

Year	First Attendances		No. on Register at end of year	Consulta- tions	Infants Weighed
	Under 1 year	1-5 years			
1939	876	381	2,147	3,089	15,316
1940	1,473	440	2,123	4,510	21,078
1941	1,008	362	2,255	4,610	22,532
1942	894	322	2,393	4,727	24,281
1943	1,025	318	2,549	4,886	26,893

During 1943, on 2,082 occasions infants were weighed who live outside the Borough.

TABLE 4.—*Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc., at Various Welfare Centres during 1943.*

1943	First Attendances	No. on Register	Consultations	Infants Weighed
Central Clinic . . .	306	562	804	5,354
Harebreaks . . .	296	451	1,152	7,477
Stanboroughs . . .	181	400	670	5,050
Leggatts Way . . .	87	268	615	3,749
Wiggenhall . . .	155	345	880	3,936
Toddlers . . .	318	523	765	1,327
TOTAL	1,343	2,549	4,886	26,893

Toddlers Clinic.

Dr. Ward submitted the following report :—

New Cases	318
Revisits	447
Consultations	765
Total Attendances	1327

Cases requiring special treatment :—

Dental	36	4.7%
Orthopaedic	44	5.8%
Ophthalmic	24	3.1%
Child Guidance	3	0.4%

Dental Clinic.

A Dental Clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. 289 cases received treatment during the past year in the 34 sessions that were held. Fourteen mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets.

TABLE 5.—*Home Visits by Health Visitors.*

	Children under 1 year	Children 1-5	Expectant Mothers	Special Visits	Infant Life Protection	Tuber- culosis	Total Visits			
	First Visits	Re- Visits	First Visits	Re- Visits	Infectious Diseases etc.					
1939 . . .	1,022	4,345	6,602	—	280	—	741	—	—	12,990
1940 . . .	1,106	4,108	5,471	79	—	25	1,023	—	—	11,812
1941 . . .	1,006	3,618	5,544	91	—	62	1,551	—	—	11,872
1942 . . .	1,219	4,496	4,719	95	—	107	1,082	—	425	12,208
1943 . . .	1,230	4,438	4,809	207	—	88	882	201	383	12,338

Infant Life Protection.

The Infant Life Protection Visitor reports as follows :—

Number of persons on register who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year	28
---	----

FOSTER CHILDREN.

Number on books at the end of the year	31
Number who died during the year	Nil
Number of inquests	Nil
Number of Child Protection Visitors	1
Total number of visits paid	201

Orthopaedic Treatment.

90 children under five were referred to the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road for advice and treatment, as compared with 125 cases in 1942.

(d) WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES.

There are at present in Watford four War-time Day Nurseries, namely: Beulah Hall (2-5), Cassiobury (0-5), Harebreaks (0-5) and Kingswood (0-5) with total accommodation for 245 children.

Average Daily Attendance for the year 1943.

	Under 2	Over 2	Total
Beulah Hall	—	25.6	25.6
Cassiobury Park	15.3	48.4	63.8
Harebreaks	16.1	41.9	57.9
Kingswood (3 months)	8.2	21.3	29.4

Dr. Ward, who is responsible for medical supervision of these children, reports as follows:—

The children were medically examined soon after admission and those needing special care were seen frequently. Cases requiring special treatment, i.e., dental, ophthalmic, orthopaedic and Ear, Nose and Throat were referred to the appropriate quarter. Those who needed to be nursed at home were referred to their own doctors.

Iron tablets and simple remedies were provided at the Nurseries, and the Matrons and their staffs did excellent work in observation of cases and careful treatment of minor ailments.

Some outbreaks of infectious diseases, chiefly dysentery, measles and whooping cough occurred, but never assumed alarming proportions.

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough was undertaken in all cases where the parents' consent was obtainable.

Most of the children seemed to enjoy their meals and the nursery routine very much, and many showed a very striking improvement in appearance and general condition. On the whole, it may be said that the health of the children in the nurseries was very satisfactory.

SECTIONS "C", "D" & "E"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, &c.

Water

Mr. W. W. Newman, Borough Water Engineer, reports that the analyses of water during the year have been quite satisfactory.

There has been some increase in the general hardness of the water, owing to the greater quantity pumped from one station where it is not yet possible to soften the water.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following figures show the main works of inspection carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in order to deal with housing defects and nuisances as far as war-time conditions permit.

HOUSING.	
Visits re defects	681
Re-visits	1083
NUISANCES.	
Visits	246
Re-visits	307
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	
General Inquiries	262
Jaundice	5
Suspected Food Poisoning	9
FACTORIES.	
Inspections	161
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.	
Slaughterhouse visits	679
Foodshops, Food Preparing Premises and Market visits	1060
Dairies and Cowsheds	173

Food Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

9763 st. Meat, including 130 whole carcasses—68 bovines, 14 sheep, 36 pigs, 12 calves.
5106 st. Offal and organs.
2846 lbs. Corned Beef.
289 lbs. Sausages.
292 Meat Pies.
7184 lbs. Canned Goods.
28 lbs. Bacon.
8 cwts. Flour, Cereals, etc.
106 st. Fish.
792 Fishcakes.
273 lbs. Cheese, Butter, etc.
116 lbs. Sugar.
266 lbs. Dried Fruit.
518 Eggs.
109 Scotch Pancakes.
171 lbs. Sundries.

The following table indicates the extent of disease found in the animals killed in the Government Slaughterhouses during the year 1943.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3895	1638	3909	8056	2213
Number inspected	3895	1638	3909	8056	2213
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	7	10	20
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	121	236	22	286	35
(3) Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	3.1	14.5	0.7	3.6	2.5
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	13	53	3	—	16
(2) Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	179	639	—	—	127
(3) Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	4.9	42.2	0.08	—	6.5

Milk.

During the year special attention was given to the dairies in the Borough, especially as regards the facilities and control of the bottle washing appliances; one large dairy company transferred the whole of its Watford business to other premises as the local plant was quite inadequate to deal with the quantity of milk involved under the war-time distribution arrangements.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

There are three licensed vendors of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the Borough, and one licensed apparatus for the pasteurisation of milk.

Food Decontamination.

The Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible for this Service, which has attained a considerable degree of efficiency.

The personnel includes a number of "directed" men, who are mainly men from the local food shops and warehouses.

In August a demonstration of decontamination for Eastern II Division Ministry of Food was carried out by the Watford Food Treatment Squads, under the direction of the Porton Chemical Defence Research Station; although mustard gas was used, no casualties occurred and a highly satisfactory report was submitted by the Porton Station.

Nearly 300 persons, representing local authorities in Hertfordshire and Essex, together with Army and Royal Air Force observers, attended.

Shops Act, 1912-1936.

Routine inspections have been made and action taken, with satisfactory results, where any infringements were noted.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Premises dealt with for Bugs and other vermin by Public Health Department	49
Number of Corporation houses dealt with by Housing Department ...	4
	<hr/>
	53
	<hr/>

Billeting.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Chief Billeting Officer and all the Sanitary Inspectors are Authorised Billeting Officers. In addition to their normal duties, a considerable part of their time is spent on billeting matters, especially as regards the supervision and control of requisitioned dwellings and the billeting of compulsorily-transferred war workers.

The Inspector of the Ministry of Health has always reported very favourably on the manner in which the work has been carried out.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire under Section 34, Factories Act, 1937.

87 inspections were made to certain factories within the Borough as to the means of escape in case of fire, by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, acting as the Corporation's Authorised Officer for issuing the necessary Certificate in this connection. These visits involved much detailed work and investigation.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

In the early part of the year the Hertfordshire County Council delegated its power under the above Act to the Borough. This has caused a considerable amount of work, more especially as during the year the Directorate of Infestation Control of the Ministry of Food directed a Survey to be made of the Borough as to the extent of rat infestation.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 1084, compared with 584 during the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 22 case notified, compared with 24 in 1942. One death occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

The majority of cases of this disease were of a mild type; the notifications numbered 156, as against 153 in 1942. It was decided to nurse as many cases as possible in their own homes and admission to hospital has been determined by the severity of the illness and the presence of complications, the home nursing facilities, the employment of another member of the household in the preparation or distribution of food for human consumption, the approaching confinement of a female member of the same household. The general public have responded readily, due to the co-operation and help given by the General Practitioners.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There were no notifications.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.

Five cases were notified and one patient died in hospital.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

No notifications.

ERYSIPELAS.

Nine notifications.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Five cases notified.

MEASLES.

A fairly heavy epidemic occurred in the spring of 1943. 794 cases were notified and there were two deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.

72 cases were notified and 3 deaths occurred.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases were notified.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 20 cases notified, with one death.

SMALLPOX.

No cases occurred in 1943.

INFLUENZA.

A sharp epidemic of influenza occurred in November and resulted in 24 deaths. One case of influenzal pneumonia occurred.

DYSENTERY.

100 cases were notified but many more undoubtedly occurred. The disease was mild and in the proved cases due to the Sonne bacillus. There was one death.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

From January to October, 1943, Toddlers were immunised against Diphtheria at one session and other children on another day, both clinics being held centrally. This arrangement was

improved when Dr. Ward took over all immunisation—children of all ages may now be immunised at the Central Clinic, the Harebreaks Clinic or at a school visit which takes place in rotation.

During the year immunisation was carried out as follows :—

	INJECTIONS			COMPLETED CASES			RE-SCHICK TESTS		
	1st	2nd	Total	0-5	5-15	Total	Tested	Pos.	Neg.
Central Clinic (including Nurseries)	632	723	1355	660	63	723	483	4	479
1 St. Albans Road	145	165	310	100	65	165	—	—	—
Harebreaks	157	220	377	118	102	220	—	—	—
Schools	374	452	826	7	445	452	—	—	—
TOTAL	1308	1560	2868	885	675	1560	483	4	479

It is estimated that 52% of children under 5 and 56.4% between 5 and 15 have been protected.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

In addition to Diphtheria immunisation, 268 children have received injections against whooping cough. There is little doubt that whilst this protection is not always complete it does much to lessen the severity of the illness and lowers the risk of complications.

CONTROL OF HEAD LICE.

During the routine visits by Health Visitors to the homes of children under 5, attention is paid to this aspect and instructions in the use of Lethane Oil is given when required. Facilities for treatment at the School Minor Ailment Clinic are available if too bad to be dealt with at home. If no response is made to advice given, the case is reported to the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector.

Naturally children attending the War-time Day Nurseries are also carefully inspected and cleansed as required.

The Senior Health Visitor reports as follows for the last six months of 1943 :—

Number of children under 5 found verminous	13
Treated by Health Visitors	4
Cleansed by parents after advice	9

SCABIES.

1257 cases of Scabies were treated at the two Centres. Family contacts were followed up and treated prophylactically where necessary.

In the autumn, work was carried out to improve the facilities for treatment at 1 St. Albans Road. By this means it became possible to treat whole families at once instead of separating children and adults—only adult males are now treated at Shrodells Institution, and then often by appointment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

76 cases were notified during the year, as compared with 91 in 1942.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
10	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15	5	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
20	3	6	1	—	1	2	—	—
25	9	9	1	2	1	1	—	—
35	8	4	—	2	2	—	1	2
45	3	2	1	—	2	—	—	—
55	4	1	1	—	3	—	1	1
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	36	26	7	7	12	3	4	3

Of the 22 cases who died from tuberculosis, all were notified. 383 Home Visits were carried out by the Health Visitors.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Are the responsibility of the Hertfordshire County Council, and Out-patient Clinics were held at the Watford Public Assistance Institution as in former years.

CANCER.

There were 119 deaths from Cancer in the Borough during 1943, the corresponding figure for 1942 being 122.

WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Patients Treated in Hospital

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebrospinal Meningitis	Mumps	Enteric	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Dysentery	Other diseases	Totals
Watford Borough	136	29	2	8	3	—	51	3	5	6	19	262
Watford Rural	45	7	1	3	—	—	8	—	3	—	8	75
Rickmansworth Urban	51	13	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	1	1	44
Bushey Urban	34	2	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	74
Chorleywood Urban	4	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other Areas	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	—	2	12
	271	53	5	13	14	1	64	10	8	7	33	479

The following deaths occurred in the hospital :—

Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas	2
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	1
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	3

The above figures refer to the final diagnosis in each case and are not necessarily the same as the notifications in the area.

At various times during the months of July, August, September and October, 84 cases of the total of 479 were admitted to the Sisters Hospital, St. Albans, either for part or the whole of their treatment in hospital.

There is no doubt that the sympathy and co-operation shown by the Staff of the Sisters Hospital did much to assist both the Hospital Staff and the patients over a difficult period.

