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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

HEALTH  
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the year

1944

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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



## COMMITTEE

## MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the Health Committee, 1943 - 1944.

Chairman: Councillor F. G. Helsby  
 Vice-Chairman: Councillor L. C. Johnson  
 His Worshipful the Mayor: Councillor Mrs. M. A. Ward  
 The Deputy Mayor: Alderman T. H. Simmons

Alderman Mrs. L. E. Armitage	Councillor C. Hipwell
Alderman H. J. Bridger	Councillor H. Horwood
Alderman G. W. Chilton	Councillor R. Leach
Councillor Mrs. E. G. Beall	Councillor A. R. Palmer
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger	Councillor Mrs. A. Primett
Councillor C. C. Barker	Councillor F. H. Vince

2. Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee 1943 - 1944.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. E. G. Beall  
 Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Paterson  
 His Worshipful the Mayor: Councillor Mrs. M. A. Ward  
 The Deputy Mayor: Alderman T. H. Simmons

Alderman Mrs. L. E. Armitage	Councillor A. G. Lloyd
Alderman H. J. Bridger	Councillor R. Leach
Alderman E. C. Last	Councillor A. R. Palmer
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger	Councillor Mrs. A. Primett
Councillor A. G. Dillingham	Mrs. Coates
Councillor H. Gray	Mrs. Dickens
Councillor F. G. Helsby	Mrs. Gray
Councillor C. Hipwell	Mrs. Harris
Councillor L. C. Johnson	Mrs. Wiggs

3. Members of the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital Board, 1943 - 1944

Chairman: J. Wright, Esq.,  
 Vice-Chairman: W. Adams, Esq.,

Mrs. E. D. Allen	R. A. Flint, Esq.,
Mrs. L. E. Armitage	F. G. Helsby, Esq.,
E. J. Baxter Esq.,	R. G. Morris, Esq.,
Mrs. E. M. Bevan	T. J. O'Sullivan, Esq.,
L. M. Boundy Esq.,	T. H. Simmons, Esq.,
T. G. Rees Davies, Esq.,	E. S. Dale, Esq.,
F. H. Dazeley, Esq.,	Miss G. A. Stacey
T. C. Downer Esq.,	Mrs. M. A. Ward

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

R. C. M. Pearson, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. (Ed.), D.P.H.

≠ Senior Assistant Medical Officer -

Margaret Ward, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

≠ Assistant Medical Officers -

Phyllis I. Kay, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)

Alison Giles, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Barbara Rowntree, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 31.5.44)

A.H. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

M. Peberdy, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from 2.6.44)

≠ Dental Officer -

Sidney W. Fisk, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

+φ R. V. Jacob, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector -

=φ G.A. Hiller, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors -

=φ J. Green, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

=φ R. Johnson, F.S.I.A.

=φ K. Marsden, A.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A. (from 1.1.44)

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. (to 30.6.44)

" Miss M.M. Rutherford, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N. (from 1.8.44)

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, Miss K. Eames (from 10.3.44)

Mrs. W. Felce (from 8.8.44)

≠ Part-time Officers.

+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute

= Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

φ Meat Inspector's Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

" Health Visitor's Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
WATFORD.

January, 1946.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

The report, very much delayed, gives details of work done and the vital statistics covering the period leading up to D-Day, the flying bombs and then the rocket era. It is worthy of note that even during those anxious days the people of Watford maintained their high standard of health and found time to take advantage of the facilities of preventive medicine.

The routine work of the Health Department continues to increase. Every encouragement is given to all the people of Watford to use their Health Services and if the particular need is not catered for enquiries should reveal where the required facilities can be found. It is largely this routine work and the broadening outlook on all Health matters which has delayed the publication of this report.

There was no severe epidemic in 1944, although influenza was quite sharp in the early weeks of the year. A small outbreak of virulent Smallpox occurred in Northwood, Middlesex, in January. It was largely due to the quick action taken by the General Practitioners in vaccinating possible contacts that no further cases occurred. With modern communications and the co-operation of all concerned action can be taken so quickly that risks of this type are less likely to have serious consequences.

Comments on some sections of the report have been inserted where the tables are available rather than making reference here.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Staff of the Health Department came through another arduous year with considerable credit due to the happy co-operation of all concerned, but whilst paying tribute to the Staff, it must not be forgotten that the interest shown by members of the Council in the activities of the Department is much appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. C. M. PEARSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) ... ..	5,275
Estimated civilian population to mid year 1944 ... ..	67,100
Number of inhabited houses (estimated) ... ..	18,460
Rateable value at 1.4.1944 ... ..	£636,939
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£2,572

Number of Live Births -

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	612	623	1235
Illegitimate	<u>41</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>90</u>
Total	<u>653</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>1325</u>

Number of Still Births -

Legitimate	11	14	25
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>28</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still) 666 687 1353

Total number of Deaths 517 477 994

Deaths from -

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	2
Other Puerperal causes ... ..	3
All Puerperal causes ... ..	5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	-
Measles ... ..	-
Scarlet fever ... ..	-
Whooping cough ... ..	1
Diphtheria ... ..	4
Cerebrospinal fever ... ..	1
Influenza ... ..	4
Diarrhoea ( under 2 years) ...	1
Violence ... ..	44
Cancer ... ..	107

## Deaths (under 1 year) -

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	22	18	40
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>23</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>42</u>

## Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1944

	Watford	England & Wales	London Administrative County	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns
Rate per 1000 population -				
Live Births	19.7	17.6	15.0	20.3
Still Births	0.42	0.50	0.42	0.64
Annual Death Rate -				
All causes	14.8	11.6	15.7	13.7
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03
Diphtheria	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.03
Influenza	0.06	0.12	0.08	0.10
Typhoid, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rate per 1000 live births -				
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	0.75	4.8	10.1	7.3
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	1.47	0.28		
Other puerperal causes	2.22	1.25		
All puerperal causes	3.69	1.53		
Death Rate of Infants (under 1 year of age)				
All infants, per 1000 Live Births				... 32
Legitimate infants, per 1000 Legitimate Live Births				... 32
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births				... 22

COMPARATIVE RATES

	Watford 1943	Watford 1944	England & Wales 1943	England & Wales 1944
Birth Rate (Live Births)	16.5	19.7	16.5	17.6
Death Rate	12.4	14.8	12.1	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	40	32	49	46
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.74	3.69	1.84	1.53



Several points worthy of comment arise from the above statistical data.

1. The marked rise in the birth rate which put a severe strain on the facilities for institutional care of Mothers during child birth. Such a birth rate if continued over a number of years would gradually make up some of the ground lost.
2. The death rate has been largely due to causes at present outside the scope of preventive medicine.
  - (a) The two deaths from puerperal sepsis were due to septic abortion and the three from other causes were difficult to forestall with our present knowledge. (Two from pulmonary embolism and one from liver necrosis). Only two of these were Watford mothers.
  - (b) The whooping cough death occurred in an infant only two months old.
  - (c) Four diphtheria deaths is far too many. Two were adults and two children were severe toxic cases which had not been immunised.
  - (d) The remarkably small number of deaths from diarrhoea in infants reveals a very happy state of affairs and reflects credit on the Child Welfare Services and the mothers of Watford.
3. Analysis of the infant deaths reveals the commoner causes. Twenty-three of these babies were under one month old; in most cases the first four causes set out in the following table being the cause of death.

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	6
Collapse of Lung	...	...	...	...	5
Malformation	...	...	...	...	6
Birth Injuries	...	...	...	...	4
Respiratory Diseases	...	....	...	...	10
Other Diseases of Infancy	..	...	...	...	7
Accidents		..	...	...	2
Untraced		..	...	...	2
					42

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 1,000 contributory members. I should like to pay tribute to the good work done by the nurses for cases of infectious illness, complications of pregnancy, etc. as shown in the following table, for the year ended 31st December, 1944:-

Disease	Number of cases	Visits
Erysipelas	4	56
Lobar pneumonia	20	423
Influenzal pneumonia	1	29
German measles	1	13
Measles with complications	1	17
Scarlet fever	4	73
Influenza	12	117
Chicken Pox	4	44
Other diseases in children under 5 years	196	1853
Complications of pregnancy	45	541
Complications after childbirth	20	337
	<u>308</u>	<u>3503</u>

(b) Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the district.

From July 1st, the Borough Council accepted responsibility for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act (1938).

(c) Laboratory Facilities.

No Change

(d) Ambulance Facilities.

No change

(e) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No change was made during 1944 in the available Clinic facilities. With the full co-operation of the Civil Defence Nursing Staff the treatment of Scabies was continued throughout the year at 1 St. Albans Road.

(f) Health Education.

It is pleasing to see the increased demand for talks on all types of health matters. Interest was not only taken in the Health Services as an organisation but also by groups of individuals in their own health, especially the ordinary facts of physiology and the prevention of disease.

Considerable interest was taken by Youth Organisations in a course of Sex Education covering not only the physical but the moral aspect as well.

In all 20 talks were given by members of the Health Department Staff. In addition, a course on the Decontamination of Food Stuffs organised by the Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector was attended by Civil Defence personnel from Hertfordshire and Essex.

It is to be regretted that up to the present, Industry has shown little inclination to use local facilities in this type of work.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The accommodation in Watford is now as follows :-

King Street Maternity Home 21 beds, Watford Public

Assistance Institution 26 beds, Private Nursing Homes 21 beds.

Towards the end of the year a plan for extending the accommodation at King Street to 50 began to materialize, but at the same time seven Nursing Home beds were lost.

(b) Domiciliary Midwifery.

No change. One private midwife remains in practice.

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

Year	King St.	Institutional			Total	Midwives	Domiciliary		Grand Total
		Shrodells	Private Nursing Homes	Total			Doctors and Parents	Total	
1943	395	288	384	1067	486	80	566	1633	
1944	461	464	381	1306	548	41	589	1895	

(c) Clinic Services

The work carried out at the various clinics may be seen from Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.

A. MATERNITY SERVICES.

TABLE 1 - Number of Attendances at Clinics during the year 1944.

1944	CENTRAL CLINIC		STAMBOROUGHES		TOTAL	Post Natal Clinic Total Attends	School for Mothers Total Attends
	First Attends	Sub Attends	First Attends	Sub Attends			
Jan.	38	83	9	36	166	8	30
Feb.	22	80	9	47	158	7	54
March	38	87	14	51	190	4	55
April	30	75	9	42	156	5	26
May	27	82	6	30	145	10	46
June	25	119	9	25	178	7	34
July	22	91	12	36	161	7	46
August	17	71	10	44	142	20	32
Sept.	25	77	11	40	153	3	51
Oct.	19	75	5	26	125	4	62
Nov.	23	57	17	45	142	6	35
Dec.	11	51	8	26	96	5	42
Total	<u>297</u>	<u>948</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>1812</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>513</u>

TABLE 2. Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics,  
1939 - 1944.

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
1944	416	1,396	1,812

B. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

TABLE 3. Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc.  
at Infant Welfare Centres during the Years 1939 - 1944.

Year	First Attendances		No. on Register at end of year	Consultations	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
1944	1,276	720	2,584	5,619	27,933

In addition, during 1944 on 2,584 occasions infants were weighed who live outside the Borough.

TABLE 4. Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc.  
at Various Welfare Centres during 1944.

1944	First Attendances	No. on Register	Consultations	Infants Weighed
Central Clinic	525	635	935	5736
Harebreaks	393	520	1520	7960
Stanboroughs	314	399	762	5341
Leggatts Way	163	221	681	3415
Wiggenhall	271	276	909	4040
Toddlers	<u>330</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>811</u>	<u>1441</u>
Total	<u>1996</u>	<u>2584</u>	<u>5619</u>	<u>27933</u>

Toddlers Clinic.

Dr. Ward submitted the following report:-

	1944	1943
New Cases	330	318
Revisits	481	447
Consultations	811	765
Total Attendances	1441	1327

Cases requiring special treatment -

	1944	%	1943	%
Dental	33	4.1%	36	4.7%
Orthopaedic	34	4.2%	44	5.8%
Ophthalmic	18	2.2%	24	3.1%
Child Guidance	2	0.2%	3	0.4%
Artificial Sunlight	-	-	-	-

### Dental Clinic.

A Dental Clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. 353 cases received treatment during the past year in the 34 sessions that were held. 20 mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets.

### Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

Number of sessions	68
Number of cases treated	478
Number of treatments given	3684

This clinic was started on January, 24th 1944, and was closed during July, August and September.

### Orthopaedic Treatment.

65 children under five were referred to the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road for advice and treatment, as compared with 90 cases in 1943.

1944 may be looked upon as a year of steady expansion in all services. Although the attendance at Ante-Natal Clinics was smaller towards the end of the year the reason soon became apparent and was straightened out in co-operation with the Maternity Home. Considering the preventive nature of post-natal examination it is to be regretted that a greater proportion of mothers do not take advantage of the facilities offered.

Whilst as a result of the greater number of babies born the number of infant attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic has risen, it is pleasing to see the increase in attendances between one and two years of age. Children between two and five years of age are visited in their homes by the Health Visitors but only a small proportion undergo an annual medical examination. Expansion of the Clinic service to this age group is warranted.

Artificial Sunlight was introduced early in the year and has met a very real need amongst the type of child who is underweight, has a poor appetite, sleeps badly. In all probability, not a few cases of early rickets have been prevented by this measure.

The smaller number of children requiring orthopaedic treatment is worthy of note and may be attributed to the emphasis placed on Vitamin products which many mothers now accept as an essential part of the infants diet.

During November the take up of codliver oil and fruit juice was carefully checked. This revealed the following figures:-

Fruit Juice only (Government Issue)	..	9% )	
Fruit Juice and codliver oil (Government Issue)		41% ) of children	
" " " " " from Chemist		17% )	under 5

The products obtained from the Chemists all contained Vitamin 'D' in varying amounts. It would be a safe deduction that, as not all children (especially the older ones) take full doses, the figure of 58% taking codliver oil is too low. If the recommended dose is not taken the bottles last longer and as they are not replaced within the usual periodicity the figures appear too low.

TABLE 5 - Home Visits by Health Visitors.

	Children under 1 year First Visits	Re- Visits	Children 1 - 5	Expectant Mothers First Visits	Re- Visits	Special Visits Infectious Diseases etc.	Infant Life Protec- tion	Tuber- culosis	Total
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
1944	1,500	4,55	4,995	170	108	400	115	562	12,406

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 24

Foster Children.

Number on books at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number who died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of inquests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of Child Protection Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115

War-time Day Nurseries.

The accommodation in the war-time Nurseries remains the same as in 1943.

Average Daily Attendance for the Year 1944:

	Under 2	Over 2	Total
Beulah Hall	-	20.9	20.9
Cassiobury Park	14.2	47.10	61.30
Harebreaks	11	49.2	60.12
Kingswood	10	23.4	33.4

In 1944 Short Stay Residential Nursery accommodation was made available to children by the County Council. Whilst only a small number of children were admitted, several difficult situations were overcome in this way although the distance from Watford is rather a handicap.

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

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year and the Matrons and their staffs dealt with minor complaints in their usual efficient manner.

Medical examinations and immunisation were carried out regularly, and cases needing special attention received the necessary treatment.

The general impression to be gained on visiting the Nurseries was that of a noticeable raising of the standard of the childrens health. It was very satisfactory, also, to note the improvement in those children who were too difficult to be managed properly at home.

Home Help Service.

The shortage of Maternity Home accommodation due to the rapid rise in the birth rate made it imperative for a greater number of mothers to be confined at home. In spite of the labour shortage the service was restarted in September and the demand, in spite of increased costs, continued throughout the remainder of 1944. A new assessment scale was introduced and each case received sympathetic consideration.

It is pleasant to be able to report the joint appointment of an Almoner by the County Council and the Borough Council to undertake work in conjunction with the mothers expecting an illegitimate child. It will be seen from the following report that one of the aftermaths of war-time - the married woman with an illegitimate child, is indeed a problem and requires very real co-operation between all concerned.

The Almoner's report on her work for these cases in Watford reads as follows and speaks for itself :-

During the period from 1-5-44 to 31-12-44 there were 41 women referred to me for help, of these 28 were single girls and 13 were married women expecting illegitimate babies. Of these 41 cases, 48 visits were paid, and 43 interviews held at the Town Hall; 88 letters were also written.

The secretary of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmens Families Association referred three of these cases, the Moral Welfare Workers 5. The Ministry of Labour and Almoners at various hospitals, sent 6 to see me and the remaining 27 were all referred by the Health Visitors.

The help given to these girls varied tremendously. 10 came after their babies were born and wanted help either with adoption or the admission of their children to residential nurseries. 3 were admitted to residential nurseries, 1 pending adoption and 2 in order to enable their mothers to make permanent plans. The other adoption cases, when it was not possible to arrange it through the Moral Welfare Worker or County Council, were referred to the National Adoption Society, if they belonged to the Church of England, or, if the girls were Catholics, to the Crusade of Rescue.

The 31 cases who came before their babies were born, mostly required help with plans for their confinement and sometimes Ante-Natal and Post-Natal accommodation. 1 married woman went to Bocket Hall Maternity Home to work till her baby came. She "was determined to have it adopted until it arrived" but is now home and keeping the child. 1 girl went to one of the Salvation Army's Ante-Natal Hostels, and another to Panshangar - the Maternity Home for Ex-service girls.

Practically every case was referred to either the Roman Catholic, or the Church of England Moral Welfare Workers, and it was then decided who should deal with various needs of the girl concerned. For the most part, unless the girls were going to a Diocesan Home I ensured that they were attending an Ante-Natal Clinic and that arrangements were made for their confinement and the Moral Welfare Workers dealt with affiliation orders and most of the adoptions. Everyone has co-operated and been most helpful.

The great need at the moment is for a Post-Natal Home to bridge the gap between the birth of the child and permanent plans being made. Efforts are being made to find a suitable house in the County for this.

There is also a great need for Residential Nurseries for these illegitimate babies. There are practically no foster-mothers and many mothers are being forced to part with their babies solely because they have to work and cannot keep the children with them. Relatives' homes are often overcrowded, and it seems unlikely that the position will ease in the very near future.

Everyone concerned with this particular problem feels how inadequate is the help that one can give, because, whereas one does not want to remove the responsibility of the child from the mother, she should be able to be given adequate help in taking that responsibility.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA ETC.,

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.

HOUSES INSPECTED UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1. Upon complaint	474 )	
2. Notice from owner or builder	33 )	556
3. Through observation	49 )	

Houses found defective	...	...	552
Houses found verminous	...	...	93

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and re-visits to contacts etc.,		408
--	--	-----

FACTORIES

Inspections	...	...	218
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SMOKE OBSERVATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS	...	23
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	1,127
Visits to Foodshops, Food Preparing Premises and Market	...	913
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds	...	126

OTHER INSPECTIONS

Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations	...	...	64
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	1,485
Miscellaneous visits including Billeting			937

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

12860	st.	Meat including 166 whole carcasses - 108 bovines, 15 sheep, 31 pigs, 12 calves.	
6413	st.	Offal and organs	
998	st.	Imported Meat	
270	lbs.	Sausages	
178		Meat Pies	
6172	lbs.	Canned Goods	
98	lbs.	Bacon	
10	cwts.	Flour, Cereals, etc.,	
97	st.	Fish	368 lbs. Sundries
194	lbs.	Cheese, Butter, etc.,	8 cwts. Fruit and Vegetables
167	lbs.	Dried Fruit	516 lbs. Sugar Confectionery
813		Eggs	225 Rabbits

The following table indicates the extent of disease found in the animals killed in the Government Slaughterhouses during the year 1944.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lanbs	Pigs
Number killed	4040	2030	5503	8310	2179
Number inspected	4040	2030	5503	8310	2179
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b>					
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	5	3	12
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	118	267	6	118	30
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	2.9	13.3	0.2	1.5	1.4
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	26	78	15	-	14
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	111	503	-	-	103
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.3	28.6	0.27	-	5.4

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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	93
Number of Corporation houses dealt with by Housing Department	11
	<u>104</u>

#### 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.

93 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.

During the year active measures were taken for the destruction of rats and mice. 199 complaints were received involving 420 premises. 1,485 visits were made either for the purpose of giving advice or carrying out treatment to premises infested with rats or mice.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act was officially taken over from the Hertfordshire County Council on the 1st July, 1944, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary equipment it was not possible to commence actual sampling until October.

The following is a summary of the articles of food and drugs obtained and submitted to the Public Analyst with the results :-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Number taken</u>	<u>result</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Milk	13	13 genuine	-
Coffee	3	3 "	-
Pepper	1	1 "	-
Gelatine	2	2 "	-
Vinegar	2	2 "	-
Golden Raising Powder	2	2 "	-
Lemon Essence	2	2 "	-
Raspberry Essence	1	1 "	-
Almond Flavouring	2	2 "	-
Horseradish Cream	1	1 "	-
Flour-			
Self Raising	4	4 "	-
Tartaric Acid	1	1 "	-
Curry Powder	4	4 "	Although genuine one sample unsatisfactory on account of heavy trace of lead. Action taken by Manufacturers appeared satisfactory and warning issued as to future consignments.
Mustard	4		3 failed to comply with Food Standards (Mustard) No. 2. Order. Order new when samples obtained. Vendors warned as to remainder of stock.

SECTION " F "

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 558, of which 546 were confirmed, compared with 1084 during the previous year.

<u>DIPHTHERIA</u>	28 cases notified of which 22 were confirmed. Four died.
<u>SCARLET FEVER</u>	The majority of cases were of a mild type; 106 cases notified of which 101 were confirmed, as compared with 156 in 1943. 80 cases were admitted to Hospital.
<u>ENTERIC FEVER</u>	There no notifications.
<u>CEREBROSPINAL FEVER</u>	5 cases notified, of which 4 were confirmed. One died.
<u>ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA</u>	No notifications
<u>ERYSIPELAS</u>	24 cases notified and confirmed. Two died.
<u>PUERPERAL PYREXIA</u>	10 cases notified and confirmed. Two died.
<u>OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM</u>	5 cases notified and confirmed.
<u>PNEUMONIA</u>	22 cases notified.
<u>MALARIA</u>	1 case notified (Imported)
<u>DYSENTERY</u>	39 cases notified. There were no deaths.
<u>JAUNDICE</u>	64 cases notified, of these 19 were notified as Infective Hepatitis. These are the first full years figures for this scheme but there were almost certainly an additional number of mild cases who did not consult their Doctor.
<u>MEASLES</u>	150 cases notified. There was no real epidemic and no death occurred.
<u>WHOOPIING COUGH</u>	104 cases notified. One died.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Children of all ages may now be immunised at the Central Clinic, Harebreaks Clinic, or at a school visit which takes place in rotation.

During the year immunisation was carried out as follows:-

	<u>Injections</u>			<u>Completed Cases</u>		<u>Re-Schick Tests</u>			
	1st.	2nd.	Total	0-5	5-15	total Tested	Pos.	Neg.	
Central Clinic (including Nurseries) Harebreaks	443	464	907	424	40	464	358	12	346
Schools	325	250	575	15	235	250			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>2062</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>346</b>

It is estimated that 71.2% of children under 5 and 59.8% between 5 and 15 have been protected. To maintain this percentage, nearly 1,000 children under 5 must be immunised annually. There is no room for slackening the effort.

### WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

374 children received injections to give protection against whooping cough compared with 268 given in 1943.

#### Control of Head Lice.

The Senior Health Visitor reports as follows for 1944 :-

Number of children under 5 found verminous	2
Treated by Health Visitors	1
Cleansed by parents after advice	1

#### Scabies.

712 cases of Scabies were treated at the two Clinics. Family contacts were followed up and treated prophylactically. When the First Aid Post at Shrodells Institution was closed, the clinic for male adults was moved to 1, St. Albans Road, the whole scheme is working satisfactorily

#### Tuberculosis

104 cases were notified during the year, as compared with 76 in 1943

	NEW CASES				DEATHS					
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
0	.	.	.	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	.	.	.	1	-	-	-	-	2	
5	.	.	.	1	-	-	-	-	-	
10	.	.	.	1	-	2	1	-	-	
15	.	.	.	5	7	1	3	2	1	-
20	.	.	.	4	15	1	4	2	1	-
25	.	.	.	6	8	1	1	1	2	1
35	.	.	.	9	6	1	1	3	2	-
45	.	.	.	8	2	-	1	5	1	1
55	.	.	.	5	3	-	1	1	3	-
65 and upwards				3	-	-	-	1	1	-
TOTAL				43	41	7	13	15	11	3

This table reveals a rise of 26 notifications (20 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary). The pulmonary type increase was most apparent in the 35-65 age group amongst males, and 15-35 age group amongst females, whereas the non-pulmonary rise was evenly spread and affected females only. The rise in the number of deaths was due to pulmonary cases on the higher age groups amongst females.

Of the 34 cases who died from tuberculosis, all were notified. 562 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 107 deaths from Cancer in the Borough during 1944, the corresponding figure for 1943 being 119.

### WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Medical Superintendent reports that :-

During 1944 fewer patients were treated in the hospital than in 1943, largely due to the smaller number of Scarlet Fever cases.

The following tables give details of admission and discharges during the year 1944 :-

#### Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1944.

Scarlet Fever	17,	Diphtheria	6,	Whooping Cough	2,				
Other diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

#### Patients admitted to Hospital during 1944.

Scarlet Fever	147	Dysentery	37
Diphtheria	54	Scarlet Fever Carrier	9
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	10	Mumps	9
Measles	13	Rubella	38
Whooping Cough	20	Polio-myelitis	1
Erysipelas	17	Malaria	1
Chicken Pox	15	Other Diseases	2
			373
			373
Patients treated during 1944	...	...	...
			399

#### Patients in Hospital 31.12.44

Scarlet Fever	12,	Diphtheria	3,	Cerebrospinal Meningitis	1,	Rubella	1,	Measles	1,
Whooping Cough	1,	Dysentery	2	...	...	...	...	...	21

#### The following deaths occurred in Hospital.

Influenzal Meningitis	1,	Erysipelas	2,	Diphtheria	2,	Measles	1,	
Other diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

#### Patients discharged from Hospital.

Scarlet Fever	141	Dysentery	31
Diphtheria	35	Scarlet Fever Carrier	7
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	5	Mumps	7
Measles	9	Rubella	39
Whooping Cough	20	Polio-myelitis	-
Erysipelas	11	Malaria	1
Chicken Pox	17	Other Diseases	48
			371
			371
		Total	399

I should like to draw the attention of the Board to certain features of the year's work. Firstly, there has been almost a 50% reduction in Scarlet Fever admissions from each District. Whilst this is the first full year in which Home Nursing has been advocated for uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever under suitable home conditions, it is noteworthy, that the notifications have similarly shown a reduction.

Diphtheria and Cerebrospinal Meningitis have also fallen considerably but whilst there have been two deaths from Diphtheria all the Cerebrospinal patients have recovered. It is also worthy of note that with one exception (an Army patient) none of the proved cases of Diphtheria have received a complete course of diphtheria immunisation.

It would be inadvisable I think for security reasons to separate entirely the Military and Naval cases from the civilians for each Authority, but I would like to recall the happy working arrangements by which the Military and Naval Authorities have been able to secure immediate isolation and treatment of their infectious cases. During the year a total of 96 service cases were admitted.

Finally I would like to record my thanks to the Matron and all the Hospital Staff for their good work during the year, sometimes carried out under trying circumstances due to shortage of staff. It is a pleasure also to thank the members of the Board who have freely given much helpful advice.





