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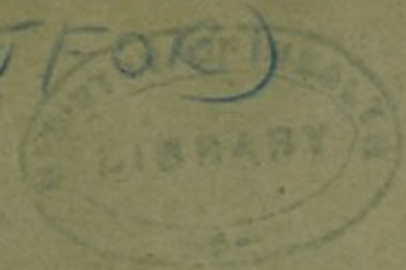
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HEALTH
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421 (1) WATFORD



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

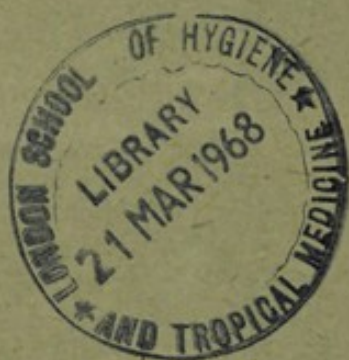
for the year

1946

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

15051



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

1. Members of the Health Committee,
1945 - 46.

Chairman: Councillor F. G. Helsby
Vice-Chairman: Councillor L. C. Johnson
His Worship the Mayor: Councillor J. Wright
The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Mrs. E. G. Beall

Alderman H. J. Bridger	Councillor L. E. Haines
Alderman G. Timberlake	Councillor H. Horwood
Alderman Mrs. M. A. Ward	Councillor A. C. Lloyd
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger	Councillor C. W. Tyrwhitt
Councillor H. J. F. Brown	Councillor F. H. Vince
Councillor J. K. Carpenter	Councillor E. T. Warren

2. Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee,
1945 - 46.

Chairman: Alderman Mrs. M. A. Ward
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger
His Worship the Mayor: Councillor J. Wright
The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Mrs. E. G. Beall

Alderman Mrs. L. E. Armitage	Councillor Mrs. A. Primett
Alderman H. J. Bridger	Councillor Mrs. B. Williams
Councillor H. J. F. Brown	Mrs. Dickens
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks	Mrs. Gray
Councillor J. Davis	Mrs. Harris
Councillor A. G. Dillingham	Mrs. Horwood
Councillor H. Eccles	Mrs. Johnson
Councillor F. G. Helsby	Mrs. Last
Councillor C. Hipwell	Mrs. Wiggs
Councillor L. C. Johnson	

3. Members of the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital Board,
1945 - 46.

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

Mrs. E. D. Allen	W. T. Ellam, Esq.
Mrs. L. E. Armitage	G. Follet, Esq.
E. J. Baxter, Esq.	Mrs. M. H. Kent
Mrs. E. G. Beall	R. W. North, Esq.
Mrs. E. W. Bevan	J. G. Shaw, Esq.
T. C. Downer, Esq.	Mrs. M. A. Ward
H. Eggleton, Esq.	Mrs. B. Williams

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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)
A. H. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
R. Morris, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (to 17.2.46)
R. S. Mitchinson, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 28.4.46)
G. M. Greig, B.A., M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. (Ed.) (from 23.6.46)
T. A. Hale-Monro, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. (from 23.6.46)
J. K. Ogden, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.R.C.O.G. (to 15.12.46)
S. A. Scorer, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.
(from 15.12.46)

± Dental Officers:-

Sidney W. Fisk, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.
William J. Pitt Ford, B.D.S.(Lond.), L.D.S. (from 8.9.46)

+♠ Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

R. V. Jacob, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

xs=♠ K. H. Marsden, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

s=♠ G. F. Willcox, M.S.I.A.
s=♠ E. Ellerington, M.S.I.A.
s=♠ J. L. Willoughby, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke

Senior Health Visitor and Infant Life Protection Visitor:-

" Miss A. Clifford, S.R.N., S.C.M. (from 4.2.46)

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 H. Davy, S.R.N., S.C.M.
" Miss S. McFadden, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Welfare Officer:-

Miss M. Rann

Clerical Staff:-

R. A. Smith (returned from H.M.Forces 6.5.46)
A. E. Hall (to 31.5.46)
Mrs. G. Pleasants, Miss M. Sherlock
Miss M. Travis (to 12.1.46)
Mrs. Pettit (to 5.1.46)
Miss K. Eames, Miss E. Maxfield
Miss V. Halward (from 21.1.46)
Miss E. Fisher (from 14.1.46 to 3.5.46)

± Part-time Officers.

+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

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

♠ Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

" Health Visitors' Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute.

s Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

x Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination in Sanitary Science and Administration.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

Health Department,
Town Hall,
WATFORD.

December, 1947.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

At a time when the pressure of routine duties, printing difficulties etc. make an early Annual Report almost impossible, the issue in January, of a preliminary but short account of the year's work, reviewed before its details are lost in the rush of the next year's events, has much to commend it. Such a report in January, 1947, although it contained data based on local estimates of population etc. not only gave a surer foundation for this, the more accurate and lasting account, but helped the Committee and Staff to review the position more quickly. It is hoped to repeat this procedure next year.

The year 1946 will be remembered for many years to come - the National Health Service Act reached the Statute Book. In an age of planning let us not forget that the fundamental requirement for a healthy life is a happy and united family in good housing conditions. If the Social Services which are to be provided in the future will bring about a weakening of family ties and an undermining of parental responsibility, then good citizenship will vanish and with it the greatness of our nation. Therefore in planning the details of the Act, care must be taken to co-ordinate all facilities, to aim at keeping the family together whilst guiding its growth and development on the right lines.

To a pioneering Minor Authority which must lose many of its treasured functions there comes a time when all seems lost. From the depths of despondency two thoughts arise. What remains and what new fields are there to conquer? One most essential function remains - the practice of epidemiology - a function which is essentially local but yet on the other hand knows no local government boundaries. Its success depends on the knowledge, keenness, speed and team spirit of all members of a Health Department, ably backed by a loyal group of General Practitioners who form the scouts in this incessant fight against the spread of infectious disease. It is a pleasure to record the existence of this relationship in Watford and to pay tribute to the help given very willingly by my medical colleagues in the Borough and surrounding districts.

Of the future, it is too early to make a forecast but there seems to be a gleam of hope in the policy of decentralising to Divisions of Local Health Authorities much of the day to day administration within the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Bill so that the local knowledge and enthusiasm can be used to bring life to the skeleton, eventually clothe it in suitable raiment and finally present it to other nations as a Health Service of which the nation can be justly proud.

The one outstanding event of 1946 which must be recorded is the very low Infantile Mortality Rate which reached a level hardly believed possible a few years ago. A rate of 23 reflects credit on the manner in which all concerned

with the care of mothers and children have done their work, laying the foundation of a healthy childhood and later on, if their environment permits, good citizens.

Once again I must mention the enthusiasm of the Health Department Staff. The ever increasing load of work put on to Dr. M. Ward has been carried out in her own way backed by Miss Clifford and a team of Health Visitors, the like of which would be difficult to find anywhere. There is also a very useful liaison with the King Street Maternity Home and the Domiciliary Midwives, the District Nurses and all those who, in this area, have the welfare of children as their first consideration.

It must not be forgotten that Mr. Jacob and the Sanitary Inspectors are working in difficult times and the results they have obtained and the care they give to maintaining a safe food supply is reflected in the figures of the report.

Finally let me say that the interest shown by members of the Council has been much appreciated by the Staff of the Department.

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 civilian population to mid year 1946 ...	71,530		
Number of inhabited houses (estimated) ...	18,804		
Rateable value at 1.4.46 ...	...	...	£637,657
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	£2,620

Number of Live Births -	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	650	593	1,243
Illegitimate	<u>37</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>86</u>
Total	<u>687</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>1,329</u>

Number of Still Births -			
Legitimate	20	11	31
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>36</u>

Total number of Births
(Live and Still) ... 1,365

Total number of Deaths ... 720

Deaths from -

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	-
Other Puerperal Causes...	...	...	2
All Puerperal causes ...	...	...	2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	-
Measles ...	...	...	-
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	-
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	-
Diphtheria ...	...	...	-
Cerebrospinal fever ...	...	...	1
Influenza ...	...	...	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...	-
Violence ...	...	...	30
Cancer ...	...	...	120

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	17	11	28
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>31</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1946.

	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>London Administrative County</u>	<u>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
Live Births	18.6	19.1	21.5	22.2
Still Births	0.50	0.53	0.54	0.67
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	10.1	11.5	12.7	12.7
Measles	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.06	0.15	0.12	0.13
Typhoid etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) (per 1,000 live births)	0.00	4.4	4.2	6.1
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.18		
Other puerperal causes	1.51	1.06		
All puerperal causes	1.51	1.24		
Infant Mortality Rate -				
All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	23.3
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births				22.5
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births				34.7

COMPARATIVE RATES.

	<u>Watford 1945</u>	<u>Watford 1946</u>	<u>England and Wales, 1945</u>	<u>England and Wales, 1946</u>
Birth Rate (live births)	17.4	18.6	16.1	19.1
Death Rate	11.6	10.1	11.4	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate	28.2	23.3	46.0	43.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.84	1.51	1.46	1.24

Comments -

(1) Infectious Diseases.

The only death was an infant suffering from Cerebrospinal Meningitis. Notifications were much fewer due to the small number of cases of measles and whooping cough.

(2) Violence.

Compared with last year although there is a rise in the total, the street accident figures (5) remained the same and the home accidents fell slightly to 9. The latter figure is slightly higher than the national figure (6,000 home accident deaths) of which 20% are from scalds etc. and 60% from falls. Analysis of these figures reveals that 50% occur in the elderly - 20% amongst children. It is hoped that the booklet to be issued shortly will go some way to correct the ignorance and carelessness of parents and stress the importance of safe appliances of all types.

(3) Birth Rate.

There was a slight rise in the rate but it did not reach the 1944 figure of 19.7

(4) Still Birth Rate.

There was a general rise in this rate but the Watford rate has risen from 0.37 to 0.50. It is too early to draw conclusions.

(5) Deaths in Infancy.

The rate of 23.3 is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough and comes within reasonable distance of 20, which is generally looked upon as the attainable level of which half is irreducible. Even in the best possible circumstances accidents happen and therefore although naturally every effort will be made to reduce this figure further still it is unlikely to be successful every year. The following causes of death were registered for children under 1 year old:-

Prematurity	...	...	11	(12)
Malformation	...	...	4	(5)
Birth Injuries	...	...	2	(3)
Collapse of Lung	...	...	7	(2)
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2	(7)
Other diseases of Infancy	...	...	5	(4)
Accidents	...	...	-	-
Total			31	(33)

The 1945 figures are in brackets.

The loss of an infant is a personal loss not only to its parents but also to all members of the Services responsible for its care during this early period of its life. Could such a loss have been prevented? Even if the infant had been saved only to become a subnormal citizen should that handicap which endangered its life have arisen at all? Each year the gaps through which an infant life can slip are closed one by one but a few still remain which only very careful research will reveal.

Of these 31 infant deaths 8 (including twins) died within 24 hours, a further 8 less than a week old and another 8 whilst still under one month old, leaving only 7 during the next eleven months.

It is a pleasure to report once again that no death from Infantile Diarrhoea was recorded.

(6) Death Rate.

The rate of 10 is very near the pre-war level.

(7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio has risen from 1,064 to 1,081 boys to every 1,000 girl infants.

(8) Illegitimate Births (per 1,000 total births).

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	66	66

It is gratifying to see how the return to more normal conditions has revealed itself in a raising of moral standards and it is hoped that with improving housing conditions the 1939 figure will be reached soon and even lowered.

- (9) The Infantile Mortality and Premature Birth Rates in each Ward may give useful figures when considered over a series of years. Unfortunately it is not possible to trace still births occurring outside the Borough and therefore these figures cannot claim the accuracy of the other two.

WARD	STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Total Births.	PREMATURE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Total Births.	INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 Live Births.
Garston	41.4	69.1	14.4
Knutsford	36.4	78.8	37.7
Harebreaks	12.9	45.2	32.6
Bradshaw	17.9	44.6	27.3
St. Andrews	27.8	55.5	28.6
Cassiobury	-	120.0	10.0
Kings	-	47.6	9.5

WARD	STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Total Births.	PREMATURE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 Total Births.	INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 Live Births
Harwoods	8.5	51.3	25.8
Queens	40.6	73.2	25.4
Oxhey	9.3	84.1	28.3
TOTAL	22.2	66.5	28.3 28.3

SECTION "B"

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. GENERAL

(a) Ambulance Facilities.

The number of calls for removals and accidents totalled 3,343 compared with 3,381 during 1945. At the beginning of October volunteers from the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade took up their duties each evening as Female Ambulance Attendants and travelled with the patients on all removal and accident calls during the evening and at night. In addition, a rota was formed for daytime long distance journeys. Both these services have been working admirably and are being extended to cover maternity cases as soon as a training based on "first aid in midwifery" has been given.

It should be remembered that all the staff are not only trained in first aid but are required to maintain their efficiency annually. There is no doubt that the assistance given voluntarily by the Officers and men of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is much appreciated by those who use the service. Great credit is due to all the Staff, both for their efficient conduct and for the way in which they keep a fleet of very old vehicles on the road.

(b) Clinic Services.

Early in 1946 a re-arrangement of Clinics was made to enable a Medical Officer to be present all day each Tuesday at The Avenue Clinic and also to start a Toddlers Clinic at Leavesden Green Community Centre once a week. The success of this move is revealed in the figures set out below.

The present number of mothers and children attending Ante Natal, Post Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics reveals the pressing need for additional accommodation of a more suitable character and it is hoped that it will be possible to press forward with the North Watford Clinic at an early date.

(c) 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 following information gives the facts but hardly indicates the appreciation felt by those who require this service.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Erysipelas	3	10
Lobar Pneumonia	10	152
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	3
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	28
Influenza Pneumonia	2	46
Measles	1	9
Whooping Cough	1	18
Other diseases occurring in children under 5 years	194	1,505
Influenza	17	193
Complications of Pregnancy	50	417
Complications of Childbirth	<u>43</u>	<u>509</u>
Total	<u>323</u>	<u>2,890</u>

(d) Adoptive Acts.

Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the district. No change.

(e) Laboratory Facilities.

No change.

(f) Health Education.

22 Lectures were given by members of the Department Staff on a wide variety of subjects to students, Youth Clubs and other societies.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) Maternity Homes.

In addition to the 51 beds available at King Street Maternity Home and the 20 beds provided in Private Nursing Homes, a further 16 beds were opened at Stanborough Hydro in March, 1946. These additional beds have relieved the pressure on King Street Maternity Home, but not to the extent to allow mothers to remain in the Home longer than ten days, except in exceptional circumstances.

(b) Domiciliary Midwifery.

As a responsibility of the Hertfordshire County Council this service has carried on satisfactorily and not been unduly upset by shortage of staff.

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

Year	Institutional				Domiciliary			Grand Total
	King St.	Shrodells	Private Nursing Homes	Total	Midwives	Doctors and Parents	Total	
1944	461	464	381	1,306	548	41	589	1,895
1945	614	239	366	1,219	403	34	437	1,656
1946	1031	29	525	1,585	467	20	487	2,072

(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 1946.

Month	CENTRAL CLINIC		STANBOROUGH'S		TOTAL	POST NATAL		TOTAL
	First Attends	Sub-Attends	First Attends	Sub-Attends		First Attends	Sub-Attends	
Jan.	41	157	17	41	256	8	6	14
Feb.	25	152	9	33	219	11	6	17
Mar.	36	156	11	26	229	19	6	25
Apl.	31	136	10	32	209	11	8	19
May	63	185	19	38	305	17	9	26
June	27	89	13	43	172	10	6	16
July	56	188	8	53	305	13	3	16
Aug.	57	164	29	62	312	11	7	18
Sept.	49	237	19	77	382	11	4	11
Oct.	48	253	22	84	407	26	3	29
Nov.	42	252	8	81	383	21	5	26
Dec.	15	174	9	48	246	9	2	11
Total	490	2,143	174	618	3,525	167	61	228

TABLE 2. - Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics, 1940 - 46.

Year	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	Total Attendances
1940	441	915	1,366
1941	687	1,299	1,986
1942	586	1,433	2,019
1943	497	1,256	1,753
1944	416	1,396	1,912
1945	463	1,539	2,002
1946	664	2,861	3,525

B. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

TABLE 3. - Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc., at Infant Welfare Centres during the Years 1940 - 1946.

Year	First Attendances		No. on Register at end of year	Consultations	Infants Weighed
	Under 1 year	1-5 years			
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
1945	961	561	2,935	6,098	25,603
1946	1,112	543	2,892	7,716	26,745

During 1946 on 1,134 occasions infants were weighed who live outside the Borough.

TABLE 4. - Number of Consultations, weighings, etc., at various Welfare Centres during 1946.

Welfare Centre	First Attendances	No. on Register	Consultations	Infants Weighed
Central Clinic	431	758	2,054	7,664
Harebreaks	280	560	1,416	5,608
Stanboroughs	178	383	766	4,187
Leggatts Way	141	312	786	3,757
Wiggenhall	130	271	871	2,816
Toddlers	495	608	1,823	2,713
	1,655	2,892	7,716	26,745

Toddlers Clinic.

The figures for this service are worthy of note and show the result of an additional Clinic.

	1944	1945	1946
New cases	330	425	495
Revisits	481	729	1,377
Consultations	811	1,154	1,823
Total Attendances	1,441	1,830	2,713

Cases requiring special treatment -

Dental	28
Orthopaedic	58
Ophthalmic	40
Child Guidance	2
Artificial Sunlight	141

Dental Clinic.

A Dental Clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. 397 cases received treatment during the past year in the 39 sessions that were held. 16 mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets.

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

Number of sessions	67
Number of cases treated	376
Number of treatments given	5,271

Orthopaedic Treatment.

104 children under five were referred to the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road for advice and treatment, as compared with 96 cases in 1945.

<u>Congenital Defects</u>		<u>Other Defects</u>	
Backward Muscular Development	2	Creaking Knees	1
Spastic Equinus	1	Flat Chest	1
Talipes Calcaneo-valgus	6	Flat Feet	42
		Genu Valgum	53
		Genu Varum	21
		Malposition of Toes	2
		Metatarsus Varus	4
		Pes Calcaneus	<u>3</u>
		Total	<u>136</u>

Total number of cases treated:- 104

A number of children showed more than one defect.

Conclusions on the Clinic Services.

1. That additional beds in Maternity Homes are urgently needed is illustrated by the increase in institutional births and the knowledge that there are still many mothers who are confined at home against their wishes and others who can only stay in the County Maternity Home for 10 days. But in spite of the difficulties it was possible to accommodate 65% of Watford mothers. (The National figure is 67%).
2. It is a pleasure to record an increase in mothers attending the Ante Natal Clinic from 463 to 664. A proportion of these mothers were eventually confined either in Private Nursing Homes or in the County Maternity Home. Better still is the rise in Post Natal Mothers attending, from 132 to 167. Some day perhaps, these two groups will more closely approximate to each other. In spite of every effort the percentage returning for examination is still below 40 and only just above the figure at the County Maternity Home where it is possible to emphasize its importance to all mothers.
3. The Toddlers Clinic figures are not only due to the opening of an additional clinic but also to the increasing popularity of this service and the appreciation of a very real attempt to fill the gap before admission to a Primary School.
4. Infant Welfare Clinic attendances show that over 80% of the children born or coming to live in the Borough attend during their first year of life.

TABLE 5. - Home Visits by Health Visitors.

Year	Children under 1 year		Children 1 - 5	Expectant Mothers First Visits	Re-Visits	Special Visits Infectious Diseases	Infant Life Protection	Tuberculosis	TOTAL
	First Visits	Re-Visits							
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	4,556	4,995	170	108	400	115	562	12,406
1945	1,409	4,469	5,904	124	96	884	199	526	13,611
1946	1,289	5,948	6,186	306	151	358	145	244	14,628

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 10

Foster Children.

Number on books at the end of the year 12
 Number who died during the year -
 Number of inquests -
 Number of Child Protection Visitors 1
 Total number of visits paid 140

Adoption of Children.

During 1946, 27 people applied for adoption. Of these, 18 were successful and received babies, completing legal adoption, 1 through the County Court, 1 privately, 8 through Adoption Societies and 8 through Miss Dalby, the Diocesan Moral Welfare Worker.

55 visits were paid and reports made concerning these cases.

Premature Births.

110 premature births were notified during the year 1946, 87 of which were Watford babies, the remaining 23 being born in Watford but resident outside the district. 30 were born at home and 57 in Private and County Maternity Homes.

WATFORD BABIES.

Birth Weight	Died during first 24 hours		Died before end of month		Survived to end of month		Total
	lbs.	Dom.	Inst.	Dom.	Inst.	Dom.		Inst.
1 - 2	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
2 - 3	1	-	3	-	-	1	7
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	5	4	11
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	6	21	28
5 - 5½	-	-	1	-	17	20	39
	1	6	1	5	28	46	87

OUT OF DISTRICT BABIES - (All born in Institutions).

Birth Weight lbs.	Died during first 24 hours	Died before end of month	Survived to end of month	Total
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	1	-	-	1
3 - 4	1	1	1	3
4 - 5	2	-	5	7
5 - 5½	-	-	12	12
	4	1	18	23

It should be noted that of the 110 immature births, although 18 deaths occurred, 13 of these were in respect of 24 babies weighing less than 4 lbs. Of the remaining 86 weighing 4 lbs. or more at birth, all but 5 survived to the end of the first month.

That only two immature babies born at home were lost reflects great credit on the Midwifery Services but every endeavour must be made to reduce these figures still further.

Day Nurseries.

Monthly range of attendances for the year 1946.

	<u>Under 2</u>	<u>Over 2</u>
Beulah Hall ...	-	16 - 43
Cassiobury Park ...	12 - 19	41 - 54
Harebreaks ...	13 - 23	39 - 60

On April 1st the Kingswood War-time Day Nursery was handed over to the Education Authority and the registers of the remaining Nurseries were stepped up to 10%.

Whilst it is appreciated that Nurseries do not provide much additional female labour for industry, they do meet a very real social need. It can be said safely that the Watford Nurseries are not detrimental to the health of the children and they do provide facilities for looking after the children of mothers who must work, and for the children of mothers during an acute emergency and also, although in small numbers, for the children of problem households. It cannot be too heavily stressed that the success of these Nurseries depends to some extent upon their siting, the type of buildings used, but to a large extent, on the staff themselves. The children improve on the full diet given them together with their vitamin products. There have been small outbreaks of the common infectious diseases, such as chicken pox, but rarely has whooping cough occurred. There were, however, three cases of mild scarlet fever at Harebreaks Nursery, but the outbreak was brought under control immediately the carriers were removed. Finally, there is no doubt that the children rarely reveal any psychological upset as a result of being placed in a Nursery and surely derive a definite balance and ability to settle down with other children. It is felt that the Day Nurseries and Nursery Schools of the future need to be planned at the same time as the new housing estates. Medical inspections were carried out regularly and treatment arranged as required. In addition, 117 entrants to Nursery Schools were examined and 137 re-inspections made.

Residential Nursery.

33 children were admitted from the Borough to the County Short Stay Residential Nursery at St. Margaretsbury. These children were accommodated for varying periods during their mothers' illness or confinement. This type of accommodation is urgently required on the West side of the County.

Domestic Help Service.

During the year 1946 the number of applicants helped through periods of sickness etc. was 91. 20 domestic helps were employed; 6 full time and 14 part time.

Home Help Service.

During the year 15 cases were given help for confinement although 30 mothers actually enquired about the service. Five whole time and one part time home helps were employed.

The care of mothers and their Illegitimate Children.

The part time Almoner who is responsible for this service reports that during the year of 1946, 36 girls from the Borough of Watford were seen and of these, 12 were married women or widows.

The decrease in the number of cases referred (14) follows the disappearance of army camps from the district.

Seven girls have been placed in employment in County Maternity Homes during pregnancy and have thus worked their passage until confinement. 3 cases were admitted to Lemsford House as Ante-Natal cases. In 16 cases it has been necessary to arrange Post-Natal accommodation, 1 going to the Essex Post-Natal Home at Ardmore and 3 to Institutions. Adoption has been arranged in 5 cases with 1 case pending. Arrangements for the care of the child by foster mothers have been made in two cases. This work has involved close liaison with other bodies both Public and Voluntary and the Almoner is glad to report that a valuable link exists with the Borough Health Visitors. There is also co-operation with the Diocesan Worker and case discussions are held with her regularly.

Visits are now made to the Maternity Home, King Street, on one day each week and the assessment work is undertaken in addition to the social work which arises.

The future of the work has been greatly eased by the provision of a County Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Hostel at Welwyn Garden City which opened on the last day of the year. Not only do these facilities solve the problems of accommodation so often present, but should give each girl time to consider her plans for the future and so obviate the danger of hasty decisions.

SECTIONS "C", "D" AND "E".

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, ETC.

Water.

The Water Engineer reports that:-

1. (a) In the early months of the year some difficulty was experienced in tracing the source of a bacterial infiltration into one of the sources of supply before treatment. Careful investigation revealed the trouble which was remedied and since then all tests have been satisfactory. All water going into supply reached a high standard of bacterial purity.

(b) The quantity of water has been satisfactory.

2. Bacteriological examinations were made of ^{rain}rain and treated water at monthly intervals but during the period mentioned in 1(a) these examinations were carried out very frequently, even twice daily. Chemical analysis three monthly has always been satisfactory.

3. There is no plumbo solvency.

4. Super-chlorination and de-chlorination is carried out at the station mentioned in 1(a) and a careful check kept on its efficiency. At the other station (where no difficulty has arisen) only simple chlorination is possible at present.

5. All the population have a mains supply except 12 cottages with a population of about 30, which are supplied by stand pipes, and six premises with a population of 20 supplied from shallow wells.

Sanitary Inspection.

The following table is a record of visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors:-

<u>Houses -</u>			
Public Health Act	...	...	831
Housing Act	...	...	125
Overcrowding	...	...	100
Complaints	...	...	875
<u>Factories -</u>	...	...	194
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>			
Special Scheme	...	...	91
Complaints	...	...	197
Premises inspected	...	...	528
Other visits	...	...	198
<u>General -</u>			
Fly prevention	...	...	37
Keeping of animals	...	...	11
Refuse accommodation	...	...	81
Tents, vans and sheds and Squatters Camps	...	...	59
Stables and piggeries...	...	...	46
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	12
Public Houses	...	...	64
Schools	...	...	5
Smcke observations	...	...	104
Vacant land and dumps...	...	...	55
Verminous premises	...	...	264
Drainage inspections and tests	...	...	317
Cesspools	...	...	23
Infectious diseases	...	...	504
Common yards and passages	...	...	4
Petroleum Acts	...	...	60
Shops Acts	...	...	8
		Carried forward	4,693

		Brought forward	4,693
Interviews with owners	...		360
Miscellaneous Visits ...	...		829
<u>Revisits to Premises Under Notice -</u>			
Public Health Act - Houses	...		1,274
Public Health Act - Others	...		83
Housing Act	...		467
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>			
Slaughterhouses	...		1,661
Butchers Shops	...		223
Fishmongers and poulterers	...		16
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...		10
Grocers and other food shops	...		262
Fried fish shops	...		21
Dairies and cowsheds	...		61
Ice cream premises	...		125
Restaurants and dining rooms	...		193
Preserved food rooms	...		28
Milk samples	...		44
Food (adulteration) samples	...		125
Ice cream samples (bacteriological)			19
Public market	...		168
Other food premises	...		171
Bakehouses	...		23
		Total	<u>10,956</u>

Administration - Notices.

		<u>Informal</u> <u>Served</u>	<u>Informal</u> <u>Complied</u> <u>with</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Served</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Complied</u> <u>with</u>
Public Health	...	490	344	114	124
Housing Act	...	89	17	31	12
Factory Act	...	26	15	-	-
Food and Drugs Act	...	43	45	-	-
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	...	3	1	-	-
Shops Act	...	72	61	-	-

Housing.

For many years the Public Health Department has endeavoured to upraise the standard of houses for the "working-classes" by procuring the demolition of slum type properties and the reconstruction of obsolescent houses within the Borough. Our cause received a serious setback during the war years but with the resumption of Peace every effort has been made to maintain and improve the existing housing accommodation. Shortages of building labour and materials and the resultant licensing restrictions have limited the requirements of the Sanitary Inspectors to the minimum repairs necessary to render the houses reasonably habitable. During the year many houses were found which fell short of this low standard and 579 informal notices were served requiring owners to execute urgent repairs. Often there is a long delay before these essential works are completed and this necessitates many revisits by the Sanitary Inspectors before a notice is finally complied with. The service of Statutory Notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts has been authorised on 145 occasions and the Council were obliged to enforce 6 of these notices by executing the necessary works in default of the owners. Despite the many difficulties 497 houses have been rendered fit during the year and this work is proceeding steadily.

Two houses, namely Primrose Cottage, Radlett Road and Little Otterspool Cottage, Water Lane, have been represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 as unfit for human habitation and in both cases Demolition Orders were made by the Council - to take effect as soon as the occupants are re-housed.

Overcrowding.

The collation of reliable overcrowding statistics is an impossibility at the present time owing to the extensive survey required and the continual movement of families occupying rooms. Overcrowding with all its attendant evils is known to be comparatively common and cannot be viewed with equanimity. Whenever statutory overcrowding is encountered the facts are reported to the Housing Agent with a view to the re-housing of the family concerned as soon as possible, and upon the family being re-housed steps are taken to prevent a recurrence of the overcrowding in their former accommodation. Until many more new houses are erected the statutory overcrowding standard can be enforced on rare occasions only.

New Houses.

Mr. F. C. Sage, Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the undermentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1946.

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	4
(b) By private individuals	...	...	86
(c) Premises requisitioned for housing purposes	...	...	112
(d) Prefabricated Houses (Bungalow type)	...	...	100

Smoke Abatement.

All the factory chimneys within the Borough have been kept under close observation during the year. Excessive smoke emission from seven chimneys has been recorded and in each case investigations have been made into the boiler house practice with a view to abating the nuisance. Carelessness or ignorance on the part of stokers and the use of unsuitable and inferior fuels are the most common causes of this nuisance, and our efforts therefore have been more or less concentrated on these two major sources of trouble. The frequent emission of dense smoke is an indication of inefficient boilerhouse methods; therefore early in the year close co-operation was established between the Ministry of Fuel and Power technologists and this Department. As a result of our joint efforts there has been a noticeable decrease in smoke emission from the factories concerned.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following particulars give the meat and other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
<u>HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL</u>			
Beef (including 119 carcasses) ...	... 728	3	10
Mutton and Lamb (including 4 carcasses) ...	... 3	-	25
Pork (including 40 carcasses) ...	... 63	-	11
Veal (including 23 carcasses) ...	... 10	-	16
<u>Offal from Cattle:-</u>			
973 heads ...	... 259	2	22
955 tongues ...	... 42	2	16
1,826 sets lungs ...	... 164	1	5
225 hearts ...	... 9	-	27
Carried forward ...	1,281	-	20

			Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Brought forward	...	...	1,281.	-	20
1,620 livers and 771 part livers	...	...	262	-	7
205 spleens	...	...	3	2	7
252 thick skirts	...	...	4	2	9
260 tripes	...	...	69	2	2
536 udders	...	...	110	-	23
194 sets intestines	...	...	44	3	15
120 tails	...	...	2	-	27
Other offal (feet etc.)	...	...	1	-	14
<u>Offal from Pigs:-</u>					
130 plucks	...	...	9	3	7
22 livers	...	...		3	26
347 sets lungs	...	...	11	-	5
158 heads and tongues	...	...	36	1	20
286 other organs	...	...	7	3	16
<u>Offal from Sheep:-</u>					
40 plucks	...	...	1	3	18
698 livers	...	...	13	3	3
175 sets lungs	...	...	3	1	4
4 heads and tongues	...	...	-	-	19
14 other organs	...	...	-	2	4
<u>Offal from Calves:-</u>					
23 heads and tongues	...	...	1	-	26
27 plucks	...	...	1	-	23
2 livers	...	...	-	-	5
24 sets lungs	...	...	-	1	26
44 other organs	...	...	2	-	23
<u>IMPORTED MEAT.</u>					
Beef	...	...	2	-	15
Mutton	...	...	-	2	-
<u>OTHER FOODS.</u>					
Bacon	...	...	-	2	11
Poultry...	...	...	1	1	15
Rabbits...	...	...	-	2	24
Sausages	...	...	1	1	23
Cooked Meats	...	...	-	1	10
Brawn	...	...	-	2	22
Wet fish	...	...	29	-	7
Cured fish	...	...	11	1	14
Shell fish	...	...	-	1	2
Cheese	...	...	1	2	7
Galantine	...	...	-	-	11
Cereal Grains	...	...	12	1	2
Flour	...	...	-	2	16
Cake and pudding mixtures	...	...	-	-	11
Biscuits	...	...	-	3	19
Custard Powder	...	...	-	-	12
Cake	...	...	-	2	22
Dried Milk	...	...	1	3	4
Pulses	...	...	2	2	14
Sugar	...	...	1	1	5
Tea	...	...	-	-	15
Dried fruit	...	...	5	-	15
Sweets and chocolate	...	...	1	1	26
Butter	...	...	-	-	14
Margarine and lard	...	...	-	1	25
Carried forward	...	...	1,948	1	10

			Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Brought forward	...	...	1,948.	1	10
Shredded suet	...	...	-	-	7
Gravy salt	...	...	1	-	11
168 shell eggs	...	...	-	-	21
2,304 crumpets	...	...	2	2	8
1,700 fish cakes...	...	...	3	-	4
65 cans fruit pudding	...	...	-	2	9
220 can fruit	...	...	4	1	1
909 cans fish	...	...	6	-	10
146 cans U.S.A. Pork Luncheon and Sausage meats	...	...	1	2	15
4,300 cans evaporated milk...	...	...	34	3	8
1,124 cans vegetables	...	...	10	2	20
247 cans sardines	...	...	-	2	7
812 cans corned meats	...	...	34	-	3
480 cans of other meats	...	...	6	3	7
70 cans soups	...	...	-	2	10
41 cans jam and marmalade	...	...	-	2	11
Miscellaneous food stuffs	...	...	-	-	18
Total	...	...	2,056	-	12

Total weight of Meat and Other Foods condemned during the year 1946 -
102 tons 16 cwts. 12 lbs.

Of the above unsound foods no less than 91.5% comprises diseased meat and offal condemned at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses within the Borough. This meat and offal is not a complete loss - it is collected by Ministry of Food contractors and subjected to high pressure steam digestion the resultant products then being used for inedible purposes only. So far as other foodstuffs are concerned there is close liaison between the Public Health Department, the Ministry of Food Salvage Division and the Watford Food Executive Officer; all foodstuffs are carefully examined and whenever possible salvaged although it should here be emphasised that the safeguarding of the public health is regarded as of paramount importance.

The following table indicates the extent of Tuberculosis and other diseases found in the animals killed in the Government Slaughterhouses during the year 1946 -

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4,729	2,080	5,441	11,271	3,410
Number inspected	4,729	2,080	5,441	11,271	3,410
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
1. Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	16	4	23
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,389	534	9	803	350
3. Percentage of the number inspected affected with Diseases other than Tuberculosis	29.4	25.9	.5	7.1	10.9
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
1. Whole carcasses condemned	24	89	7	-	17
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	590	857	1	-	141
3. Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.0	45.5	.1	-	4.6

The high percentage of Tubercular infection of cattle, as revealed by post-mortem examination at the Slaughterhouses, has seriously perturbed the Borough Council throughout the year. Representations have been made to the Ministers of Health and Agriculture and Fisheries urging the immediate institution of energetic and effective control measures on the farms.

Ice Cream.

During the summer months energetic steps were taken to safeguard the purity of all ice cream manufactured within the Borough. A careful investigation was conducted into all aspects of the manufacture and sale of ice cream and numerous samples were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. A special report on the purity and quality of ice cream manufactured within the Borough was submitted to the Public Health Committee in September and stress was laid therein on the shortcomings of the existing legislation; in particular:-

1. The absence of chemical and bacteriological standards for ice cream.
2. The inadequacy of powers to control persons handling ice cream and the consequent difficulties of preventing occasional outbreaks of milk-borne diseases.
3. The inadequacy of control over itinerant ice cream "barrow-men".
4. The absence of legal powers to enforce the heat treatment of all ice cream.

The New Regulations now in draft are not so comprehensive as we had hoped, but they will at least close the door on the more dangerous cold mix ice creams.

Food Preparing Premises.

The hygiene of all the restaurants, cafes and snack bars within the Borough has been diligently investigated during the year. Careful attention has been given not only to the cleanliness and structural condition of the premises but also to the manner in which the foodstuffs are handled and the cleanliness of cutlery, crockery and equipment. At the same time the premises have been inspected for insect and rodent pest infestations. Unsatisfactory conditions of varying degrees were found to exist in 45 premises (i.e. 66% of the total number inspected); in each case immediate remedial measures were taken. Two cafe premises owned by the Corporation and three in private ownership were closed during the year by reason of their unsuitability for use as food preparing premises.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

There are five licensed vendors of Tuberculin Tested Milk, one for sale of Accredited Milk and one licensed apparatus for Pasteurisation of Milk in the Borough.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Report of the Public Analyst of samples submitted for examination during the year 1946 is as follows:-

The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review, amounted to 120, of which 46 were Formal and 74 Informal.

Of the Formal samples, 43 consisted of Milk and the following table

shows their average composition as compared with those examined during the previous year -

	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids not Fat</u>
1945	3.78%	8.77%
1946	3.64%	8.70%

It will be seen that there has been a slight decrease, both in the Fat and Other Constituents of the Milk examined this year, but the results may, I think, be regarded as quite satisfactory.

The Milks were, generally, of good quality and in no circumstances did a sample fail to comply with the Sale of Milk Regulations in respect of its composition.

All the Milks were, moreover, found to conform with the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, in respect of their freedom from preservatives.

Your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob, has also submitted to me, for examination during the year a variety of different articles, the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings -

- FOOD - Cereal Products
Various Pudding Mixtures
Coffee Essences
Gelatin
Cocoa
Lemon and Orange Squashes, and other Cordials
Various flavourings
Baking powders
Self-raising flours
Vegetable salads, etc.
- CONDIMENTS - Curry Powders
Vinegar
Cinnamon
Nutmeg
Horseradish sauce
Mustards
Mixed spices, etc.
- DRUGS - Tincture of Iodine
Glauber salts
Castor oil
Tartaric acid
Seidlitz powders
Various cough mixtures
Epsom salts, etc.

The great majority of the Food Products and Condiments examined, were found, generally, to be of good quality, having regard to the present difficult food position, and were, moreover, in a sound and edible condition.

There were, however, some irregularities which I found in certain of the samples submitted, but in no circumstances did I find evidence of adulteration, such as to justify me in advising your Chief Inspector, Mr. Jacob, to institute legal proceedings.

I give below particulars of these samples.

Two samples of Gelatine, were found to possess very poor setting qualities, and in one instance, I was informed that you had received a complaint.

The Gelatines in question were found to be satisfactory in respect of the freedom from deleterious impurities, but I am of the opinion that they had been made from inferior raw material and the manufacturers, in order to render this sufficiently pure from edible purposes, had subjected the Gelatine to extra severe heat treatment and thus impaired its setting qualities.

One sample of Lemon Squash examined, failed to comply with the requirements of the Soft Drinks Order, inasmuch as it was deficient in citric acid. It contained only 31 ounces whereas the Order prescribes 36 ounces per gallon.

All the samples of Drugs submitted, with one exception, complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia. This consisted of Tincture of Iodine, which was found to be slightly deficient in its iodine content. It contained 2.3% whereas the minimum limit of the British Pharmacopoeia is 2.45%

I understand that in all these cases, your Chief Inspector, has communicated with the vendors concerned.

A special sample of Honey was submitted to me, with the statement that you had received a complaint in respect of its unusual flavour and taste.

A comprehensive chemical analysis failed to reveal the presence of any adulteration and I was satisfied that the Honey was quite pure and genuine.

I was given to understand that this Honey was an imported product, and it is, therefore, possible that the unusual flavour may have been due to the natural character of the Honey derived from the country of origin.

It is well known that foreign Honey has a distinctive flavour which is not found in the English variety.

I was requested during the year by your Chief Inspector to examine and report upon the general quality of the Ice Cream being made in the Watford district.

For this purpose, about a dozen samples were examined, both in respect of their general composition and degree of bacteriological purity.

The results obtained revealed that there was a very wide divergence in the quality of the Ice Cream being sold.

Some samples contained over 9% of fat, whereas, in other cases, the amount found was less than 1%.

I am given to understand that the question of setting a standard for the composition of Ice Cream is, at the present time, receiving the attention of the Ministry of Food and, having regard to the poor quality of

much of this food-stuff now on the market, it would seem desirable that some minimum limit in respect of its fat content should be laid down.

The bacteriological tests made on these Ice Creams were found, in most cases, to be satisfactory.

This, I think, completes my summary relating to the various samples taken in the Borough of Watford during the past year, and in submitting my Report, I would like, at the same time, to acknowledge the valuable help and assistance that I have received from your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob and his colleagues.

(Signed) C. W. McHUGO.

Public Analyst for the
Borough of Watford.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During the year under review this section of the work of the Sanitary Department showed a like increase in volume and tempo as did activities in other fields.

In the first six months surface infestations were dealt with on complaint from occupiers. Commercial and industrial undertakings paid an economic fee, but in the case of domestic dwellings it was found possible only to collect a nominal sum from occupiers for work carried out by the Council's Operators, and in many cases payments were grudgingly made.

During this half year 143 complaints were received, involving the inspection of 385 premises; 28 occupiers were advised as to how to rid their premises of rodents and the two operators carried out 102 campaigns resulting in an estimated kill of 2,000 rats and mice.

Special Scheme

In June, 1946 the Public Health Committee took advantage of the Ministry of Food's Scheme set out in Circular N.S.12., providing financial aid to the Council to carry out free treatments on domestic premises on condition that the whole Borough was systematically inspected and all infestations dealt with. A third operator was forthwith engaged and house-to-house inspections commenced. In the four months July - October, 1,586 properties were inspected bringing to light 101 infestations which would otherwise not have been reported. Concurrently 51 complaints were received involving the inspection of a further 193 premises. Advice was given in 9 cases, and the number of campaigns carried out and estimated number of rats killed rose sharply to 155 and 2,600 respectively in the four-month period.

Modified Special Scheme.

Experience of the above Scheme showed that while it was the ideal method of eliminating infestations the time taken in house-to-house inspection meant that 2 - 3 years would elapse before the Borough could be covered by three operators. The consent of the Ministry was, therefore, obtained to a modified scheme whereby circulars were delivered to all premises in the Borough inviting occupiers to report infestations, and of course offering free treatment on domestic dwellings. Part-time labour was engaged for the delivery of circulars, of which 7,000 were delivered in the remaining two months of the year, with very

satisfactory results. One hundred and one occupiers reported infestations following the circular, while 22 complaints were received from other sources; 503 premises were inspected, 82 campaigns carried out and the estimated kill was 1,500.

Experience of the Special Scheme demonstrates clearly that the offer of free treatment is a great incentive to co-operation on the part of householders, who were formerly reluctant to report infestations if it meant involving themselves or their neighbours in even nominal expense. The work will undoubtedly receive a serious set-back if ever again it becomes necessary to make charges for domestic treatments. In only one case during the year has it been necessary to take legal steps to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Sewer-baiting.

A "test-baiting" of sewers in the Borough followed by two "maintenance" treatments has been carried out by the County Pest Officer on behalf of the Council, which lacked the labour resources. He reports satisfactory results and states that sewer infestation in the Borough is not, on the whole, very heavy.

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

37 visits were made to certain factories in connection with the provisions of the above-mentioned Section of the Factories Act by the Chief Sanitary Inspector acting as the Corporation's Authorised Officer.

Inspections under Shops Act, 1912 - 1934.

Routine visits to shops - Inspection of records, etc.	...	1,541
Visits to shops regarding Early Closing Day	...	206
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal closing hours	... ..	184
Visits to shops under Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936	... ..	69
Visits to cinemas under Young Persons Act	...	7
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of.	...	104
New shops added to Records	... ..	42
Shops closed down	... ..	9

Eradication of Insect Pests.

The introduction of the chemical compound known as DDT has brought a radical alteration and simplification of the processes of disinfection. The outstanding feature of insecticides based on DDT is the remarkable stability of this material and its capacity to remain toxic to insects for a prolonged period.

I mentioned in my last Annual Report that experimental field work was being carried out by this Department to discover the merits of this new material and the best means of applying it. These experiments have proved an outstanding success and this Department is now using DDT insecticides for all disinfection purposes.

Bed Bugs.

A routine has been elaborated, using a liquid insecticide containing 5%

DDT, which enables us to deal with bug infestations at a very low cost, without inconvenience to the householders concerned, and without interfering in any way with the internal woodwork. I am satisfied that in infested houses the bug population is being eliminated and not merely reduced in numbers, and this is a fact which cannot be too strongly emphasised as it clearly holds a suggestion that this objectionable insect can eventually be completely eliminated.

Flies.

Individual premises can be given a large measure of protection against heavy infestations by applying the appropriate formulation of DDT to the internal walls. A few treatments have been carried out during the year by this Department in order to satisfy ourselves as to the possibilities of DDT in this direction and to work out satisfactory techniques. The knowledge and experience so gained are passed on at every opportunity, especially to the occupiers of trade premises most affected by flies.

Other Insects.

The Department has used DDT against cockroaches, fleas, silverfish, firebrats and furniture beetle. To illustrate the efficacy of DDT I would cite the case of a large food preparing premises in the town which had, notwithstanding repeated efforts by the management, been heavily infested with cockroaches for a number of years. Towards the end of 1945 the premises were given a single treatment with the appropriate formulation of DDT; on a conservative estimate, no fewer than 15,000 insects were killed, and within three months the infestation was completely eradicated.

Unfortunately the pressure of other work has prevented further detailed investigations into the use of DDT against many kinds of insect pests; nevertheless it can be said of DDT that it is a material which constitutes a fundamental advance in disinfection technique.

Number of premises dealt with for bugs and other vermin by the Department	...	...	...	62
Number of Corporation houses dealt with by the Housing Department	...	...	...	2

SECTION "F".

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications received during the year was 480 compared with 939 during the year 1945. 458 of these infections were confirmed, the greatest difference being in the case of diphtheria where the confirmed cases number six compared with 16 notified. Of these six cases, 5 were under 15 years of age and 2 of them have been previously immunised. All the cases recovered.

	Notifications	Confirmed	Non-civilian included in Notifications	Confirmed
Scarlet Fever	58	56	2	2
Diphtheria	16	6	1	-
Polio-myelitis	2	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	-	-
Cerebrospinal Fever	4	2	-	-
Pneumonia	20	20	-	-
Dysentery	5	5	-	-
Erysipelas	12	12	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	15	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	25	25	1	1
Chicken Pox	2	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	196	193	-	-
Measles	120	117	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-	-
	480	458	4	3

Diphtheria.

As long as the immunisation figures keep pace with the infants born each year, this disease will be kept under control and perhaps even eliminated. No death occurred.

Cerebrospinal Fever.

One infant, four months old, died. The total notification figure is a big reduction on recent years.

Smallpox Contacts

In the early part of the year 89 smallpox contacts were kept under close supervision, great care being taken in each case in view of the virulent type of infection and the presence of small outbreaks elsewhere in the country.

Measles.

On the whole the cases were mild - no deaths occurred. Careful supervision is exercised and cases where home conditions are unsatisfactory can be admitted to hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 838 children under 5 and 400 school children received a full course of prophylactic treatment. In addition, 675 school children were given a reinforcing dose to maintain their immunity.

	Completed Cases			Re-Schick Test		
	0 - 5	5 - 15	Total	Tested	Pos.	Neg.
Central Clinic	489	54	543	561	5	556
Harebreaks	349	56	405	-	-	-
Schools	-	290	290	-	-	-
	838	400	1,238	561	5	556

Children immunised at the Day Nurseries are included in the Central Clinic total.

There is no doubt that this service, which not only saves lives and prevents illhealth, also saves the heavy maintenance costs of hospital treatment.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

421 children received injections to give protection against whooping cough compared with 114 given in 1945.

Scabies.

606 cases of Scabies were treated at the Clinic compared with 599 in 1945.

Tuberculosis.

91 cases were notified during the year, as compared with 100 in 1945.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	8	5	-	-	1	1	-	-
20	15	7	-	-	1	2	-	-
25	7	8	1	-	1	3	-	-
35	6	3	-	1	4	1	-	-
45	6	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
55	6	1	-	-	2	2	-	-
65 and upwards	3	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
	57	30	1	3	13	13	-	-

Venereal Diseases.

The treatment of Venereal Diseases is the responsibility of the Hertfordshire County Council, and Out-patients' Clinics were held at Shrodells Hospital, Watford, as in former years.

Cancer.

There were 120 deaths from Cancer in the Borough during 1946, the corresponding figure for 1945 being 137.

Watford Joint Isolation Hospital.

The following tables give details of admission and discharges during the year 1946:-

Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1946.

Scarlet Fever	12	Diphtheria	1	Cerebrospinal	
Mumps	1	Whooping		Meningitis	1
		Cough	3	Other diseases	<u>1</u>
					19
				Carried forward	...
					19

Brought forward ... 19

Patients admitted to Hospital during 1946.

Scarlet Fever	69	Mumps	14
Diphtheria	29	Dysentery	25
Cerebrospinal		Chicken Pox	10
Meningitis	8	Enteric Fever	2
Measles	21	Ophthalmia	
Whooping Cough	26	Neonatorum	3
Erysipelas	13	Rubella	1
Poliomyelitis	3	Other causes	<u>27</u>
			251

251

Patients treated during 1946 ... 270

Patients in Hospital on 31st December, 1946.

Scarlet Fever	6	Measles	4	Other causes	1	11
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The following deaths occurred in Hospital.

Whooping Cough	2	Tubercular		Other causes	2	6
		Meningitis	2			

Patients Discharged from Hospital.

Scarlet Fever	70	Ophthalmia	
Diphtheria	20	Neonatorum	5
Cerebrospinal		Dysentery	23
Meningitis	4	Mumps	12
Measles	13	Rubella	3
Whooping Cough	24	Chicken Pox	10
Erysipelas	12	Poliomyelitis	1
		Other causes	<u>56</u>
			253

253

Total ... 270

The Medical Superintendent reports as follows:-

It is interesting to divide "the admissions" into the various Local Authority areas concerned.

	Watford Borough	Watford Rural	Bushey Urban	Rickmansworth Urban	Chorleywood Urban	Other Districts
Scarlet Fever	39	3	11	10	-	6
Diphtheria	18	2	2	2	-	5
Cerebrospinal						
Meningitis	4	-	1	1	-	2
Measles	9	2	5	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	15	4	4	1	-	2
Erysipelas	9	-	2	2	-	-
Poliomyelitis	2	1	-	-	-	-
Mumps	1	4	-	1	-	8
Dysentery	4	-	21	-	-	-
Chicken Pox	3	-	3	-	-	4
Rubella	-	-	-	1	-	-
Enteric Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum	-	1	-	2	-	-
Other causes	17	2	5	2	-	1
	123 (B0)	19 (113)	54 (35)	22 (39)	- (6)	33 (39)

The figures in brackets give the number of admissions in 1945.

Whilst the total number of admissions fell, due largely to the smaller number of scarlet fever cases, the scope of the work remained just as wide. The increased number of admissions for "other causes" reveals the use made of the hospital for diagnostic purposes - this is as it should be. Gradually throughout the year the admission of service cases fell until at the end they became quite rare. 1946, too, was free from the biennial measles epidemic.

The marked fall in admissions from Watford Rural District is due to the absence of service cases and the freedom of its various Institutions from epidemics.

For the last six months of the year it was possible to use one ward for cases of Tuberculosis. These cases were beginning to recover and by transfer to this ward, pressure on Ware Sanatorium was relieved. Practically all these patients did very well - a fact which was largely due to the enthusiasm of the Staff. In all, 37 cases were admitted. (One death occurred).

Cases from Hemel Hempstead Isolation Hospital were admitted during the summer and placed no strain on the hospital accommodation.

The Ringworm School accommodated children of all ages until the need no longer existed. These children attended daily during the school term.

Deaths - The two cases of Tubercular Meningitis were inevitable and whilst one whooping cough child was moribund on admission the other had to have an operation for appendicitis whilst suffering from whooping cough and bronchitis.

At the end of October, the blow fell. After every effort by the Board had failed to convince the General Nursing Council that even a few nurses carefully trained is better than none at all and that the clinical material whilst not numerically strong, is at least very comprehensive, the training status of the Hospital was withdrawn. This meant the dispersal of the staff in training, the closure of the Tuberculosis Ward and a very unhappy Christmas for all. It is a credit to the Matron and her trained staff that despite these difficulties and the shortage of domestic staff, the Hospital remained open and soon began to turn the corner.

It is a pleasure to welcome Miss Tilbrook as Matron and thank her and all the Staff for their very loyal co-operation during the year - no matter what the difficulties (and there have been many) the patients have been looked after.

Tribute should also be paid to Miss Lawes who was Matron from 1937 right through the most difficult period of the war - many patients owe their recovery to the unceasing efforts of one who was always deeply concerned for their welfare.

Finally, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Board for their interest and help. I personally feel that when the time comes to hand over the Hospital to the Regional Hospital Board there will be few Boards of small Hospitals who can look back on service so well rendered to the community and I should like to record my thanks to the Board for its co-operation.

