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WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

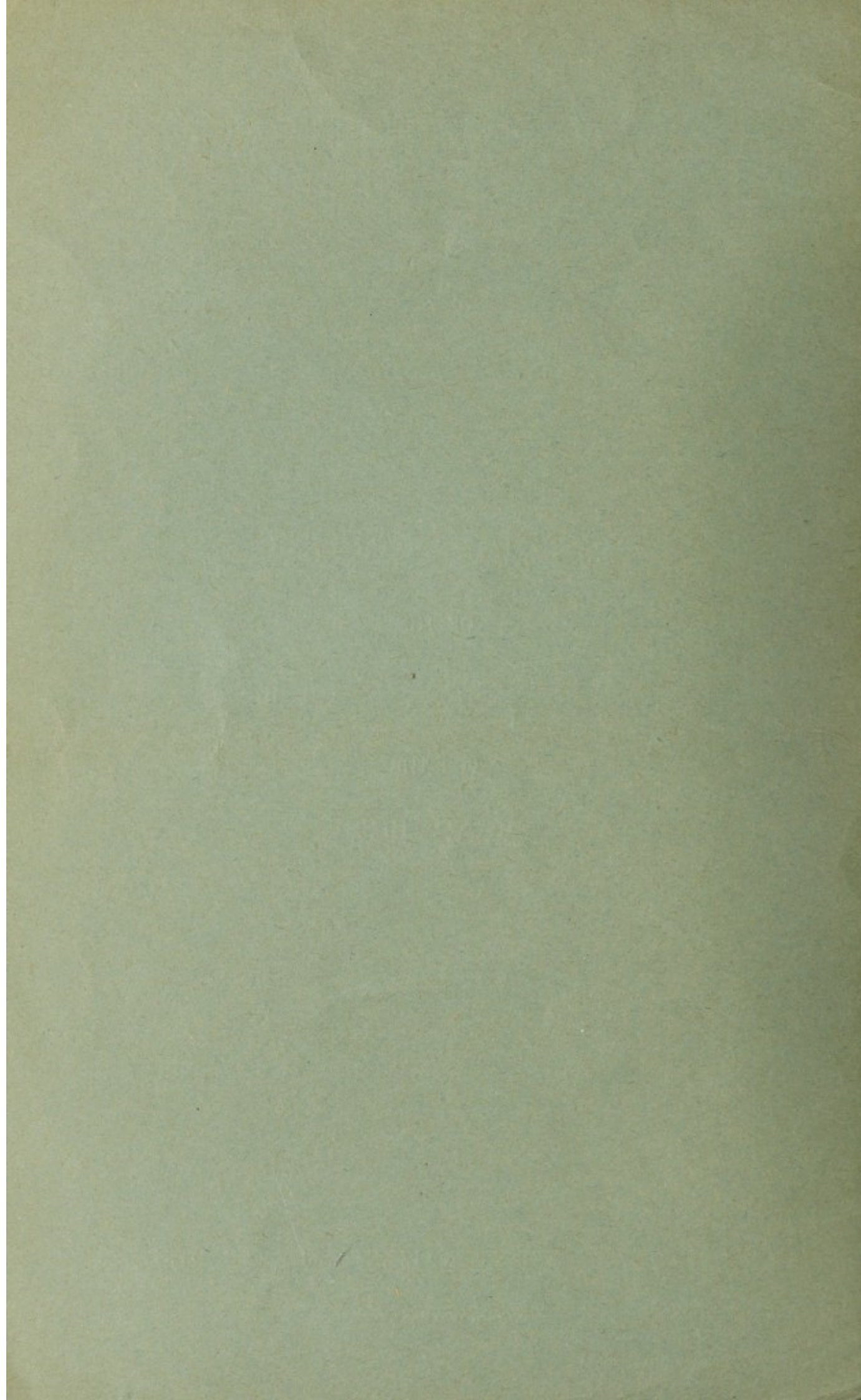
YEAR 1939.

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HENRY ROGER, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

*County Medical Officer*





*County Health Department,*

*Bury St. Edmund's.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of West Suffolk for the year 1939. The publication of the report is on this occasion later than usual as the vital statistics issued by the Registrar General were not available till late in the year.*

*The Ministry of Health have advised that owing to increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Departments and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, this report should be only of an interim character.*

*During the year under review additional responsibilities in connection with the Government's Evacuation Scheme, and the Casualty Services put a severe strain on the resources of the Public Health Department, but the normal health services were maintained at a satisfactory standard, and in certain cases extended to meet the added needs of the time. This was only possible by the sympathetic help of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of all members of the staff of the Public Health Department.*

*I have the honour to be,*

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

**HENRY ROGER,**

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

*November, 1940.*



## STAFF OF THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

### (a) Medical and Dental Staff.

H. Roger, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. County Medical Officer, School Medical Officer, and Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

R. H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer and District Medical Officer of Health.

Alison J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer.

J. C. McFeely, L. & L.M., R.C.P., and R.C.S.I., D.P.H., L.M., Assistant County Medical Officer.

L. J. McFeely (née Clarke), L.D.S., Assistant Dental Surgeon.

M. H. Cooper, L.D.S. (Resigned 30-4-39), Assistant Dental Surgeon).

M. M. Haxton, L.D.S. (Appointed 1-5-39) " " "

E. A. Haxton, L.D.S. (Appointed 23-11-39) " " "

### (b) Milk Officer.

W. Paterson.

### (c) General Nursing Staff.

G. M. Penly Cooper, S.R.N., Certified Midwife, Chief Health Visitor.

\*L. Richardson, S.R.N. " " Health Visitor.

B. W. Collins, S.R.N. " " " "

\*C. B. Coleman, S.R.N. " " " "

E. Fletcher, Matron, County Sanatorium.

J. Best, Dental Attendant.

N. Clayton, " "

\*These Officers hold the Health Visitors' Certificate.

### (d) Home Teacher for the Blind.

M. D. Gourlay.

### (e) Clerical Staff.

The Chief Clerk to the Department, Miss D. Kilner, is assisted by eight assistant clerks.

## STATISTICS.

Area in Acres .. .. .	390,916	
	* (a)	* (b)
Population (Estimated, 1939) <sup>1</sup> —Urban .. ..	39,300	39,600
Rural .. ..	64,430	65,990
Administrative County .. ..	103,730	105,590
Rateable Value (General) .. ..	£447,741	
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate (General) ..	£1,755	

\* (a) For calculation of Birth rate. (b) For Calculation of Death rate.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

### (A) Births.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births—			
Legitimate .. .. .	1390	720	670
Illegitimate .. .. .	60	32	28
Total Births .. .. .	1450	752	698

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.0.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Still Births .. .. .	52	25	27
Rate per 1,000 total births, 35.9.			

### (B) Deaths.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths .. .. .	1438	733	705
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.6.			
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—			
(a) from sepsis .. .. .			1
(b) from other causes .. .. .			3
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births .. ..			2.56
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births .. ..			35.8
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..			35.2
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. ..			50.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. ..			2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. ..			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. ..			1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. ..			211

### Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate was 14.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 13.2 for 1938, and 15.0 for England and Wales.

### Death Rate.

The Death Rate was 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 12.8 for 1938, and 12.1 for England and Wales.

### Infant Mortality.

The rate for the Administrative County of 35.8 per 1,000 live births shows an increase of 6.4 on the figure for last year, which was exceptionally low, but it is again a very great improvement on the rate of 50 for England and Wales.

### Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births was 2.56 compared with a rate of 2.82 for England and Wales.

In 1939 there were four maternal deaths, which figure is an increase of 2 on the figure for last year.

### Zymotic Deaths.

A total of 7 zymotic deaths was returned. A summary of the causes of death is as follows:—Diphtheria, 1; Cerebro-spinal fever, 2; Measles, 2; Encephalitis lethargica, 2; The Zymotic Death Rate was .066.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements with the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's, for general pathological work, with the East Suffolk County Laboratory, Ipswich, for milk tests and other bacteriological examinations, and with King's College Hospital, London, for the examination of blood specimens under the Venereal Diseases Scheme, have been continued. In addition, use has been made of the emergency Public Health Laboratory which was set up at Cambridge on the outbreak of the war by the Medical Research Council, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, as an auxiliary to existing laboratory services.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken during the year for the County Council by the West Suffolk General Hospital:—

Swabs—	Throat and nose .. ..	290
	Cervix .. ..	52
	Virulence Tests for K.L.B. ..	4
Sputa—	for Tubercle .. ..	223
	for other organisms .. ..	11
Blood—	for Wassermann Reactions ..	156
	for Widal Reactions .. ..	6
	for Sedimentation Rates ..	4
Hairs—	for Ringworm, etc. .. ..	6
Pathological—	Urine for Tubercle .. ..	8
Fluids—	Pus for Tubercle .. ..	1
	Pleural Fluid for Tubercle ..	2
	Stool for Tubercle .. ..	1
	Stools for other Organisms ..	6

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No change has occurred in this service during the year, so far as general use is concerned. Under the Air Raid's Precaution Scheme arrangements have been made for the use of 31 ambulances, 10 of which are converted vehicles, and of 33 sitting-case cars.

### NURSING IN THE HOME.

The general nursing throughout the County is undertaken by the County Nursing Association, in conjunction with the County Council. During the year the Suffolk County Nursing Association, which had two executive Committees for East and West Suffolk, ceased to exist, and two separate Associations, the East Suffolk County Nursing Association and the West Suffolk County Nursing Association, were constituted.



## **HOSPITALS.**

The hospital services for general purposes remain unchanged. The West Suffolk General Hospital has, however, been classified as a class 1a. hospital under the Emergency Medical Service, and by the addition of a new block, already in course of construction before the outbreak of war, and six huts, the number of beds will be increased to 430.

## **MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.**

A routine inspection of all registered Nursing Homes has been carried out, as in previous years, by the Superintendent Health Visitor. At the end of the year there were eight such homes, providing 18 beds for Maternity Cases and 200 for other cases. Three applications for exemption from registration were received and granted.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.**

### **Institutional Medical Services.**

Any further general re-organisation of the Public Assistance Institutions in the County has had to be abandoned, owing to the exigencies of the times.

The Institutions at Newmarket, Bury St. Edmund's and Sudbury have been included in the Emergency Hospital Scheme, the two former as Class 1a. Hospitals, the latter as a Class II. Hospital. At the beginning of the war, the casual wards in all the Institutions were closed as such, thus making available extra accommodation in the County for housing Emergency Hospital cases, in addition to the chronic sick.

At White Lodge, Newmarket, the ground floor of the Infirmary was utilised under the emergency hospital scheme to start with, but later the whole of the Infirmary block was taken over; there are at present 189 beds in the Emergency Hospital. It is proposed to increase the accommodation by building 15 huts, bringing the total number of beds up to 789, and it will probably then be necessary for the "House" block to be taken over to provide suitable accommodation for the staff.

Two small wards in the Infirmary have been converted into an operating theatre and anæsthetic room, respectively, and an X-Ray apparatus has been installed. The structural alterations that were found to be necessary, included the provision of emergency lighting and steam heating for the theatre, the provision of a standby engine to drive the water pump, an extra steamer for use in the kitchen, alterations to the central staircase of the Women's Hospital to enable stretcher cases to be taken up to the first floor, and the erection of partitions to form a passage through the Dining-Hall.

A staff of doctors and trained nurses was allocated to the Hospital by the Group Officer for the Ministry of Health. At present this staff consists of five doctors, including the Medical Superintendent, and fifteen trained nurses, including the Matron. In addition, a number of assistant and auxiliary nurses enrolled under the Civil Nursing Reserve, are employed.

In order to release the beds in the Infirmary at White Lodge for the Emergency Hospital, patients had to be transferred from this Institution to those at Bury St. Edmund's and Sudbury, and a still further transfer will be necessary if the "House" portion of the Institution is taken over as well.

At Sudbury, certain minor structural alterations, including the provision of an open stove in the Casual Ward Day Room and a slow combustion stove in the young women's dormitory, have been necessary, in order that full use could be made of the available buildings, to provide the extra accommodation needed.

## **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.**

### **MIDWIFERY.**

#### **(a) General.**

The arrangement for carrying out the midwifery service of the County through the County Nursing Association has continued in force, as have also the ante-natal, post-natal, and consultative and emergency unit services.



The number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area served by the Council was eighty-two. In 1939 the midwives attended by themselves eight hundred and seventy-four cases, while in five hundred and thirty-six cases they acted as Maternity Nurses, there being a practitioner in attendance. Medical help was called by midwives in a total of three hundred and forty-two cases, which represents a percentage of 38.31. In three hundred and four of these cases medical help was sought in respect of the mother, and in thirty-eight cases in respect of the baby.

A total of three hundred and ninety-four ante-natal examinations, including seventy-nine second examinations, were made. This figure represents 43.47% of the total domiciliary cases taken by the midwives during 1939. Ninety-seven post-natal examinations were made during the period.

#### **(b) Evacuated Women.**

On the outbreak of war a number of expectant mothers, including ninety-five within a month of their confinement, were evacuated to this County from the London area. Many of them returned to their homes before their confinements took place, and the majority of the remainder soon after.

In order to provide for this emergency the Alexandra Home, Bury St. Edmund's, was converted into a Maternity Hospital, the boys from the Home having previously been transferred to the Crofton Home, Sudbury, from which the girls had been removed to the care of foster-mothers. Very little adaptation was required, and at first twenty-five beds were provided. After a visit from an inspector of the Ministry of Health, this number, on the recommendation of the Ministry, was reduced to sixteen. Four midwives arrived with the mothers, and were employed in the home, and later nine more were sent by the Central Midwives' Board. At first, however, it was necessary to employ private midwives and the permanent emergency nurses employed by the West Suffolk Nursing Association.

In addition, it was found necessary up to October 14th, 1939, to reserve beds in a private Maternity Home at Long Melford, to accommodate the women in the Sudbury area.

Professor Amy Fleming was sent by the Ministry of Health to be in charge of the Maternity work among evacuated women in the County. Assisted by the Assistant County Medical Officers, she supervised the work in the Alexandra Home, and a sufficient number of hospital beds in White Lodge, Newmarket, were available for her use, for abnormal cases if necessary. Assisted by Dr. Alison Rae, one of the Assistant County Medical Officers, she also conducted ante-natal clinics at Bury St. Edmund's and Sudbury.

The women billeted in villages too far away to attend these clinics were seen regularly by the district nurses, and some of them were transferred nearer the date of their confinement to a house in Bury St. Edmund's which had been requisitioned by the Borough Council for such a purpose. In addition, the County Health Visitors kept all the expectant mothers under observation.

Seventy-three births occurred in the Alexandra Home, and ten in the Nursing Home at Long Melford.

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SPECIAL NATURE.**

Eighteen cases of puerperal pyrexia or fever were notified during the year. Seven of these occurred in institutions and in the other cases the necessary facilities for treatment were available.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

#### **INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND HOME VISITING AND SUPERVISION.**

The fifteen Infant Welfare Centres maintained and staffed by the County Council have been continued throughout the year, although difficulty was experienced after the outbreak of war, as some of the premises were requisitioned for military or Air Raid Precaution purposes. In six cases alternative accommodation had to be found. The Centres were all available for evacuated children.

During the year a total of 5,030 attendances (5,110 attendances in 1938, 4,992 in 1937 and 4,162 in 1936) were made by children attending these centres; of these 2,168 attendances were made by children under one year of age.

The number of children who attended for the first time was 550 (457 in 1938, 429 in 1937 and 441 in 1936), and this number included 416 children under the age of one year.



## CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The County health-visitors have continued to visit regularly all children registered under Section 206 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the work has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

The statistical details of the year's work are as follows:—

Number of cases on Register, 1-1-39 .. .. .	134
Number of New Cases .. .. .	63
Number returned to parents .. .. .	6
Number adopted .. .. .	3
Number died .. .. .	1
Number who attained 9 years of age .. .. .	21
Number who left County .. .. .	28
Number transferred to Public Assistance Institutions .. .. .	—
Number of cases on Register, 31-12-39 .. .. .	138
Number of unsatisfactory cases .. .. .	—

## POST GRADUATE COURSES FOR MIDWIVES.

The post-graduate training of midwives ceased temporarily after the outbreak of war.

## COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

### GENERAL STATISTICAL FACTS.

Eighty-one new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1939; this is a decrease of one on the corresponding figure for 1938 and is the same figure as in 1937.

The new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year numbered twenty-seven, which is an increase of two on the figure for the previous year.

During the year a total of sixty deaths was recorded, fifty-one being pulmonary cases and nine being non-pulmonary cases. In the previous year the total deaths were fifty-one, comprising forty-four pulmonary cases and seven non-pulmonary cases.

The death rate from tuberculosis in 1939 was .58, the corresponding figure in 1938 being .49.

The number of notified cases on the Register at the end of the year was three hundred and seventy-one. The number on the Register shows a decrease of sixty-three on the figure for the previous year.

I submit herewith a Table of New Cases reported in 1939, together with a summary of the total deaths from tuberculosis in the area during the year.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1939.

New Cases.					Deaths.				
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	0 ... ..	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..	—	—	2	2	1 ... ..	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..	—	1	4	2	2 ... ..	—	—	—	1
10 ... ..	3	2	5	1	5 ... ..	1	1	—	1
15 ... ..	1	3	—	1	15 ... ..	2	6	—	—
20 ... ..	3	5	—	1	25 ... ..	8	4	1	—
25 ... ..	8	10	3	3	35 ... ..	9	4	1	2
35 ... ..	10	7	1	—	45 ... ..	2	2	1	—
45 ... ..	8	5	2	—	55 ... ..	9	3	—	1
55 ... ..	7	4	—	—	65 ... ..	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	3	—	—	75 ... ..	—	—	—	1
Totals	41	40	17	10	Totals ...	31	20	3	6

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

The general arrangements for this service have continued unchanged, and the numbers dealt with do not appear to have been affected by war conditions.

The treatment of these diseases is mainly carried out at the County Clinic which is held weekly at Westgate House, Bury St. Edmund's, on Wednesday mornings. In some cases patients living in the out-lying parts of the County find it more convenient on account of transport facilities, to attend the clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.

In 1939 the total number of cases treated by the County Venereal Diseases Officer was forty-six, and of these twenty-three were new cases seen for the first time during the year. In addition, seven new cases were treated at outside centres. There were, therefore, thirty new West Suffolk cases in 1939. The diagnoses returned in respect of these cases was - Syphilis 1, Gonorrhoea 14, and other conditions 15.

During the year 48 specimens were sent to laboratories for examination from the clinic at Bury St. Edmund's ; 23 of these were blood specimens for Wassermann test.

The number of attendances at Bury St. Edmund's were 373, at Cambridge 82, and at Ipswich 29.

## HOUSING.

### Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 to 1938.

During 1939 grants amounting to £1,250 were promised by the County Council under these Acts, in respect of fifteen dwellings. Thirty-four dwellings were completed during the year, in respect of which the grants paid amounted to £2,936 13s. 4d.

In November, in response to an inquiry with regard to the procedure to be adopted under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, in view of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1866, a letter was received from the Ministry stating that, if the Council were satisfied in any particular case that works proposed would in fact lead to an increase in accommodation for agricultural workers, and that there was a shortage of such accommodation, the Minister would be prepared to consider the matter on the receipt of the necessary particulars. The question whether it would be possible for the Minister to agree to a grant being made would depend on the nature of the application and the circumstances obtaining at the time, including in particular the position with regard to the supply of building materials.

In view of the existing situation, the Council at the end of the year, decided to postpone the consideration of several applications for assistance.

### Housing Acts, 1936 and 1938.

During the year, the statutory grant of £1 per annum per house for 40 years was made, under these Acts, to the following District Councils —

Haverhill	U.D.C. in respect of	4 houses
Clare	R.D.C. " " "	58 "
Melford	R.D.C. " " "	99 "
Mildenhall	R.D.C. " " "	6 "
Thedwastre	R.D.C. " " "	64 "
Thingoe	R.D.C. " " "	52 "
Total		283

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

#### (1) General Bulk Milk.

In 1939, thirty-five samples of bulk milk were examined. Twenty-five were within the Accredited milk standard for the general count, and twenty-four were within this standard for the B.Coli test. Twelve samples failed in the Methelyne Blue Test. Tubercle bacilli were not found in any case.



(2) **Milk (Special Designations) Orders.**

(a) **Accredited Milk Licences.**

145 Producer's Licences were issued, of which 10 were recommended for the first time. During the year 1 Licence was suspended, 8 withdrawn, and 6 transferred to T.T. Licences. At the end of the year there were 130 herds on the Accredited Register.

(b) **Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences.**

29 T.T. Licences were issued during the year, 10 of which were for the first time. 5 of these licences were for Attested herds. During the year 3 T.T. Licences were cancelled.

(3) **Veterinary Inspection of Cattle.**

The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has supplied the following statistics of his work during the year. 3,211 cattle in 45 Tuberculin Tested herds, 13,515 cattle in 452 Accredited herds, and 4,559 cattle in 664 non-designated herds were inspected. 44 animals were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, and 27 animals in Tuberculin Tested herds were found to be re-actors.

(4) **Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

Inspections of two herds were made under this order. In one case eight individual samples were taken and one cow was slaughtered. In the other case, one out of four group samples was found to be positive and two individual samples were therefore taken. One of these was positive and the cow concerned was slaughtered.

(5) **Milk in Schools Schemes.**

During the early part of the year efforts were made to include all Schools in this Scheme and by September only six were outstanding. After September, however, several producers were unwilling to continue, owing to the petrol rationing. Careful investigations were made in all such circumstances, and though the scheme lapsed temporarily in some schools, alternative arrangements have now been made wherever necessary.

The evacuated children attending local schools participated in the scheme, and arrangements have been made for milk to be supplied to the evacuated school children accommodated in separate buildings.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year, as compared with 1938 —

	1938.	1939.	
		<i>Local.</i>	<i>Evacuees.</i>
Number of Schools with Scheme .. ..	131	142	—
Number of Children taking milk .. ..	5512	5692	869
Number of Children attending these Schools	9463	10581	2088

*Free Milk in Schools.*

The Scheme introduced in 1938 for supplying free milk to medically necessitous children has been continued for local children. During the year 68 cases were referred for investigation, and at the end of the year 87 were receiving free milk.

The London County Council and Tottenham authorities made arrangements for the evacuated children who had been recommended free milk prior to the evacuation, to continue to receive it till they had been examined by the School Medical Officers. These examinations were carried out as soon as possible, and the School Medical Officers found in many cases that the children had so improved in general health, that it was unnecessary to recommend the supply to be continued.

(b) **SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.**

The following is a note of the work carried out under these Acts in 1939 :—

During the year, one hundred and eighty-three samples were taken and analysed : Milk, 128 ; Butter, 8 ; Cheese, 2 ; Chocolate Roll, 2 ; Coffee, 1 ; Tinned Cream, 1 ; Suet, 1 ; Vinegar, 4 ; Skimmed Milk, 1 ; Brawn, 1 ; Whiskey, 4 ; Ground Almonds, 2 ; Tea, 1 ;

Prepared Herbs, 1; Mixed Herbs, 1; Pure Cocoa, 1; Sausage, 2; Ice Cream, 4; Gin, 1; Ready Mixed Mustard, 1; Cream, 1; Cheese de luxe, 1; Home Cheese Spread, 1; Margarine, 3; Glucose Fruits, 1; Aspirin, 1; Brompton Lozenges, 1; Iodine (Alcoholic), 1; Iodine Paint (Methylated), 1; Iodine Paint, 1; Iodine, Phenolated, 2; Glycerine of Thymol, 1; Gregory Powder, 1.

Of the 183 samples taken, 166 were found to be genuine, and 13 of milk, 2 of vinegar, and 1 of Phenolated Iodine were found to be adulterated, and 1 of cheese to be doubtful.

Bury St. Edmund's, until September, 1939, was a separate Authority for the purpose of the administration of these Acts; 13 samples were taken during the first nine months of the year: Milk, 5; Butter, 1; Coffee, 1; Sausages, 1; Jam, 1; Pepper, 1; Baking Powder, 1; Sago, 1; Lard, 1. Of the 13 samples, 10 were found to be genuine and 3 of milk to be adulterated.

### (c) NUTRITION.

The following table is a summary of the classification of the nutrition of the local children inspected during the year by the School Medical Officers:—

	1938.	1939.
Number of children examined .. .. .	3178	3624
Excellent nutrition .. .. .	15.3%	18.0%
Normal nutrition .. .. .	66.5%	74.0%
Slightly sub-normal nutrition .. .. .	16.2%	7.4%
Bad nutrition .. .. .	2.0%	.6%

It will be noted that the general nutrition of the children of the County, as compared to 1938, appears to have improved. As stated above, the Milk in Schools Scheme has been extended in spite of difficulties, and the provision of free milk to medically necessitous school children is also being extended. These two factors may contribute to the improvement in general nutrition.

With regard to the children evacuated to this County, no figures are available, but the School Medical Officers report that in general a marked improvement in nutrition and physique may be observed amongst the children.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### (a) Infectious Disease Hospital.

Owing to the outbreak of war the scheme for the erection of a County Infectious Disease Hospital has had to be abandoned temporarily.

### (b) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1939.

	Total Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Small-pox .. .. .	—	—
Scarlet-fever .. .. .	182	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	20	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .. .. .	2	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .. .. .	18	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	53	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	12	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. .. .	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. .. .	4	2
Malaria .. .. .	1	—
Measles .. .. .	—*	2
Whooping Cough .. .. .	72*	—

\* Notifications received since October, 1939.



(c) **Infectious Diseases and School Children.**

During 1939, 6 schools were closed on account of the following outbreaks of infectious diseases :—

Measles 3, Whooping Cough 1, Influenza 1, German Measles and Influenza 1.

During the year 147 Low Attendance Certificates were issued by the Medical Department in respect of the following conditions :—

Whooping Cough 20, Measles 22, Chicken Pox 13, Influenza 29, Measles and Influenza 4, Gastric Influenza 3, German Measles 36, German Measles and Influenza 7, Influenza and Scarlet Fever 1, Influenza and Colds 7, German Measles and Whooping Cough 2, German Measles and Mumps 1, Measles and Chicken Pox 1, Measles and German Measles 1.

A number of cases of scabies were found among the evacuated children, and in some cases the disease spread to local children. A treatment clinic was therefore set up at one of the Public Assistance Institutions, to which children were admitted for one night and treated by the London School Nurses by the method employed by the London County Council.

The following number of cases were dealt with :—

L.C.C. children .. .. .	109
Tottenham children .. .. .	9
Local Cases .. .. .	25
Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service Case ..	1
	<hr/> 144

(d) **Cancer.**

The arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from Cancer were as in previous years. Eighteen cases were admitted to the Council's Institutions.

During the year 211 deaths from cancer occurred. This number is 14.7% of the total deaths. The following Table shows the age distribution :

*Deaths from Cancer, 1939.*

	0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total
Males .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	12	20	37	22	97
Females .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	19	26	32	32	114
Total .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	31	46	69	54	211

**BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.**

(1) **GENERAL REPORT ON THE SERVICE IN WEST SUFFOLK.**

**Registration.**

There were 202 registered blind persons in the County, the age groups being as follows :—

Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Unknown.	Total.
0—5	5—16	16—21	21—50	50—65	65—70	Over 70		
—	5	3	28	71	25	69	1	202

### **Institutions.**

Six persons were maintained in Public Assistance Institutions, four in training and special schools, and four in Institutions for the Mentally Defective.

### **Work of Home Teacher and Visitor.**

The Home Teacher has paid 900 visits during the year, and given 2 lessons in Braille, 4 in Moon type, 8 in handicrafts, and 2 in the Manual Alphabet.

### **Home Workers.**

The arrangement with the Norwich Institution for the Blind for the supervision of the Home Workers in the County is still in force. There were six such workers recognised under the scheme.

### **Workshop Workers.**

Three persons were maintained in Institutions for the Blind, where they were employed in their workshops.

### **Other Workers.**

In addition to the recognised "Home Workers," eight persons were employed in remunerative occupations, as follows:—Basket and Cane workers, 2; Boot repairer, 1; Braille Copyist, 1; Wood-worker, 1; others, 3.

### **Training.**

In addition to sending blind children to special schools, the Education Committee undertake the training of blind adults on the advice of the County Medical Officer. One such girl received training at the Norwich Institution for the Blind.

### **Treatment.**

During the year, travelling expenses have been paid to enable blind persons to attend ophthalmic hospitals or the ophthalmic departments of general hospitals.

### **Domiciliary Assistance.**

At the end of the year, 58 blind persons were in receipt of domiciliary assistance.

### **Evacuation.**

No blind persons were evacuated to this County officially but six came unofficially from London and the coastal areas. These were visited by the Home Teacher and Domiciliary Assistance Grants were made where necessary.

### **(2) WEST SUFFOLK VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.**

The Voluntary Association has continued to render valuable service by granting temporary aid in cases of sickness and other cases coming outside the scope of the County Council.

An "outing" to the sea during the summer and various other social gatherings were organised, but after the outbreak of war these had, of necessity, to be curtailed.



**Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Deaths classified according to Diseases.**

DISTRICT.	Population		Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Adjusted Death Rate.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Diphtheria.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	Other Tubercular Diseases.	Syphilis.	General Paralysis of the Insane (Tabes Dorsalis).	Diabetes.	Cancer, Malignant Disease.	Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc.	Heart Disease.	Aneurysm.	Other Circulatory Diseases.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia (all forms).	Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Diarrhea, etc. (under 2 years).	Diarrhea (2 years and over).	Appendicitis.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	Other Digestive Diseases.	Nephritis (Acute & Chronic).	Puerperal Septicæ.	(Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition).	Conceitral Debility, Malformation, Infection, Premature Birth.	Peptic Ulcer.	Violent Deaths other than Suicide.	Senility.	Suicide.	Other Defined Diseases.	Diseases ill defined or unknown.			
<i>Boroughs and Urban—</i>	(a)	(b)																																										
Bury St Edmund's	17020	17120	14.0	12.9	11.0																																							
Hadleigh ...	2855	2905	11.9	14.8	12.1																																							
Haverhill ...	3714	3731	14.3	19.6	14.9																																							
Newmarket ...	9082	9202	10.0	11.0	9.7																																							
Sudbury ...	6629	6642	10.9	14.2	9.9																																							
Totals	39300	39600	12.4	13.4	10.9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
<i>Rural—</i>																																												
Clare ...	8476	8470	13.8	15.5	10.5																																							
Cosford ...	9230	9502	14.0	16.4	12.1																																							
Malsford ...	10990	11360	15.1	15.1	10.7																																							
Mildenhall ...	12440	12700	15.0	11.0	9.0																																							
Thedwastre ...	7724	8098	13.5	12.5	9.2																																							
Thingoe ...	15570	15860	16.6	13.0	10.0	1																																						
Totals	64430	65990	14.9	13.7	10.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Grand Totals	103730	105590	14.0	13.6	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

• (a) For calculation of Birth Rates. (b) For calculation of Death Rates.

