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WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

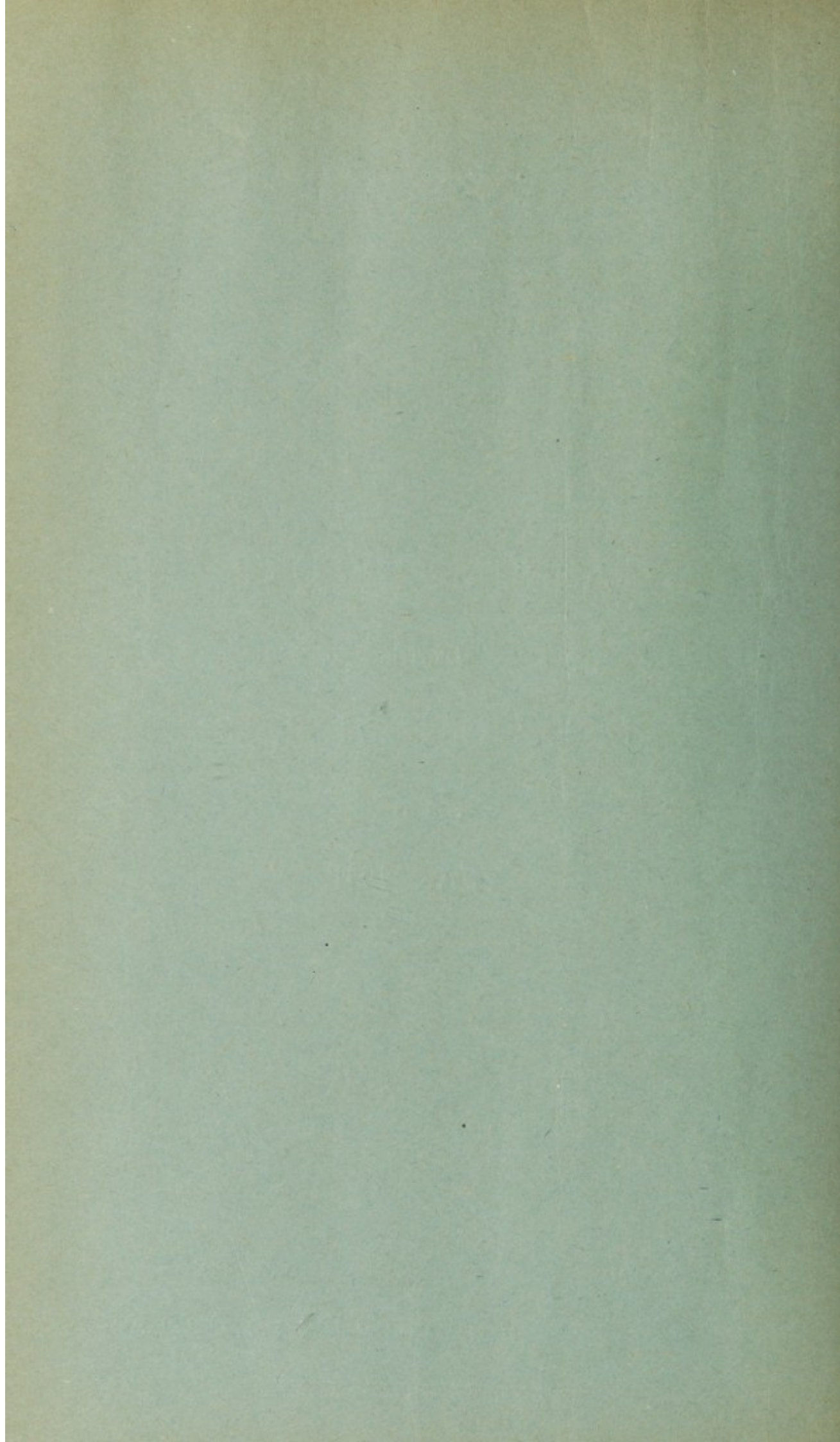
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1941.

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 1941. As in the previous war years this report, on the advice of the Ministry of Health, is an abbreviated one.

The vital statistics for the year may be regarded as satisfactory, and are even an improvement on those of the previous year. The health of the County continues to show no deterioration.

The normal Health Services maintained a satisfactory standard. It is particularly gratifying to note the increased attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics. Throughout the year the scheme for immunisation against diphtheria continued with encouraging results.

Again it is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the excellent services of all members of the Staff in carrying out the work of the department, and all the extra duties resulting from war-time conditions.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, I tender my sincere gratitude for their support and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,


Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY ROGER.

County Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1942,



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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.
 H. C. Price, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 31-10-41), Assistant County Medical Officer.
 D. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 1-11-41), Assistant County Medical Officer.
 E. A. Haxton, L.D.S., Assistant Dental Surgeon.
 A. Hay, L.D.S., " " "

(b) Milk Officer.

W. Paterson, N.D.D., C.D.A.

(c) General Nursing Staff.

G. M. Penly Cooper, M.B.E., 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., " " " " "
 K. Woodhead, S.R.N. (Appointed 26-5-41) " " "
 E. Fletcher, Matron, County Sanatorium.
 B. Dawes, Dental Attendant.
 M. Keeley, " " "

*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 ten assistant clerks.
 Two London County Council School Nurses were attached to the Department throughout the year, to deal with evacuated children.

In April I submitted a Report to the Council, recommending the appointment of another whole-time Health Visitor in order:—

- (1) to deal with the increased work that has been accumulating for some years;
- (2) to undertake the health visiting at Newmarket, Ixworth and Pakenham;
- (3) to secure the adequate supervision and after-care of the cripples in the County;
- (4) to undertake the work resulting from the Government Evacuation Schemes.

As a result, an additional Health Visitor was appointed, the Government undertaking to pay one-third of her salary and one-third of her travelling expenses as an evacuation expense.

STATISTICS.

Rateable Value (General)	.. .. .	£459,816
Produce of a Penny Rate (General)	.. .. .	£1,837

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.6.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births, 30.2.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.7.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—

(a) from sepsis	.. .. .	2
(b) from other causes	.. .. .	4
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	.. .. .	3.2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	41.1
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	41.1
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	40.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	11
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	4
Deaths from Diphtheria	.. .. .	6
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.. .. .	6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	208

Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate was 14.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 13.1 for 1940 and 14.2 for England and Wales.

Death Rate.

The Death Rate was 13.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 14.5 for 1940 and 12.9 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

The rate for the Administrative County of 41.1 per 1,000 live births shows a decrease of 7.5 on the figure for last year.

This is considerably lower than the rate for England and Wales; which was 59.

Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births was 3.2, compared with 1.29 for 1940 and a rate of 2.23 for England and Wales.

In 1941 there were six maternal deaths, which figure is an increase of 4 on the figure for last year.

Zymotic Deaths.

A total of 26 zymotic deaths was returned. A summary of the causes of death is as follows:—Diphtheria 6, Cerebro-Spinal Fever 2, Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping-cough 4, Measles 11, Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year the several District Councils in the County made arrangements with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for all bacteriological work for which they were responsible, to be carried out for an inclusive sum. In these circumstances the West Suffolk General Hospital was informed that the payment for any future bacteriological work undertaken by the Hospital for these Districts would be a matter of arrangement between the Hospital Committee and the District concerned. The West Suffolk General Hospital continued to undertake for the County Council the examination of specimens taken under the Tuberculosis Scheme, and also a certain amount of work under the Venereal Diseases Scheme and the School Medical Service.

The Emergency Laboratory at Cambridge was available for specimens taken in connection with infectious diseases, and for general work. Blood specimens taken under the Venereal Diseases Scheme were sent as before to King's College Hospital, London.

With regard to milk samples, it was found that, owing to difficulty and delay in transport under war-time conditions, many samples arrived at Ipswich and Cambridge too late for examination. This entailed further visits to the farms concerned by the Milk Officer, with a consequent waste of his time. Arrangements were therefore made for these samples to be examined at The Veterinary Research Laboratory which had been set up at Pakenham, in this County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

General provision, as in previous years, was made by the British Red Cross Society, who owned six ambulances in the County, and by a local voluntary Society at Haverhill owning one ambulance.

At the end of the year there were thirty-one ambulances and thirty-nine "sitting-case cars" provided under the Civil Defence Scheme. These vehicles were used, under certain conditions, for the removal of patients to and from hospitals and treatment centres.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

As in previous years, this has been undertaken through the West Suffolk County Nursing Association.

HOSPITALS.

The Hospitals in the County are all included in the Emergency Hospital Scheme, the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's, White Lodge, Newmarket, and the Public Assistance Institution, Bury St. Edmund's, as Class I. (a), St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, and the Rous Memorial Hospital, Newmarket, as Class I. (b) suspended, and the Public Assistance Institution, Sudbury, as Class II. These hospitals are all available for general purposes, although service cases are admitted to the West Suffolk General Hospital and to White Lodge. The two Public Assistance Institutions are mainly used for the nursing of the chronic sick, and as they now have to provide for the whole of the County, including the Newmarket area, their accommodation has been taxed to the uttermost.

At the West Suffolk General Hospital, the six huts erected by arrangement with the Ministry of Health were all in use by the end of the year.

At White Lodge, by the end of the year, six of the fifteen huts arranged for in the Ministry's Scheme were in use, giving a total of 371 beds in the Hospital, and it was expected that the remaining nine would come into commission early in the New Year.

With this number of beds, in order to equip the Institution to the standards of a modern first-class hospital, many provisions became necessary. The new block of huts contained an operating theatre, an X-ray room, a dispensary, a physiotherapy room, and a room for handicrafts and games. A pathological laboratory was fitted up in the original building, and a new mortuary, a pack-store and cycle sheds were also provided. Arrangements also had to be made to accommodate the increased staff. Alterations were carried out on the old male and female blocks, in order to provide rooms and cubicles for fifty-two sisters and nurses, and Cleaveland House was requisitioned to accommodate another twenty-five. Dining and sitting-room accommodation for the Nursing Staff was provided in a hut. Accommodation for orderlies, and changing rooms for nurses and domestic staff, were provided in the administrative block.

Towards the end of the year, the Hospital was recognised by the Ministry of Health as a Fracture Centre and a Gastric Centre. A Medical Specialist for the Gastric cases and an Orthopaedic Specialist were appointed, and also an Occupational Therapist in addition to the Massage Staff.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Routine inspections of all registered Nursing Homes have been carried out, as in previous years, by the Superintendent Health Visitor. At the end of the year there were seven such homes, providing 12 beds for Maternity Cases, and 240 for other cases. Three applications for exemption from registration were received and granted.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

MIDWIFERY.

(a) Domiciliary Service.

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 seventy-nine. In 1941 the midwives attended by themselves eleven hundred and ninety-nine cases, while in five hundred and thirty-five cases they acted as Maternity Nurses, there being a practitioner in attendance. Medical help was called by midwives in a total of four hundred and ninety-six cases, which represents a percentage of 41.37. In four hundred and thirty-six of these cases medical help was sought in respect of the mother, and in sixty cases in respect of the baby.

A total of five hundred and forty-one ante-natal examinations, including twenty-nine second examinations, were made. This figure represents 45.12 per cent. of the total domiciliary cases taken by the Midwives during 1941. One hundred and three post-natal examinations were made during the period.

(b) Institutional Treatment for Complicated Cases.

In October, I submitted the following Report to the Committee:—

"Up to the present the arrangements for the above have been as follows:—These cases have been admitted—

1. To Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, where the County Council have undertaken financial responsibility for the maintenance of the cases.
2. To the West Suffolk General Hospital.

In the latter case, however, the County Council have accepted no financial responsibility, the reason being that the accommodation provided there has not conformed to the required standards.

The Authority of the West Suffolk Hospital has for some time been concerned with this accommodation, and I am informed that the Obstetric Surgeon at the Hospital has informed the Committee that he is no longer able to continue his obstetric service under the present conditions. A suggestion has now been put forward by the Hospital Authority for the conversion of the present children's ward into a maternity ward. As County Medical Officer of Health, I was invited to survey with the Obstetric Officer of the Hospital this proposed accommodation, and I reported that with certain adaptations this accommodation would make an excellent obstetric unit. With the consent of the Hospital Authority, the Ministry of Health was consulted and a representative has inspected the accommodation and agreed with my recommendations as to its adaptation.

The Secretary of the West Suffolk Hospital has been in communication with me, and amongst other points raised, is the rate of payment per diem to which the County Council would agree if this new accommodation were made available.

It will be noted that unless new accommodation is provided, there is a definite threat that arrangements for the reception of complicated maternity cases at the West Suffolk Hospital will cease, and it will be necessary therefore for accommodation in such cases to be found elsewhere. If therefore the Hospital Authorities decide to adopt the proposed scheme for the provision of a new maternity unit, and the County Council make an arrangement for the reception of their cases, the following plan is submitted for the consideration of the Committee:—

That it be arranged for the West Suffolk Hospital to receive for treatment all abnormal or complicated maternity cases for an annual payment. The amount suggested, from the experience of the number of admissions in previous years, is approximately £295. This sum is based on the estimate of four new admissions per month at the rate of 8s. per day for a period of three weeks, less 10s. per week in the case of contributors to the Hospital Scheme and £1 per week in the case of non-contributors, the Hospital to undertake to collect the latter amounts from the patients concerned."

An agreement was made with the West Suffolk General Hospital for the treatment of these cases as suggested above, the new arrangements to come into force on April 1st, 1942.

(c) Evacuated Women.

The Alexandra Emergency Maternity Home has been maintained throughout the year, and 252 cases were admitted. Small parties of expectant mothers from evacuation areas were sent from time to time by the Ministry of Health.

Arrangements are made for women from distant parts of the County to be accommodated for a short period before the confinement is expected, at Parva Cottage, a house in Bury St. Edmund's which has been requisitioned by the Borough Council, and is being maintained as a hostel by the Billeting Authority.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SPECIAL NATURE.

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

There were five cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, one of which was removed to hospital.

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, and have been open to evacuees.

During the year a total of 6,716 attendances (5,167 in 1940, 5,030 in 1939, 5,110 in 1938, 4,992 in 1937) were made by children attending these centres; of these, 2,602 attendances were made by children under one year of age.

The number of children who attended for the first time was 957 (642 in 1940, 550 in 1939, 457 in 1938 and 429 in 1937), and this number included 416 children under the age of one year.

In most areas of the County, the health visiting of children under five years of age has been carried out, as previously, by the District Nurses who, for this purpose, act as servants of the Council. In a few additional districts, however, this work has been undertaken by the County Health Visitors on account of the extra work, due to the amalgamation of District Nursing Associations, or the presence of evacuees, falling on the District Nurses.

The total number of visits paid during the year was 17,651. This included 4,758 visits to children under one year of age, and 12,893 to children between the ages of one and five.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The County Health Visitors have continued to visit regularly all children registered under Part VII. 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, 1-1-41	..	..	120
Number of New Cases	..	..	57
Number returned to parents	..	..	13
Number adopted	..	..	2
Number died	..	..	1
Number who attained 9 years of age	..	..	22
Number who left County	..	..	16
Number transferred to Public Assistance Institutions	..	..	—
Number of cases on Register, 31-12-41	..	..	123
Number of unsatisfactory cases	..	..	—

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

In May, 1941, the administration of War-time Nurseries was transferred to the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority. Miss McGregor, the County Supervisor of Domestic Science, who had been responsible for the organisation and supervision of the Nurseries before the transfer of administration, was seconded for these duties.

Nurseries had already been started by the Reception Authorities, in consultation with the Education Authority, at Hadleigh in the Union Jack Club (available accommodation 40), and at Haverhill in premises known as "Weavers" (available accommodation 15). Under the new arrangements further Nurseries were started at Lavenham in the Guildhall (available accommodation 20), and at Sudbury in the Baptist School (available accommodation 40), and arrangements were made for an additional Nursery to be opened at Orchard Place, Haverhill (available accommodation 40) as the accommodation at "Weavers" was insufficient.

These Nurseries were largely equipped through gifts from the American Red Cross Society, and gifts and loans from other sources, including the London A.F.S., the Youth Service Corps and local schools, etc.

The Nurseries are attended by evacuees and by local children whose mothers are out working. The average attendances for the year were as follows:—

Hadleigh	..	..	63.3%
Haverhill ("Weavers")	..	..	71.3%
Lavenham	..	..	64.3%

SICK BAY ACCOMMODATION.

The "Sick Bay" at Risbridge House, Kedington, has been maintained throughout the year for evacuated children who cannot conveniently be nursed in their billets. Ninety-nine cases, including 37 school children, 47 children under school age and 15 adults, were admitted for the following reasons:—

					Brought forward					48
Scabies	..	..	..	28	Enuresis	..	..	..	..	3	
Impetigo	..	..	..	8	Malnutrition	..	..	..	..	1	
Eczema	..	..	..	1	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	2	
Eczema and Scabies	..	..	..	1	Rickets	..	..	..	..	1	
Uncleanliness	..	..	..	5	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	
Ringworm	..	..	..	1	Epilepsy	..	..	..	..	1	
Pemphigus	..	..	..	2	Nervous Condition	..	..	..	..
Mothers with Babies	..	..	..	2	Care and Maintenance	..	..	..	..	41	

In 1941 the total number of cases treated by the County Venereal Diseases Officer was one hundred and fifty-seven, and of these twenty-three were new cases seen for the first time during the year. In addition, seventeen new cases were treated at outside centres. There were, therefore, forty West Suffolk cases in 1941. The diagnoses returned in respect of these cases were: Syphilis 12, Gonorrhœa 9, and other conditions 19.

During the year 145 specimens were sent to laboratories for examination from the clinic at Bury St. Edmund's; 31 of these were blood specimens for Wassermann test.

The number of attendances at Bury St. Edmund's was 678, at Cambridge 115 and at Ipswich 34.

HOUSING.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 to 1938.

No grants were promised by the County Council under these Acts during the year.

Housing Acts, 1930 to 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:—

Clare	R.D.C. in respect of 149 houses	
Thedwastre	R.D.C. " " "	136 "
Thingoe	R.D.C. " " "	398 "
Total		683

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

(1) General Bulk Milk.

In 1941 twenty-three samples of bulk milk were examined. Twelve samples failed in the Methelyne Blue and B. Coli Tests. Tubercle bacilli were found in one case. This was referred to the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who made an inspection of the herd and took samples of milk. As a result, a notice under the Tuberculosis Order was served on the owner in respect of one cow.

(2) Milk (Special Designations Order).

General.

As indicated in my Report for last year, every effort has been made to uphold the standard of efficiency among producers holding Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk licences, without relaxation.

The Milk Officer took 81 samples, 48 of which passed the tests, from Tuberculin-tested herds, and 463 samples, of which 326 passed the tests, from Accredited herds.

Accredited Milk Licences.

138 Producer's Licences were issued, of which 8 were recommended for the first time. During the year 17 Licences were withdrawn, and 8 were suspended. At the end of the year there were 114 herds on the Accredited Register.

Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences.

28 T.T. Licences were issued during the year, 3 of which were for the first time. During the year 1 T.T. Licence was suspended.

(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. 3,186 cattle in 43 Tuberculin Tested herds, 16,213 cattle in 480 Accredited herds, and 6,544 cattle in 755 non-designated herds were inspected. 8 animals in Accredited herds and 5 in non-designated herds were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. The Statutory tests were carried out on 3,089 animals in "Tuberculin Tested" and "Certified" herds, and 21 reactors were found.

(4) Milk in Schools Scheme.

Many difficulties in connection with shortage of milk, transport, supply of utensils, etc., were met with during the year, but by utilising the services of the County Milk Officer, and through the good will of the teachers, these were largely overcome, and at the end of the year only one small school in the County was without a supply.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year, as compared with 1940:—

	1940.		1941.	
	Local.	Evacuees.	Local.	Evacuees.
Number of Schools with Scheme	139	—	146	—
Number of children taking milk	6376	1941	7767	2331
Number of children attending these schools	10332	3148	10293	2882

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

The following is a note of the work carried out under these Acts in 1941 :—

During the year two hundred and seven samples were taken and analysed: Baking powder, 1; Beef Sausage, 5; Beef and vegetable extractive, 1; Blanc Mange, 1; Butter, 4; Black Pudding, 1; Blackcurrant conserve, 1; Cake mixture, 1; Cocoa, 2; Coffee, 3; Coffee powder, 1; Cooking fat, 3; Cheese, 1; Dried Milk, 1; Egg powder, 1; Eggstead, 1; Fruit preserving tablets, 1; Ground Almonds, 1; Ground Ginger, 1; Jam, 6; Lard, 1; Lemon substitute, 2; Malted Milk, 1; Milk, 125; Milkstead, 1; Milk substitute, 1; Milk powder, 1; Milk bread, 2; Onion flavouring, 1; Orange substitute, 2; Orange cordial substitute, 1; Pepper, 1; Picnic roll, 1; Pork Sausage, 1; Salad Oil, 1; Saccharin tablets, 2; Semolina, 1; Special Margarine, 1; Sugar, 3; Sugar substitute, 1; Soup powder, 1; Sweeten, 1; Sweetened Custard Powder, 2; Sweetened Drinking Chocolate, 1; Steak and Kidney Pie, 1; Tea, 2; Treacle, 1; Vinegar, 5; Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine, 1; Bismuthated Magnesia tablets, 1; Glycerin, Lemon and Ipecac. Balsam, 1; Quinine and Iron tonic, 1; Seidlitz powder, 1; Zinc ointment, 1.

Of these, 17 samples of milk, 1 of milk powder, 2 of milk bread, 1 of egg powder, 1 of eggstead and 2 of orange substitute were found to be not genuine.

(c) **NUTRITION.**

The following table shows the classification of children routinely inspected in schools in 1940 and 1941 :

		1940.		1941.	
		<i>Local.</i>	<i>Evacuees.</i>	<i>Local.</i>	<i>Evacuees.</i>
Number of Children Examined	..	3612	2848	2512	1572
Excellent Nutrition	.. ..	20.0%	22.9%	11.6%	13.3%
Normal Nutrition	.. ..	70.9%	68.1%	68.5%	69.6%
Slightly Sub-Normal Nutrition	..	8.4%	8.8%	19.2%	16.5%
Bad Nutrition	.. ..	.7%	.2%	.7%	.6%

It will be noticed that the figures for the normal and slightly sub-normal classes compare unfavourably with those of the previous year.

While paying due regard to the different standards of assessment that may have been adopted by the examiners, it is necessary to consider how far war-time dietary may have had its effect on these figures.

In this connection, too, it should be remembered that there are other influences at work, apart from deficiency in diet that have their effect on the nutrition of the child.

War-time conditions have certainly resulted in a shortage of or difficulty in procuring certain foodstuffs, and a great deal depends on the knowledge, adaptability and resourcefulness of the parent. In certain parts of the County war-time work of the mothers may in certain cases result in inadequate supervision of the children's diet.

The extension of the milk in schools scheme, and the provision of mid-day meals in schools should, however, help to counteract any downward trend in the nutritional state of the children.

The position certainly warrants careful attention, but I think it may safely be said that there is as yet no appreciable deterioration in the health of the children in the County and that it approximates to the average standard in the country as a whole.

Free Milk in Schools.

The schemes for supplying free milk to medically necessitous children, as described in previous reports, have been continued until the New Government Scheme for providing free milk on a financial basis only, came into operation. Any special cases, however, brought to the notice of the School Medical Officers, where free milk is not being supplied, and would seem to be desirable, are still referred for investigation.

Dinners in Schools.

By the courtesy of the Education Secretary, I submit the following report by Miss McGregor, the County Organiser for Domestic Subjects :—

" Approximately 1,925 dinners are served daily, and by the Autumn it is hoped to provide for many more schools as far as the current year's estimates allow.

During the year 9 new Canteens have been opened, including two Secondary Schools British Restaurants in Haverhill, Sudbury and Newmarket cater for nine schools in all.

During the Winter soup has been served in two schools, and it is expected that in these cases a complete meal may be provided next year.

Only one voluntary scheme has operated this year, at Leavenheath. Much help has been given, however, by the use of private kitchens and personal help by the W.V.S. and W.I. in emergencies.

The success of this movement has, of course, been due to a very great extent to the help and enthusiasm of the teachers."

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1941.

	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Small-pox	—	—
Scarlet-fever	191	1
Diphtheria	83	6
Paratyphoid	2	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	14	2
Pneumonia	83	—
Erysipelas	14	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	2
Measles	2650	11
Whooping Cough	567	4
Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	2

(b) Infectious Diseases and School Children.

During 1941, 3 schools were closed on account of the following outbreaks of infectious disease:—Measles 2, Diphtheria 1.

During the year 269 Low Attendance Certificates were issued by the Medical Department in respect of the following conditions:—

Whooping Cough 36, Measles 109, Chickenpox 14, Influenza 4, German Measles 5, Influenza and Colds 6, German Measles and Whooping Cough 1, Measles and Chickenpox 10, Coughs and Colds 28, Scarlet Fever 4, Colds and Chickenpox 4, Measles and Colds 9, Influenza and Chickenpox 1, Whooping Cough and Measles 7, Scarlet Fever and Colds 1, Whooping Cough and Chickenpox 2, Scarlet Fever and German Measles 2, Measles, Influenza and Colds 16, Mumps, Coughs and Colds 2, Measles, Mumps and Whooping Cough 5, Diphtheria 2, Mumps 1.

(c) Infectious Disease Hospital for Evacuees.

Highbury House, the emergency infectious disease hospital opened in 1940 to deal with evacuated children suffering from minor infectious diseases, has functioned throughout the year. 160 cases, including 54 school children, 93 children under school age and 13 adults were admitted. The reasons for which they were admitted were as follows:—

Measles	35
Whooping Cough	42
Chickenpox	7
Mumps	7
Chickenpox and Whooping Cough	1
Measles and Whooping Cough	1
Impetigo and Whooping Cough	1
Scabies	24
Impetigo	4
Scabies and Whooping Cough	5
Scabies and Chickenpox	2
Septic Infection	6
Ringworm	1
Discharging Ear	1
Pneumonia	1
Pemphigus	9
For Observation	3
Contacts, etc.	10
	<hr/> 160 <hr/>

(d) Treatment of Scabies.

The incidence of scabies, in spite of all efforts to combat the disease, appeared to be on the increase during the year. Cases were reported by the Medical Officers, County Health Visitors, Teachers and Medical Practitioners, and the time of the London County Council Nurses was largely taken up with tracing and treating cases.

The treatment clinic set up at the Public Assistance Institution at Bury St. Edmund's was continued, and during the year 733 cases, comprising 491 evacuated and 242 local persons, were dealt with. Of these 387 were of school age, 144 were under school age and 202 were adults.

(e) Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

In my Report for 1940 I reported that all the Local Authorities in the County had sought the co-operation of the County Council in their immunisation Schemes. This work has been carried out by the County School Medical Staff, who visited every school in the County during the first three months of the year, with the exception of the Newmarket and Haverhill Schools, which were dealt with at the end of 1940. During this campaign approximately 86 per cent. of

the school population was immunised, and thanks are due to the teachers who helped not only in advertising the scheme and encouraging the parents to consent, but by offering every facility available to the medical staff in carrying out the work. Valuable assistance was given by the staff of the Emergency Laboratory at Cambridge, from where the serum was obtained.

Immunisation on new entrants and children who for some reason were not dealt with during the campaign, is carried out as occasion arises, in the schools and clinics.

During the year 10,134 school children and 3,303 children under school age were dealt with.

(f) Cancer.

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

During the year 208 deaths from cancer occurred. This number is 13.3 of the total deaths. The following Table shows the age distribution :

Deaths from Cancer 1941.

		0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total.
Males	..	—	—	—	3	35	69	107
Females	..	—	—	—	5	34	62	101
Total	..	—	—	—	8	69	131	208

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

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

Registration.

There were 224 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		
—	4	4	26	71	34	85	—	224

In addition there were 9 blind persons evacuated from other areas.

Institutions.

Fourteen persons were maintained in Public Assistance Institutions, five in special Schools, and four in Institutions for the Mentally Defective.

Work of Home Teacher and Visitor.

The Home Teacher has paid 840 routine visits during the year, and given 16 lessons in Braille, 6 in Moon Type, 4 in Handicrafts and 4 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 four such workers recognised under the scheme.

Workshop Workers.

Two 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.

Domiciliary Assistance.

At the end of the year 108 blind persons, including 9 evacuees, were in receipt of domiciliary assistance.

(2) **WEST SUFFOLK VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION.**

The Association continues to give assistance outside the scope of the County Council where necessary.

Although normal social activities were curtailed, it was possible to arrange one or two tea-parties so that the blind people were given an opportunity of meeting together.

The wireless sets were well maintained, over £90 having been spent during the year for this purpose.

Special cases were allowed weekly grants for extra nourishment. Emergency grants were paid towards extra expenses incurred for Medical and Dental treatment, and also to give assistance whilst waiting for decisions with regard to pensions, etc.

Holiday grants were allowed, and extra grants amounting to £30 were given at Christmas.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND DEATHS DUE TO CERTAIN DISEASES.

DISTRICT.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-Cough.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Cancer.	Puerperal and Post-abort. Septis.	Other Maternal Causes.
Boroughs and Urban.												
Bury St. Edmund's ..	16.4	14.1	—	—	1	—	1	14	—	37	—	1
Hadleigh ..	11.2	16.7	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	—
Haverhill ..	13.3	14.7	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	8	—	—
Newmarket ..	14.5	13.4	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	16	—	—
Sudbury ..	12.4	15.1	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	10	—	—
Total ..	14.6	14.4	—	—	2	4	3	23	3	74	—	1
Rural.												
Clare ..	14.5	13.6	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	16	1	—
Cosford ..	13.3	14.8	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	23	—	1
Melford ..	12.3	13.7	1	—	—	2	—	6	2	26	1	1
Mildenhall ..	16.0	12.5	—	—	1	1	—	4	4	27	—	—
Thedwastre ..	13.0	11.4	—	—	—	3	1	2	—	11	—	—
Thingoe ..	11.2	13.6	—	—	2	—	—	7	3	31	—	1
Total ..	14.6	13.6	1	—	4	7	1	26	10	134	2	3
Grand Total ..	14.6	13.7	1	—	6	11	4	49	13	208	2	4