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Contributors

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TABLE 2.

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| District. | Smallpox. | | Scarlet Fever. | | Diphtheria and Membranous Croup. | | Enteric Fever. | | Puerperal Pyrexia. | | Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | | Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis. | | Pneumonia. | | Encephalitis Lethargica. | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|---|------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths (b) | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths (a) | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| <i>Urban</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bewdley Borough | | | 12 | - | - | - | | | | | 7 | 1 | 1 | - | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Bromsgrove | | | 144 | - | 80 | 1 | | | 8 | - | 24 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 6 | | | 18 | 19 | | | |
| Droitwich Borough | | | 7 | - | 5 | - | | | | | 4 | 3 | | - | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Evesham Borough | | | 72 | - | 22 | 3 | | | 3 | - | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Halesowen Borough | | | 35 | - | 11 | - | | | 6 | - | 25 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 5 | | | 37 | 12 | | | |
| Kidderminster Borough | | | 84 | - | 6 | - | 8 | | 5 | - | 18 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 7 | | | 18 | 17 | | | 1 |
| Malvern | | | 113 | - | 12 | - | | | 2 | - | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | | | 10 | 5 | 1 | | |
| Oldbury Borough | | | 112 | - | 32 | 5 | | | 15 | 2 | 53 | 28 | 19 | 7 | 4 | | | 63 | 34 | | | |
| Redditch | | | 65 | 1 | 48 | 2 | 1 | | 11 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 3 | | | | 15 | 9 | 2 | | 1 |
| Stourbridge Borough | | | 92 | - | 40 | - | | | 6 | - | 32 | 19 | 5 | 2 | 2 | | | 15 | 18 | | | |
| Stourport-on-Severn | | | 15 | - | 2 | - | 3 | | 7 | - | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 3 | | | 4 | 2 | | | |
| Totals | | | 751 | 1 | 258 | 18 | 13 | | 63 | 3 | 196 | 118 | 54 | 21 | 29 | | | 184 | 121 | 4 | | 4 |
| <i>Rural</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bromsgrove | | | 46 | 1 | 35 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | - | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | | 10 | 3 | | | |
| Droitwich | | | 40 | - | 26 | 2 | 5 | | 3 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Evesham | | | 35 | - | 6 | - | 2 | | 3 | - | 6 | 4 | 2 | - | | | | 4 | 6 | | | 1 |
| Kidderminster | | | 24 | - | 1 | - | 3 | | | - | 4 | 2 | - | 2 | | | | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Martley | | | 53 | - | 10 | - | | | 2 | - | 16 | 6 | 6 | 2 | | | | 20 | 9 | | | |
| Pershore | | | 69 | - | 6 | 1 | 2 | | 3 | - | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | | | | 8 | 3 | | | 1 |
| Tenbury | | | 28 | - | 8 | 1 | | | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | 4 | - | | | | 3 | 2 | | | |
| Upton-on-Severn | | | 33 | - | 13 | 2 | | | 1 | - | 10 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 10 | 3 | | | |
| Totals | | | 328 | 1 | 105 | 7 | 13 | | 17 | 1 | 71 | 33 | 25 | 14 | 2 | | | 60 | 30 | | | 2 |
| Grand Totals | | | 1079 | 2 | 363 | 25 | 26 | | 80 | 4 | 267 | 151 | 79 | 35 | 31 | | | 244 | 151 | 4 | | 6 |

(a) The deaths refer to all cases of pneumonia, not those which are notifiable.

(b) The deaths refer to cases of Puerperal Sepsis.

Cerebro Spinal Fever. Nine cases were notified; One in Bromsgrove Urban, One in Halesowen, Six in Oldbury, and One in Bromsgrove Rural District.

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Air Raid Precautions and Emergency Hospital Scheme. In January 1939 the responsibility for the provision of Fixed and Mobile First Aid Posts and the County Ambulance Service became the responsibility of the Public Health Department. In April 1939 Mr. G. L. Pitt was appointed Ambulance Officer for the Administrative County.

The Smallpox Hospital was made the Depot for Medical Stores and the Senior Members of my Office Staff were allotted to particular branches of war work.

Civil Nursing Reserve. (1) Mr. J. P. Holder became the Hon. Secretary of the County Emergency Nursing Committee. He has set up smaller Local Committees in the County and the arrangements appear to have worked smoothly and efficiently.

- (2) County Casualty Bureau. } Mr. G. P. Cooper.
Hostels etc. for Evacuated School Children }
- (3) First Aid Posts. }
Medical Stores. } Mr. J. A. Carter.
- (4) Ambulance Service. Mr. F. T. Fitzhugh.
- (5) Emergency Maternity Service. Mrs. N. D. Jones.

This sub-division proved very satisfactory and I express my appreciation of the splendid response by all my Staff to the very heavy demands made upon them.

With the onset of War very valuable assistance was rendered by Mr. S. C. Meredith (the Public Assistance Officer) and his Staff ; not only was the County Council asked to deal with Service sick, but the whole of the inmates of Worcester Municipal Hospital were received at Evesham Public Assistance Institution and some seventy cases were sent from Birmingham to Bromsgrove Public Assistance Institution.

As the Hutment Hospitals were not completed, service sick were admitted mainly to Powick and Barnsley Hall Emergency Hospitals. During the Winter about 700 Service cases passed through the County Hospitals. Many problems arose and it was due to the hard and enthusiastic work of the Staff of the Public Assistance and Emergency Hospitals that the patients were comfortably housed and efficiently treated.

Ambulance Services. Following the appointment of Mr. G. L. Pitt, who has demonstrated enthusiasm and untiring energy, all the requirements of the Central Departments have been carried out.

The vans with fitments proved both costly and uncomfortable and the change over to the adapted private car for first line provision has certainly resulted in improvement.

Civil Nursing Reserve. The Civil Nursing Reserve has been formed for the purpose of maintaining a reserve of trained Nurses, Assistant Nurses and Nursing Auxiliaries to supplement Nursing Staffs of Casualty Hospitals and to provide nursing personnel for First Aid Posts and certain Nursing services in reception areas.

A Joint Emergency Committee for the City and County was appointed on the 16th March 1939.

Local Sub-Committees were also appointed for the districts of Bromsgrove, Evesham, Redditch and Worcester and these Committees which include the Matrons of Emergency Hospitals have been most helpful.

At the time of writing this Report (December 1940) the numbers of registered members of the Reserve were :

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----|--------------------|
| Trained Nurses— | | | |
| Mobile Whole Time | - | 100 | |
| Immobile Whole Time | - | 88 | |
| Part Time | - | 66 | Total - 254 |
| Assistant Nurses— | | | |
| Mobile Whole Time | - | 39 | |
| Immobile Whole Time | - | 92 | |
| Part Time | - | 43 | Total - 174 |
| Nursing Auxiliaries— | | | |
| Mobile Whole Time | - | 97 | |
| Immobile Whole Time | - | 234 | |
| Part Time | - | 737 | Total - 1068 |
| | | | Grand Total - 1496 |

Valuable assistance in recruiting has been given by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Service.

With the exception of the two Emergency Hospitals at Barnsley Hall and the Public Assistance Institution at Bromsgrove the Nurses available are reasonably sufficient but at Bromsgrove the personnel is still much below the requirements as a large number of beds still need to be staffed. In view of the comparatively small local population and the more remunerative employment to be obtained in the locality, it is difficult to see how further nursing staff can be obtained from this area.

First Aid Posts and Mobile Units.

The following List shows where these Posts and Units have been established and the Officers who will administer them.

LIST OF MEDICAL OFFICERS AND DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE FIRST AID POSTS AND MOBILE UNITS IN THE COUNTY.

| <i>First Aid Post.</i> | <i>Medical Officer in charge.</i> | <i>Deputy Medical Officer.</i> |
|--|---|--|
| BEWDLEY. Wribbenhall Church Hall. (Bewdley 183). | Dr. G. S. Lawrence, Abbotsford, Bewdley, Worcs. (Bewdley 18). | |
| DROITWICH. Girl Guides Hut, Friar Street. (Droitwich 3186). | Dr. E. Shirley Jones, Ashlea, Droitwich. (Droitwich 2140). | Dr. H. Bunting, Salwarpe, Droitwich. (Droitwich 64). |
| EVESHAM. Public Assistance Institution. (Evesham 6117). | Dr. H. M. Savery (S) 91 High Street. (Evesham 6042). (P) Planchfield, Bengehill. (Evesham 6053). | Dr. J. M. Robertson, 91, High Street, Evesham. (Evesham 6042). |
| HALESOWEN. Tenter St. Boys' School. (Halesowen 1493). | Dr. L. Bold, The Old Barn House, Hasbury, Halesowen. (Halesowen 1228). | Dr. J. M. McQueen, 110 Blackberry Lane, Halesowen. (Halesowen 1368). |
| CRADLEY. Colley Lane Infants School. (Cradley Heath 69022). | Dr. J. D. W. Shedden, Chapel House, Colley Gate, Cradley Heath, Staffs. (Cradley Heath 6340). | Dr. Nancy E. Robbins, 39, Highfield Road, Colley Gate, Cradley Heath. |

First Aid Post.

BLACKHEATH.

Hill Top School,
Long Lane, Blackheath.
(Woodgate 3056).

KIDDERMINSTER.

District & General
Hospital.
(Kidderminster 2431).

The Baths,
Castle Road,
(Kidderminster 3114).

STOURBRIDGE.

Orchard Lane Clinic,
Lye. (Lye 248).

New Road Clinic,
Stourbridge.
(Stourbridge 5557).

BROMSGROVE.

New Clinic,
Recreation Road,
(Bromsgrove 2846).

The Cinema,
Rubery.
(Rubery 251).

MALVERN LINK.

Church Institute,
(Malvern 1041).

REDDITCH.

Handicraft Centre,
South Street.
(Redditch 759).

STOURPORT.

Lucy Baldwin
Maternity Hospital.
(Stourport 298).

PERSHORE.

Defford Road Junior
School.
(Persore 201).

Medical Officer in charge.

Dr. A. D. McQueen,
(S) Inverugie,
Blackheath.
(BLA 1171).
(P) 382 Ridgacre Road,
Quinton.
(Woodgate 2026).

Dr. H. M. Buchanan,
28, Mill Street,
Kidderminster.
(Kidderminster 2509).
Dr. E. Mitton,
4, Lion Street,
Kidderminster.
(Kidderminster 2030).

Dr. J. K. McCarthy,
Lye Cross House,
Lye, Stourbridge.
(Lye 91).

Dr. A. R. Sharrod,
Langdale,
New Road, Stourbridge.
(Stourbridge 57286).

Dr. A. J. Rae,
Fownhope,
College Road, Bromsgrove.
(Bromsgrove 2076).
Dr. P. A. Sullivan,
14, Leach Green Lane,
Rubery, B'ham.
(Rubery 16).

Dr. G. Waugh Scott,
Rampton House,
(Malvern Link).
(Malvern 230).

Dr. C. L. Potts,
3, Prospect Hill,
Redditch.
(Redditch 108).

Dr. R. S. MacArthur,
York House,
Stourport-on-Severn.
(Stourport 29).

Dr. H. G. Browning,
Perrott House,
Persore.
(Persore 41).

Deputy Medical Officer.

Dr. Ribchester,
Inverugie,
Blackheath.
(BLA 1171).

Dr. C. P. Porter,
27, Church Street,
Kidderminster.
(Kidderminster 3098).
Dr. Hill,
Fairfield House,
Comberton Road.
(Kidderminster 2077).

Dr. J. J. Martin,
Lye Cross House,
Lye.
(Lye 91).
Dr. M. Roberts.

(Stourbridge 5590).

Dr. C. G. Auld,
Sunnymede, New Road,
Bromsgrove.
(Bromsgrove 2163).
Dr. F. H. Vollam,
Corahill,
Whetty Lane, Rubery.
(Rubery 91).

Dr. J. B. Jessiman,
St. Giles,
Malvern Link.
(Malvern 56).

Dr. N. C. Burns,
20, Easemore Road,
Redditch.
(Redditch 301).
Dr. E. P. Smith,
Richmond House,
16, Prospect Hill,
Redditch.
(Redditch 36).

Dr. R. Dalrymple,
78, Licknill Road,
Stourport.
(Stourport 215).

Dr. J. C. Wilson,
7, Broad Street,
(Persore 16).
Dr. F. H. Kennedy,
Western House.
(Persore 63).

Mobile Unit.

KIDDERMINSTER.

Oakes, Dudley St.
(Kidderminster 2360).

Dr. R. F. Lurring,
22, Church Street,
Kidderminster.
(Kidderminster 2134).

Dr. M. L. Nairac,
25, Church Street.
(Kidderminster 2051).

| <i>Mobile Unit.</i> | <i>Medical Officer in charge.</i> | <i>Deputy Medical Officer.</i> |
|---|--|--|
| STOURBRIDGE. Mary Stevens Maternity Home. (Stourbridge 5534). | Dr. G. J. Mellor, 105, Hagley Road, Stourbridge. (Stourbridge 57210). | Dr. F. L. Karne, Beckmans Road, Pedmore. (Hagley 7000). |
| BROMSGROVE. Cottage Hospital, Bromsgrove. (Bromsgrove 2036). | Dr. F. W. J. Coaker, Battlefield, Bromsgrove. (Bromsgrove 2030). | Dr. Vera Pugh, Housmans, Fockbury Road, Bromsgrove. (Bromsgrove 2851). |
| MALVERN. Lansdown School. (Malvern 243). | Dr. F. L. Newton, Loddiswell, Avenue Road, Malvern. (Malvern 333). | Dr. D. R. Sloan, 1 Flat, Malverahurst, Priory Road, Malvern. (Malvern 1104). |
| REDDITCH. Smallwood Hospital, Redditch. (Redditch 112). | Dr. W. T. Mitchell, 24, Worcester Road, Redditch. (Redditch 93). | Dr. J. C. Dow, The Limes, Worcester Road, Redditch. (Redditch 73). |

Casualty Service.

Dr. S. Deaner and Mr. G. Pitt have throughout the Winter been instructing a Class, drawn from the Council's own Staff, in First Aid.

As a result of these activities a most valuable reserve of trained male and female First Aid workers is provided who can be called upon in emergency for convoy or other duties. Efforts are being made to enrol the male workers with the Scheme Making Authority for special duties.

Midwives Acts. A number of District Nurses at the outset of the War expressed a desire to take up war work in Hospitals and elsewhere, but they were advised that the work of attending to pregnant mothers and in looking after Infants, school children and evacuees was work of national importance and that they could best serve their Country by remaining in their present occupations.

This suggestion has been generally accepted and the County Midwifery Scheme has been satisfactorily maintained, although it has not been easy to find relief midwives for sickness or other emergencies.

A few Midwives who had voluntarily surrendered their certificates have been made available for service during the national emergency if and when required.

Post Certificate classes have ceased, but occasional Midwives Meetings at the Shirehall, Worcester, have been continued so far as practicable.

Number of Midwives. 256 Midwives (excluding the Borough of Oldbury) gave notice of their intention to practice in the Administrative County in the year 1939.

The four whole-time County Midwives in the Borough of Stourbridge attended 291 cases during the year.

Maternity Hospitals. The work at both the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital and the Mary Stevens Maternity Home has increased during the year. The details of cases delivered are set out below.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Number of Beds | - | - | - | - | 18 |
| Isolation Unit | - | - | - | - | 2 beds. |
| Number of cases admitted | - | - | - | - | 363 |
| Average stay | - | - | - | - | 17½ days. |
| Cases delivered by Midwives | - | - | - | - | 266 |
| " " " Doctors | - | - | - | - | 54 |
| | | | | | Total |
| | | | | | 320 |
| Number of cases where medical assistance was sought | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | - | - | - | - | 96 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Pemphigus | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Maternal Deaths | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Infant Deaths | | | | | |
| (a) Stillborn | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| (b) Within 14 days | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Ante Natal Cases | | | | | |
| (a) First visits | - | - | - | - | 372 |
| (b) Total attendances | - | - | - | - | 1607 |

The Mary Stevens Maternity Home.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Number of beds | - | - | - | - | 16 |
| Isolation Unit | - | - | - | - | 2 beds. |
| Number of cases admitted | - | - | - | - | 326 |
| Average stay | - | - | - | - | 15.1 days. |
| Cases delivered by Midwives | - | - | - | - | 173 |
| " " " Doctors | - | - | - | - | 128 |
| | | | | | Total |
| | | | | | 301 |
| Number of cases where medical assistance was sought | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | - | - | - | - | 115 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | Nil |
| Pemphigus | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - | - | Nil |
| Maternal deaths | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Infant Deaths | | | | | |
| (a) Stillborn | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| (b) Within 10 days | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| Ante-Natal cases | | | | | |
| (a) First visits | - | - | - | - | 81 |
| (b) Total attendances | - | - | - | - | 703 |

There were no Maternal Deaths in the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital.

One fatal case occurred at The Mary Stevens Maternity Home. The patient was delivered before admission of one Twin and she was found on admission to be suffering from Pneumonia. The case was an emergency admission and was not booked for confinement at the Institution.

Greenhill Hostel. The work at this Hostel is usually restricted to a few confinements of unmarried Mothers, the Babies being retained in the Hostel for a number of months until proper arrangements can be made for their future care.

During 1939 additional provision was made for evacuee pregnant Mothers and in all 43 cases were confined in the Hostel during the year. There was one Maternal Death in the case of an unmarried Girl who died of pneumonia prior to confinement.

The Staff of the Hostel have had to put up with a great deal of inconvenience owing to the best accommodation in the Hostel being reserved for expectant Mothers, but the arrangements have on the whole worked quite well and I am very grateful to the Committee and the Staff of the Hostel for the assistance they have been able to give.

Public Assistance Institutions. An increased number of Mothers were confined in the Maternity Wards of the Public Assistance Institutions.

The following Table will give the information for the year 1939.

| | Beds provided. | Admissions. | Births. |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| Kidderminster | 5 | 48 | 48 |
| Evesham | 24 | 58 | 58 |
| Upton-on-Severn | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Martley | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | 35 | 110 | 110 |

In September 1939 the Wards at Evesham Public Assistance Institution were increased to deal with the evacuee expectant Mothers. The Maternity Wards at Kidderminster were turned over to provide an operating Theatre and annexes under the emergency Hospital Scheme.

Health Visiting. Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Clinics. There were 14 County Council Centres and 25 Voluntary Centres functioning during 1939, together with 12 Ante Natal Clinics.

The attendances are set out below :

County Council Centres.

| | Opened. | Average Attendance. |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Blackheath | Twice weekly | 74 |
| Bromsgrove | Weekly | 73 |
| Cradley | Weekly | 61 |
| Crabbs Cross and Astwood Bank | Fortnightly | 38 |
| Catshill | Weekly | 47 |
| Droitwich | Weekly | 42 |
| Fairfield | Fortnightly | 20 |
| Halesowen | Weekly | 131 |
| Lye | Weekly | 62 |
| Pershore | Fortnightly | 21 |
| Rubery | Weekly | 54 |
| Redditch | Twice weekly | 33 |
| Stourport-on-Severn | Fortnightly | 49 |
| Worcester | Fortnightly | 9 |

Voluntary Infant Welfare Centres.

| | Opened. | Average Attendance. |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| Alvechurch | Monthly | 18 |
| Beoley | Monthly | 18 |
| Broadway | Fortnightly | 5 |
| Belbroughton | Weekly | 13 |
| Bretforton | Fortnightly | 18 |
| Badsey | Fortnightly | 23 |
| Cofton Hackett | Fortnightly | 27 |
| Evesham | Weekly | 45 |
| Fladbury | Fortnightly | 17 |
| Hagley | Fortnightly | 28 |
| Littleton | Fortnightly | 21 |
| Malvern Link | Weekly | 44 |
| „ Poolbrook | Weekly | 28 |
| „ Newtown | Weekly | 39 |
| Norton | Monthly | 32 |
| Ombersley | Fortnightly | 9 |
| Rock | Fortnightly | 12 |
| Stourbridge | (I.W.C. twice weekly Toddlers' Clinic Fortnightly) | 61 |
| Severn Stoke | Fortnightly | 20 |
| Tardebigge | Fortnightly | 13 |
| Upton-on-Severn | Fortnightly | 9 |
| Wribbenhall | Fortnightly | 43 |
| Wythall | Fortnightly | 26 |
| Welland | Fortnightly | 9 |
| Clent | Fortnightly | 9 |

Ante Natal Clinics.

The average attendances and first visits are set out below :—

| Ante Natal Clinic. | Average Attendance. | First Visits. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Bromsgrove | 12 | 96 |
| Blackheath | 15 | 127 |
| Cradley | 11 | 122 |
| Evesham | 3 | 115 |
| Halesowen | 14 | 106 |
| Lye | 12 | 116 |
| Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital | 16 | 372 |
| Mary Stevens Maternity Home | 9 | 81 |
| Newtown, Malvern | 14 | 63 |
| Redditch | 5 | 25 |
| Stourbridge | 15 | 96 |
| Worcester | 5 | 90 |
| Other Infant Welfare Centres | — | 128 |
| Rubery | 10 | 50 |
| Total cases attending for first time | — | 1,587 |

In addition to the 1,587 cases supervised at Clinics, 1,784 first visits were made by Nurses and Midwives to the homes of Expectant Mothers.

Complications of Pregnancy and Labour (*Excluding notified Puerperal Pyrexia*). Consultants were provided in 37 cases and special Hospital treatment was given in 47 cases.

During the year 65 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified ; five cases being seen by a Consultant. Thirty-three cases were treated in Hospital. There were four deaths from Puerperal Sepsis during the year, two of which occurred in the area of Oldbury Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

Maternal Mortality. During the year there were two deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and 9 from other puerperal causes in the Maternity and Child Welfare Administrative County. This gives a death rate for the whole County of 2.41 per 1,000 registered births. The improved figure noted in 1938 has been maintained.

Evacuation Scheme.

Pregnant Mothers.

A considerable number of Expectant Mothers were due to arrive in this County and preparations had been made in advance.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport-on-Severn and the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, Stourbridge, were provided with a few additional beds especially for abnormal cases.

The following additional Homes were included :

(a) *Greenhill Hostel, Kidderminster.*

Additional equipment and nursing assistance was made available by the Ministry of Health ; Dr. H. Paul of Smethwick also assisted with the loan of equipment and Nurses.

(b) *Public Assistance Institution, Evesham.*

One Doctor and three Midwives were for a short time provided by the Birmingham Authority. The Maternity Unit functioned quite satisfactorily, but the numbers of admissions were small, many returning home before the expected Baby arrived.

(c) *Tything Nursing Home, Worcester.*

Additional beds provided by the City and County Nursing Association were available for both City and County Evacuees.

As was the case in several areas the Scheme in this County was not tested fully in 1939 ; a considerable proportion of the Mothers who arrived returned before the confinement ; a few were billeted miles away from any Maternity Home which provided much difficulty in arranging transport. The Mothers (in the light of the 1939 experience) were not prepared to stay in Rural areas and many returned before the confinement. The experiment was costly and involved much work and trouble and I concluded the net result did not justify the effort.

Quite recently however a dozen very tired Mothers in the last month of pregnancy, were admitted to one of these Homes. Their home Town had had a bad week and they were very grateful Mothers who longed for a peaceful night's rest. Their admission was useful and justified.

It must be realized that circumstances over which the Government has no control will decide whether these facilities are used or not. If we do not prepare they cannot be used ; if we do, the effort may for a time appear to be redundant or misdirected.

The number of informal evacuees has been considerable and when coming by private arrangements from vulnerable areas the responsibility is not at present accepted by the Ministry. A number have been admitted to these Emergency Maternity Units as it was inadvisable if not impossible for them to be confined in rooms or billets.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following Table shows the number of cases in 1939, together with particulars of treatment and the result :—

| Cases. | | | Vision unimpaired. | Vision impaired. | Total Blindness. | Deaths. | Removal from district. |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Notified. | Treated. | | | | | | |
| | At Home. | In Hospital. | | | | | |
| County M. & C.W. area - - | 12 | 8 | 18 | - | - | 2 | - |

The Health Visitors have had a busy year and it is with difficulty that the various services have been fully maintained. It is unfortunate that the activities of the Itinerant Infant Welfare Centres have had to be temporarily suspended.

Venereal Diseases. Inquiries from the Venereal Diseases Clinics which serve the County have elicited that there would not appear to be any marked increase in the number of persons in the County seeking treatment during 1939 or 1940.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies. The onset of War prevented most of the County Schemes materialising.

The Coventry proposal to take a supply from the River Severn, which it was hoped would provide the Pershore Rural District parishes, without a proper supply, with a solution is postponed.

Evesham Borough has been reported as in need of an additional supply in several recent reports, is still short of water, and the Scheme although not abandoned makes but slow progress on account of shortage of labour. The need of additional supply has increased owing to added population and restrictions had to be put in force in 1940.

One small extension scheme in the Rural portion of Redditch Urban District was proceeded with.

Drainage and Sewerage. At a Local Inquiry held at Kidderminster representations were made that the Joint Scheme for Kidderminster Borough, Stourport-on-Severn Urban and Bewdley Borough should be allowed to be completed; not only was the expenditure already incurred very heavy but the risk of pollution of the water supply of Kidderminster is a factor of prime importance.

Rivers Pollution. Whilst inspection of Rivers continues and efforts are made to try and prevent new sources of pollution, the onset of War resulted in the acid waste pollution of the River Stour, which was the subject of an enquiry in March 1939 under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts, still being an unsolved problem.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act. The difficulty of obtaining materials, and the altered policy of the Ministry with regard to applications, restricted the activities of the Committee to such an extent that the facilities under the Act are to all intents no longer used. Beyond dealing with a few applications previously submitted there seems little prospect of any progress being made during the War.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders. The difficulties of farmers in retaining skilled labour and of obtaining materials for improving cowsheds and dairies can be readily understood.

The list of Accredited producers has nevertheless had to be reduced, as a designated milk must mean something and therefore a standard (even if somewhat reduced) must be adhered to.

The maintaining of supplies of milk to schools has presented considerable difficulty and it has been necessary to accept bulk milk in place of bottles in several instances.

Infectious Diseases. Table 2 gives details of Infectious Diseases occurring in the County during 1939.

The arrival of 5,000 evacuated school children, mothers and infants and a very considerable influx of "informal" evacuees raised the probability of difficulty with regard to accommodation for Infectious Disease cases.

The County review has resulted in a new County Scheme which had been approved but the improvements required to give effect thereto were not completed at the onset of War. At both Hayley Green and Hill Top Hospitals additional cubicle blocks, nurses homes and complete renovation plans had been prepared and approved. At the former the plans are now in abeyance and at the latter the progress is so dreadfully slow that no reliance can be placed on any date when the new accommodation will be available for patients.

The first step taken to deal with this problem was a meeting at Worcester of all Isolation Hospital Authorities in the County when a pooling of County beds was agreed to and particular Hospitals were selected for specified types of infectious disease. A uniform fee of £3 3s. 0d. per week was accepted by all Hospital Authorities for outside cases received or for their own cases treated elsewhere.

The Tolladine Smallpox Hospital was made a reserve Hospital and was used for Diphtheria cases for a considerable period. Later it was used for chickenpox cases occurring in evacuated school children.

The other Reserve Hospital was the Three Springs, Pershore. This was not required for Infectious Cases and was lent to the Military as a Sick Bay for several months. Later it functioned as a temporary Sick Bay for school children.

This pooling of beds, and the use of Reserve Hospitals, provided for all the needs of the Infectious Sick, including a number of cases from the Services.

By arrangement several cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever were transferred to either Worcester Newtown Hospital or the City of Birmingham Fever Hospital.

Whooping Cough and Measles. As and from the 1st November 1939 notification of these Infectious Diseases became compulsory and from that date to the end of 1939 sixty-nine cases of Whooping Cough and two hundred and one cases of Measles were notified.

The deaths during the year 1939 numbered: Whooping Cough nine and Measles one.

Tuberculosis. The joining up of two Medical Officers, both working on the Tuberculosis Scheme, has resulted in Dr. Deaner having a very busy year, but as expected, he has been equal to the occasion. Fortunately Dr. Clover has returned to assist and a temporary appointment has been made at Knightwick Sanatorium.

Tuberculosis is essentially a disease which is closely associated with environmental conditions in the home or the workshop. The experience of the last War indicates that the preventive side must be continued if serious set backs are to be avoided.

A brief Report by the Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. S. Deaner, is appended.

I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance I have received both from the Council's staff of doctors, dentists, nurses and clerks and also from other departments, such as the Education, Highways and Public Assistance. The help from voluntary associations is of even greater importance than in normal times as the reader of this Report can well understand.

There has been much overtime and night work put in and the Council will, I think, understand, that it is more important to get on with the work than to write about it, which provides my excuse for the rather incomplete report I now present.

Your obedient Servant,

WYNDHAM PARKER, M.C.,

M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.) D.P.H. (London),

County Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,
County Buildings,
Worcester.

December 1940.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1939.

The year under review saw the outbreak of the war, and provided new problems and additional work. Worcestershire is in the main a reception area for evacuees under Government Schemes and very many evacuees have come by private arrangement into the County. Steps had to be taken to

1. Prevent evacuee children being billeted upon households in which there was an infectious case of tuberculosis, and
2. Maintain control and contact with tuberculous patients coming into the County from other areas; some of these cases would be transferred in the usual manner by their respective local authorities, many others arrived without the knowledge of such authorities.

To deal with these contingencies the following steps were taken:

1. Notes were compared with the billeting officers so that tuberculous households were eliminated from their lists.
2. The visiting nurses were required to report on all tuberculous households in case billeting had occurred. Re-billeting was arranged when necessary. Where relatives or voluntary evacuees had been received privately supervision was exercised over contacts.
3. The general practitioners in the county were circularised informing them of the necessity to re-notify all transfer cases irrespective of any previous notification outside the county.

Tuberculous patients are still entering the County without the knowledge of this or their own authority and will remain unknown until such cases approach a practitioner for treatment.

The Tuberculosis Officers are acting as consultants for the local Medical Recruiting Board; the opportunity is thus made available to examine large numbers of persons of different age groups, which is the best method of eliminating unsuspected tuberculosis. This might with advantage be extended at a later date to factories and other workshops. Each case referred is X-rayed as a routine measure because the film is an essential additional record of the condition of the patient; so far, however, it appears that the cost of this necessary procedure will have to be borne by the local authorities. Up to date information as to notified patients of military age is made available for the Medical Recruiting Board. Where it is found that an infectious case has joined up voluntarily this information is passed on to the appropriate quarter so that the patient may be invalided out of the service.

The herding together of families in shelters and the sleeping of whole families in a downstairs room as an "air-raid" precaution increases the risk of exposure to, and spread of, infection of all kinds and presents a problem of considerable importance to the public health. In regard to tuberculosis, the policy is in the first instance to isolate the advanced cases in sanatoria, secondly to advise infectious cases that the journeying to and from public shelters is detrimental to their condition and the safest place is their own home or shelter provided their contact with children and young adults is reduced to a minimum. The problem of one case in which a patient with advanced disease was sleeping downstairs with five other persons in one room had to be solved with the threat of a magistrate's order, the patient being eventually isolated in a sanatorium.

Notifications and Deaths. The following are the notifications and deaths for 1939, together with the averages of the previous ten years:—

| Year. | Notifications. | | | Deaths. | | |
|----------|----------------|----------------|--------|------------|----------------|--------|
| | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. | Total. | Pulmonary. | Non-Pulmonary. | Total. |
| Averages | | | | | | |
| 1929-38 | 333 | 110 | 443 | 192 | 42 | 234 |
| 1938 | 293 | 92 | 385 | 171 | 28 | 199 |
| 1939 | 237 | 65 | 302 | 151 | 35 | 186 |

It will be seen that the number of notifications has again diminished. The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis is also at a new low record, but the rise in non-pulmonary deaths may be of significance.

Table I. Notifications of Tuberculosis during 1939 showing age periods.

This table reveals a definite relative increase in the incidence of tubercle in the male age groups between the years 25-54.

Table II. Notifications and Deaths of Tuberculosis shown in Sanitary Areas.

Note (a) Stourbridge and Oldbury maintain a high rate in both notifications and deaths.

(b) Kidderminster notifications are halved from 46 to 23 but the death rate is .66 compared with .77 in 1938.

Transfer Cases. In the last quarter of 1938 there were 19 transfers. In the last quarter of 1939 there were 40 transfers. As already noted transfer cases are arriving in considerable numbers and creating heavy demands upon our services.

Institutional Treatment. Despite the diminished number of new cases there was a persistent long waiting list in 1939. This is due to patients being more willing to stay for prolonged treatment. Cases from other areas requiring treatment are now beginning to make an additional call upon the County beds, the number of which it was intended to increase but for the onset of the war. If evacuation of chronic or advanced cases from areas liable to be bombed becomes increasingly necessary, the problem may become a serious one which, in my opinion, is a national problem which the Ministry should deal with on a national basis.

Dispensary Work. There has been an increase in dispensary attendances. Dispensary times have had to be altered to avoid "black-out" travelling on the part of patients. The routine visits by the Tuberculosis Officers have had to be curtailed but their close co-operation with the general practitioners and visiting nurses has enabled them to maintain supervision.

Collapse treatment has been continued in selected cases. At the time of writing, it is no longer possible to send patients to London Hospitals for thoracoplasty treatment; other arrangements will, if possible, have to be made.

S. DEANER,

Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

November 1940.

TABLE II.

NOTIFICATIONS OF ALL CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS SHOWN IN SANITARY AREAS.

| District. | Population 1939. | Total cases notified 1939. | Notification rate per 1,000 of Population 1939. | Total Deaths 1939. | Death rate per 1,000. |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bewdley Borough - | 4377 | 7 | 1.59 | 1 | 0.23 |
| Bromsgrove Urban - | 24230 | 28 | 1.16 | 13 | 0.53 |
| Droitwich Borough - | 4721 | 4 | 0.85 | 3 | 0.63 |
| Evesham Borough - | 11260 | 8 | 0.71 | 8 | 0.71 |
| Halesowen Borough - | 36700 | 25 | 0.68 | 14 | 0.38 |
| Kidderminster Borough - | 33210 | 23 | 0.69 | 22 | 0.66 |
| Malvern Urban - | 17530 | 15 | 0.86 | 7 | 0.40 |
| Oldbury Borough - | 47380 | 61 | 1.29 | 35 | 0.74 |
| Redditch Urban - | 23070 | 12 | 0.52 | 12 | 0.52 |
| Stourbridge Borough - | 34990 | 34 | 0.97 | 21 | 0.60 |
| Stourport-on-Severn Urban - | 8032 | 4 | 0.50 | 3 | 0.37 |
| Bromsgrove Rural - | 22390 | 14 | 0.63 | 9 | 0.40 |
| Droitwich Rural - | 11550 | 10 | 0.87 | 6 | 0.52 |
| Evesham Rural - | 14260 | 7 | 0.49 | 4 | 0.28 |
| Kidderminster Rural - | 8017 | 4 | 0.50 | 4 | 0.50 |
| Martley Rural - | 11560 | 22 | 1.90 | 8 | 0.70 |
| Pershore Rural - | 13550 | 11 | 0.81 | 8 | 0.60 |
| Tenbury Rural - | 5693 | 5 | 0.88 | 3 | 0.53 |
| Upton-on-Severn Rural - | 12730 | 8 | 0.63 | 5 | 0.39 |
| | 345250 | 302 | 0.87 | 186 | 0.54 |

TABLE I.

Notifications of Tuberculosis during 1939 showing Age Periods.

| Age periods : | under 1 yr. | 1-4 (4 yrs.) | 5-9 (5 yrs.) | 10-14 (5 yrs.) | 15-19 (5 yrs.) | 20-24 (5 yrs.) | 25-34 (10 yrs.) | 35-44 (10 yrs.) | 45-54 (10 yrs.) | 55-64 (10 yrs.) | 65 and up- wards | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Pulmonary— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Males | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 16 | 30 | 31 | 21 | 14 | 2 | 136 |
| Females | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 20 | 24 | 21 | 4 | 5 | - | 101 |
| Non-Pulmonary— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Males | - | 2 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 33 |
| Females | - | 4 | 6 | 8 | - | 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 32 |
| Total | 1 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 40 | 40 | 67 | 55 | 28 | 20 | 3 | 302 |

