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Contributors

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(a) Arrived at by excluding deaths of non-residents and including deaths of persons properly belonging to the Districts, but who died outside these districts.
(b) These figures are supplied by the Registrar General.
(c) For calculating Births Rates.

Birth Rate	-	-	-	14.2	per 1000
Death Rate	-	-	-	12.9	" "
Infant Mortality Rate	-	-	-	59	" "

2A

(a) Arrived at by excluding deaths of non-residents and including deaths of persons properly belonging to the Districts, but who died outside these districts.
(b) These figures are supplied by the Registrar General.

Birth Rate	-	-	-	15.8	per 1000
Death Rate	-	-	-	11.6	" "
Infant Mortality Rate	-	-	-	49	" "

28

(a) Arrived at by excluding deaths of non-residents and including deaths of persons properly belonging to the Districts, but who died outside these districts.
(b) These figures are supplied by the Registrar General.

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ENGLAND AND WALES :				
Birth Rate	-	-	-	16.5 per 1000
Death Rate	-	-	-	12.1 " "
Infant Mortality Rate	-	-	-	49 " "

25

(a) Arrived at by excluding deaths of non-residents and including deaths of persons properly belonging to the Districts, but who died outside these districts.
(b) These figures are supplied by the Registrar General.

(b) These figures are supplied by the Registrar General.

ENGLAND AND WALES :			
Birth Rate	-	-	17.6 per 1000
Death Rate	-	-	11.6 " "
Infant Mortality Rate	-	-	46 " "

VITAL STATISTICS.

As far as vital statistics provide an indication of the well-being of the County population, the health of people in this County would appear to have been well sustained ; I believe this to be true.

The birth-rate, 20.2 births per 1,000 of the estimated population, is the highest recorded rate for more than 20 years.

The death-rate, 11 per 1,000 is satisfactory, and compares with a figure of 11.5 for 1943.

The Infant Mortality rate, 41, although not quite so good as 1939 when the figure was 39, is not unsatisfactory. The statistical table of rates for the various districts contains most unusual findings ; Malvern which for many years took pride of place has the highest Infant Mortality rate, (70), of any Urban District in the County ; the figures for Oldbury, (37), Redditch (32) and Stourport-on-Severn (26), are outstandingly and unexpectedly good. The number of illegitimate births increased from 351 in 1943 to 423 in 1944, the actual percentage of illegitimate births being 5.2 in 1943 and 5.7 in 1944. The illegitimate rate is, generally, higher in Rural than Urban Districts, although the rates in Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Kidderminster are amongst the highest recorded.

There were 13 deaths from Puerperal causes associated with more than 7,000 confinements ; the maternal mortality rate 1.71 is satisfactory. The still birth rate, 25 per 1,000 live and still births is again lower and is in fact the lowest County figure recorded.

The section dealing with Venereal Diseases indicates some fall in the incidence when compared with the figures for 1943. There is a fall in the number of deaths from both Lung and other forms of Tuberculosis, particularly the latter.

Birth-rate.

The interest and the importance of the birth rate may justify the inclusion of some remarks on this subject. It is of immediate concern, in that it provides an indication of future school provision which may be required, or of the need for further Maternity Home accommodation which has, of recent years, been taxed to more than capacity ; but most important of all, from a social and economic angle, as representing the future number of productive citizens, who will not only have to be faced with providing for their own dependents, but others in need of help, in a population which has for a number of years been rapidly ageing. The increase in the average age of the population is the result of the smaller number of births in the pre-war years and increased expectation of life for each individual born.

Year.	Number of live births.	Number of Deaths.	Normal increase of population.
1944.	— 7,451 (20.2)	4,044	3,407
1943.	— 6,770 (18.3)	4,253	2,517
1942.	— 6,482 (17.4)	4,094	2,388
1941.	— 5,740 (15.3)	4,470	1,270
1940.	— 5,452 (13.6)	4,617	835
1939.	— 5,548 (16.3)	3,894	1,654

The rise in the birth rate since the year 1941 is unexpectedly rapid and not easily explained ; this rise is general throughout the country and has also occurred in Western Europe, America, Eire and Australia.

In the 1914-18 war the birth rate fell steadily throughout the war period with a small rise in 1919 and a big rise in 1920, figures easily explained by the circumstances then existing. The birth rate after the immediate post-war years followed its former downward trend.

In spite of the difficulties of, and destruction from this war, the increase in marriages has been exceptional.

Do these figures then mean that our increased births are the result of marriages which have been hastened by war conditions ? If so, these children would normally have been born in the post-war years and we can again expect a decline in the birth rate in the near future. Alternatively, marriage has probably taken place at a younger age and it might be contended that this circumstance indicates increased fertility, with a return to the larger family unit. The future will answer these questions.

The Government have a Committee now considering the question of population ; their report will be of interest.

STAFF.

Dr. J. A. Stobbs, Medical Officer of Health for Droitwich Borough and Rural and Stourport-on-Severn Urban Districts resigned on the 30th September 1944 and *Dr. Margaret C. Fell* replaced him on the 4th December 1944.

Dr. C. W. Sharpley—previously Medical Officer of Health of Oldbury Borough, who was giving part time assistance, had to give up on account of ill health on the 10th May 1944.

Mrs. Harthan, Health Visitor, resigned on the 1st March 1944 owing to marriage and domestic duties.

Mrs. Flood, appointed as Health Visitor in the Redditch area on the 17th April 1944.

The depleted staffs and the additional war-time activities placed upon the Health Department has unquestionably upset the usual routine arrangements ; officers due for or in retirement have carried on ; Health Visitors and Nurses have been asked to work outside their accustomed area on duties which were often unusual and sometimes unattractive. Maternity Homes were so pressed for beds that the Nurses surrendered their recreation room as an additional ward. The Chief Clerk (*Mr. J. P. Holder*), who was due for retirement, carried on throughout the year looking after the Civil Nursing Reserve, and every senior clerk had an additional war-time activity for which he or she had to accept responsibility.

Administration sought the solution of the problem of the day whilst trying to anticipate that of to-morrow.

Whilst I am grateful to all my staff for the way they have carried on with determination and without complaint, the time has come when additional assistance (Doctors, Dentists, Nurses and Clerks) must soon be provided if an efficient service is to be maintained. I would also like to say how fortunate the County is to have Voluntary Hospitals and General Practitioners who will always help in County problems: I cannot remember a single occasion during the war that assistance asked for has not been promptly and willingly given.

PROPOSED NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The year 1944 saw the Government White Paper outlining the proposals for the future National Health Service. The time does not seem appropriate to enter into discussion on the merits or shortcomings of these proposals. An advisory Committee representative of all Voluntary Hospitals and all Municipal Hospitals in the County has been set up to consider amongst other matters the report by the Nuffield Trust on the existing services and Hospitals in the County. Both the County of Worcester and the City are included in this Advisory Committee; this County Advisory Committee is also represented on the West Midlands Hospitals Joint Advisory Council (Wolverhampton). I believe this proposal will be helpful, as to meet and discuss and learn some other parties views must broaden the outlook.

RUSHCLIFFE REPORT ON SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF NURSES.

The recommendations have been accepted in their entirety so far as nurses employed by the County Council are concerned; this also includes all nurses employed by the Nursing Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

CITY AND COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

A decision was reached during 1944 that this Organisation should be divided into two separate bodies, namely, a City Nursing Association and a Worcestershire County Nursing Association.

A new draft constitution for the County Association has been prepared, and the new organisations will function separately from April 1945.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The illness of Dr. S. Deaner, who had to undergo a serious operation, was a matter of general and personal concern to all who know him. Dr. R. B. Mayfield, who had been in the Navy, was released in August 1944 to meet these circumstances. In the latter part of 1944, when Dr. Deaner had returned to duty, it was possible to help our neighbours in Worcester City, and since that date the Dispensary work in the City and the attendance on tuberculous patients in the Newtown Hospital has been undertaken by the County Tuberculosis Officers. Throughout the year the list of cases awaiting admission for Sanatorium Treatment has been large, the numbers usually waiting being 40 to 60; at the same time the greatest difficulty was being experienced in keeping existing beds open owing to the shortage of staff, both nursing and domestic. A few patients have been accommodated in out of county Sanatoria, but the shortage everywhere indicates this is a national as well as an acute local problem.

Circular T. 266. Ministry of Health.

The difficulty mentioned in my last report whereby the allowances are only made to patients in the early or improvable stages of the disease was considered by the Tuberculosis and Sanatorium Committee. Efforts were made to obtain approval to the introduction of a uniform scheme whereby all patients were treated alike, all payments made to patients which did not come within the improvable class being a direct charge on the County Council through the Public Assistance Committee.

The Committee were advised that the proposal was impracticable because it was not possible to dispense with the fundamental principle of the " Means Test " where Public Assistance machinery is used. The Tuberculosis Officers have, I know, continued to carry out their difficult duties with tact and understanding, and the Public Assistance staff have given every possible assistance with difficult cases.

X-Ray provision.

The increase in this provision during recent years has been very substantial ; it is used for diagnostic purposes and as a means of control in Pneumothorax treatment. Largely, the arrangements depend on the use of plants in Voluntary Hospitals, where patients are seen at fixed sessions.

The arrangements have worked well generally and tend to avoid the duplication of expensive plant in the same area ; but owing to shortage of staff and the increase in work required to be done, the arrangements at West Bromwich Voluntary Hospital became extremely difficult. The Tuberculosis and Sanatorium Committee agreed to purchase their own plant for the Oldbury Dispensary, but before this action was taken, the staff position at the Hospital improved and all the necessary work is still carried on there.

The report of the Chief Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. S. Deaner) is included as an appendix to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE 2.

6A

District.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.		Enteric Fever.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis.		Pneumonia.		Encephalitis Lethargica.		Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Dysentery.		Malaria.	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths (b)	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths (a)	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
<i>Urban</i>																														
Bewdley Borough	2	1	7		12				12	1	12	7		1	1				6	1			114		99					
Bromsgrove -			109		15				22		12	12		1	15				7	14			23		14					
Droitwich Borough			4		4						6	1			1				1	4			5		2					
Evesham Borough	1		6	1	7				1		8	4			1				7	1			35		12	1				
Halesowen Borough	1		70		40	12			5		24	14			3				19	11			119		54					
Kidderminster Borough			62		7		1		6		21	16			3				4	12			9		16					
Malvern -	9		94		8				5		9	8			6				49	6			89		75					
Oldbury Borough	1		85		67	10			6		54	26			5				44	18			322	1	98					
Redditch -	4		41		5				5		16	9			1				1	14			66		10	1				
Stourbridge Borough			128		25	2	1	1	19		37	17			1				10	14			82		35	9				
Stourport-on-Severn	2		9		2				16		9	6			1				1	1			6		47					
Totals -	20	1	615	1	182	17	2	1	82	4	203	113	32	20	40	-	-	-	149	96	-	2	870	1	462	1	10	-	-	-
<i>Rural</i>																														
Bromsgrove -		1	33		5						16	4		3	2				21	8			37		30	1				
Droitwich -	3		23		6				1		6	7		3	3				5	5			38		12					
Evesham -	1		15		1						9	7		8	3				6	7			79		69					2
Kidderminster -		1	13		6						4	2		1	1				3	7			4		27					
Marley -			29		2				6		10	10		5	1				8	5			89		74	1				
Pershore -	1		10		18	1	1		2		10	7		6	3				1	4	1		35		17		3			
Tenbury -			11		3						2	4		1	1				1	2			2		27					
Upton-on-Severn	4		38		6				1		13	3		4	2				16	8			50		16	1				
Totals -	9	2	172	-	47	1	1	-	9	1	70	37	30	15	4	-	-	-	60	46	1	-	334	-	272	2	4	-	2	-
Grand Totals	29	3	787	1	229	18	3	1	91	5	273	150	62	35	44	-	-	-	209	142	1	2	1204	1	734	3	14	-	2	-

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

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

These figures exclude Non Civilians.



The incidence of Infectious Disease in 1944 was again favourable. The outbreak of Influenza in the latter months of 1943 extended to the early months of 1944.

Measles.

The incidence was high in Bewdley Borough and Oldbury. In all districts there were 1,204 notified cases with 1 death.

Whooping Cough.

The incidence was high in Bewdley, otherwise the notified cases were evenly distributed over the County. Total notified cases, 734, with 3 deaths.

Diphtheria.

The incidence was not unsatisfactory, but the case mortality indicates the type was severe.

Year.	Cases notified.	Deaths.	Case mortality per 100 cases.
1934.	542	57	10.5
1935.	497	57	10.1
1936.	394	27	6.8
1937.	401	23	5.7
1938.	380	22	5.8
1939.	363	25	6.9
1940.	329	16	4.9
1941.	407	18	4.4
1942.	233	14	6.0
1943.	228	10	4.3
1944.	229	18	7.8

A study of the distribution clearly shows that the type was more severe in North Worcestershire.

In Oldbury Borough there were 64 cases with 10 deaths.

In Stourbridge Borough there were 25 cases with 2 deaths.

In Halesowen Borough there were 40 cases with 3 deaths.

In remainder of County there were 100 cases with 3 deaths.

This fact confirms the clinical findings of the Isolation Hospitals. Dr. R. L. Corlett (Hayley Green Hospital) has several times informed me of the more severe type of case he receives from the Halesowen and Stourbridge area of his Hospital District. More recently a child with a sore throat who arrived with hop-pickers from the Black Country was found to have Diphtheria; there were 11 secondary cases. Dr. A. J. B. Griffin who treated these cases at the Worcester City Isolation Hospital advised me of the very severe type of disease in some of these cases.

I have not yet had the Medical Officers' report from all Districts so I am not able to give the Immunisation state of cases, but there is no ground for suggesting that Immunisation is not proving extremely valuable, not only in reducing the incidence of Diphtheria, but also in improving the prospects of recovery in those who get the disease.

The obvious lesson is to persevere with Immunisation. The improved figures in many Districts must not be accepted with complacency; the improvement can only be expected to continue if constant and ever increasing effort is made to keep up the percentage of those immunised. The severe type of the disease may spread to every district and to be prepared for such a contingency in advance is but commonsense.

Scarlet Fever.

The type was mild. The incidence was high in Stourbridge, (128 cases with no deaths).

In the County as a whole there were 787 cases with 1 death.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.
1942.	37	11
1943.	28	7
1944.	29	3

The incidence although above pre-war level continues to fall. The treatment by drugs now available as the result of research gives a very different picture of the prospects of recovery. In the 1914-18 period, when the disease was prevalent, approximately half the cases died.

Enteric Group.

There were only three unconnected cases, with one death.

CANCER.

Deaths from cancer in 1944 numbered 601; the comparable figure for the two previous years was 652 and 616. Although the planning of a Cancer Scheme on a Regional basis to provide for both early diagnosis and treatment of all types, has continued, the final scheme has not yet been decided upon and some time must elapse before action can be taken. A few cases are formally referred by the Local Authority to the General Hospital, Birmingham, but a far greater number receive treatment through Voluntary Hospitals independently of any action by the Local Authority.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Through the generosity of Colonel Morcom, the County Council is now able to encourage the work of District Nursing and Midwifery, by the award of The "Isobel Morcom Nursing Medal and Prize" each year to a nurse who has rendered outstanding service as a District Nurse or Midwife in the county. The County Council has undertaken to appoint five adjudicators (including the County Medical Officer and Superintendent of the County Nursing Association). Each third year, midwives working in Maternity Homes provided by the County Council, or by other agencies who provide accommodation for County residents, are to be considered, otherwise the award will be restricted to District Nurses and District Nurse Midwives. The first award of this very beautiful medal and prize will be made in 1945.

MIDWIVES ACTS.

During 1944, 236 Midwives gave notice of intention to practise in the County ; this number excludes the Borough of Oldbury which is the Local Supervising Authority for that area.

Since their appointment in 1937, the four domiciliary Midwives in the Borough of Stourbridge (Nurse Hill, Nurse Adams, Nurse Nightingale and Nurse Dunn) have worked as a team under the supervision of Dr. Sara Walker. They have given every satisfaction to their patients and the local doctors. These four whole-time County Council Midwives attended 419 cases in 1944.

In Rural Worcestershire, the midwifery is undertaken by District Nurse Midwives in their respective areas and grants in aid of the finances are made by the County Council. The work has been carried out quietly and efficiently, although shortage of staff continues to be a difficulty.

NURSING HOMES.

There are 30 registered Nursing Homes in the County. Three new Certificates were issued in 1944.

In one area where acute difficulty was experienced, the County Council have agreed to contribute, where circumstances make such course necessary, towards the cost of maintenance of county cases in the Nursing Home.

ABNORMAL MATERNITY CASES.

All cases brought to the notice of the County Council have been dealt with either by the provision of Consultants or by admission to Maternity Hospitals. During the year 12 Consultants were available for complications of pregnancy and labour, (other than Puerperal Pyrexia) arising in the homes. Altogether 28 cases received treatment in Special and General Hospitals. 18 Consultant Sessions were held at Maternity Homes, when 114 patients were seen. 32 patients were seen by Consultants in Maternity Homes and 8 blood transfusions were given. 84 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

The portions of Worcestershire near and adjoining Birmingham are now included in the District covered by the Maternity Emergency Flying Column from the Maternity Hospital, Birmingham. This Unit attended Worcestershire cases on six occasions in 1944.

HOME HELPS.

It has not been possible to do much in this way. An exception is the Borough of Stourbridge, where Dr. S. Walker and Miss E. Noke (Health Visitor) found two very suitable women who are employed whole-time, to whom a retaining fee is paid when they are not attending patients. I think Dr. Walker and Miss Noke are to be congratulated, as this is one of the most useful and necessary services at all times and particularly in present circumstances.

ACCOMMODATION IN MATERNITY HOMES.

Owing to the increasing demand for accommodation, preference in admission is given to abnormal cases and evacuees in billets considered unsuitable for childbirth; in many cases expectant mothers who from previous experience had realised the benefits of institutional treatment had to be advised to remain at home.

With the object of assisting the latter class, the provision of Home Helps was agreed to by the County Council, but lack of suitable helps has restricted the usefulness of the provision to a comparatively small part of the County. The women who in former years would have been able and willing to assist are now engaged in industry.

Some details of the work undertaken at the County Maternity Hospitals is given below :—

	Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital.	Lickhill Manor Annexe.	Mary Stevens Maternity Home.	Evesham P.A. Instn.	Greenhill Hostel.	Tything Nursing Home Worcester.	Kidderminster P.A. Instn.
NUMBER OF BEDS	18	18	16	28	15	—	4
ISOLATION BEDS	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
CASES ADMITTED	429	295	450	291	271	23	109
AVERAGE STAY (DAYS)	13	14	14½	14	14	14	10½
CASES DELIVERED BY MIDWIVES	320	276	189	273	235	{ 23	98
" " DOCTORS	68	6	235	7	18	—	6
TOTAL CASES DELIVERED	388	282	424	280	253	—	104
MEDICAL AID SOUGHT	151	17	102	16	85	—	19
PUERPERAL PYREXIA CASES	10	5	12	—	4	—	—
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM CASES	1	—	4	2	—	—	1
MATERNAL DEATHS	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
INFANT DEATHS :—							
(a) STILL-BIRTHS	13	3	16	9	5	—	—
(b) WITHIN 14 DAYS	11	1	15	7	4	—	2

HEALTH VISITORS, INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

There has been a larger number of mothers and babies to be visited especially in the Urban areas. Many of the Health Visitors have difficulty in completing all the work, but every possible effort, including part-time helpers, has been made to meet these circumstances.

ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

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

	Average Attendance.	First Visits.
Bewdley and Wribbenhall	— 12	102
Bromsgrove	— 15	270
Blackheath	— 14	160
Cradley	— 15	124
Evesham	— 6	62
Halesowen	— 17	171
Lye	— 18	162
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital	22	325
Mary Stevens Maternity Home	— 11	23
Newtown, Malvern	— 11	64
Redditch	— 11	154
Rubery	— 5	58
Stourbridge	— 22	226
Worcester	— 13	146
West Heath	— 8	33
Droitwich	— 9	46
Wythall	— 4	23
Other Infant Welfare Centres	— —	75
Total cases attending for first time	— —	2,224

In addition to the cases supervised at Clinics 1,652 first visits were made by Nurses and Midwives to the homes of Expectant Mothers.

A new Centre has been provided at West Heath on land adjoining a new School for that area ; the previous premises were very unsatisfactory and the subject of much adverse criticism. The new premises comprise a prefabricated hut, which although not perfect, represents a great improvement. At Malvern the premises at Barnards Green used as a Welfare Centre, were not well sited for the convenience of the residents in Great Malvern ; arrangements were made for transfer to the Methodist Church School Room at Lansdowne, Malvern, which is also used as the Headquarters of the Malvern Mobile Unit. The attendances have improved and I hope the present arrangements will continue indefinitely.

There is a growing demand for Rural Welfare Centres ; the distribution of the Ministry of Food's orange juice, cod liver oil, etc., is in this way facilitated. The site is usually a Village Hall, which in most instances can easily be adapted for such purpose. Immunisation against diphtheria can also be encouraged in this way. The difficulties at the moment are shortage of staff and equipment, in particular, weighing scales.

There are 21 County Council Centres and 32 Voluntary Centres established in the County together with 20 County Council Ante-Natal Clinics.

The location and average attendances are given below
County Council Centres.

		Opened-		Average Attendance.
Blackheath	-	Twice weekly	-	70
Bromsgrove	-	Weekly	-	84
Cradley	-	Weekly	-	63
Crabbs Cross and Astwood Bank	-	Fortnightly	-	48
Catshill	-	Weekly	-	37
Droitwich	-	Weekly	-	39
Fairfield	-	Fortnightly	-	5
Halesowen	-	Weekly	-	154
Lye	-	Twice weekly	-	43
Malvern Link	-	Weekly	-	28
„ Poolbrook	-	Weekly	-	30
„ Newtown	-	Weekly	-	33
Pershore	-	Fortnightly	-	34
Rubery	-	Weekly	-	34
Redditch	-	Twice weekly	-	63
Stourport-on-Severn	-	Fortnightly	-	36
Worcester	-	Weekly	-	2
Tenbury	-	Fortnightly	-	20
West Heath	-	Fortnightly	-	42
Pedmore	-	Fortnightly	-	22
Stoke Works	-	Fortnightly	-	14

Voluntary Infant Welfare Centres.

Areley Kings	-	Fortnightly	-	26
Ashton-under-Hill	-	Monthly	-	14
Alvechurch	-	Fortnightly	-	29
Bretforton	-	Monthly	-	18
Broadheath	-	Fortnightly	-	14
Beoley	-	Monthly	-	17
Broadway	-	Fortnightly	-	28
Belbroughton	-	Fortnightly	-	24
Badsey	-	Fortnightly	-	22
Clent	-	Fortnightly	-	21
Chaddesley Corbett	-	Monthly	-	18
Cofton Hackett	-	Fortnightly	-	41
Evesham	-	Weekly	-	37
Fladbury	-	Fortnightly	-	15
Hagley	-	Fortnightly	-	31
Littleton	-	Fortnightly	-	23
Norton	-	Monthly	-	38
Ombersley	-	Fortnightly	-	12
Rock	-	Fortnightly	-	19
Stourbridge	-	I.W.C. twice weekly	-	
	-	Toddlers' Clinic Fortnightly	-	85
Severn Stoke	-	Monthly	-	8
Tardebigge	-	Fortnightly	-	38
Upton-on-Severn	-	Fortnightly	-	10
Wribbenhall	-	Fortnightly	-	30
Wythall	-	Fortnightly	-	60
Welland	-	Fortnightly	-	10
Beckford	-	Monthly	-	18
Kempsey	-	Monthly	-	42
Cookley	-	Fortnightly	-	18
Hanley Castle	-	Monthly	-	9
Honeybourne	-	Monthly	-	37
Kemerton	-	Monthly	-	25

MATERNAL MORTALITY—whole County.

During 1944 there were 13 maternal deaths, 5 from Puerperal Sepsis and 8 from other maternal causes.

This gives a rate of 1.71 per 1,000 (live and still) births. The figures for the last six years were :—

1938	—	—	3.44
1939	—	—	2.41
1940	—	—	2.47
1941	—	—	1.63
1942	—	—	2.5
1943	—	—	2.33

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The following Table shows the number of cases in 1944 together with other particulars :—

Notified	Cases		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths	Removal from district	Still Receiving Treatment.
	Treated							
	At Home.	In Hospital.						
County M. & C.W. area —	17	9	22	—	—	1	1	2

In addition there were 11 cases in Long Rede Maternity Hospital which is in the County but is under control of Birmingham Corporation.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 records relating to premature births have been kept since 1st April 1944.

Number of premature births 172 (includes 22 twins and 1 case of triplets).

Born at home — — 90

Born in Hospital
or Maternity Home 82

90 Born at Home.

82 Born in Hospital or
Maternity Home.

Born alive under 3 lbs. — 8
Died within 24 hours — 4
Died within 4 weeks — 4
Alive at 4 weeks — 0

Born alive under 3 lbs. — 7
Died within 24 hours — 3
Died within 4 weeks — 4
Alive at 4 weeks — 0

Born alive 3–4 lbs. — 13
Died within 24 hours — 2
Died within 4 weeks — 1
Alive at 4 weeks — 10

Born alive 3–4 lbs. — 11
Died within 24 hours — 4
Died within 4 weeks — 0
Alive at 4 weeks — 7

Born alive 4–5½ lbs. — 65
Died within 24 hours — 5
Died within 4 weeks — 3
Alive at 4 weeks — 57

Born alive 4–5½ lbs. — 47
Died within 24 hours — 4
Died within 4 weeks — 4
Alive at 4 weeks — 39

Action taken by Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

Dr. M. Cross of Birmingham, and Dr. Jean Macintosh very kindly came to the Shirehall at Worcester, and addressed a large Meeting of Midwives (including domiciliary midwives, Health Visitors and Maternity Home Staff) on the subject of the reduction of neo-natal mortality. The Meeting was, I think, the largest since pre-war days. The problem in Rural areas differs somewhat from the town. The removal of ante-natal cases of Toxæmia to Hospital is already carried out and a number of premature infants are in that way included in the Hospital and Maternity Home figures. The removal of premature infants, after birth at home, to a far distant special premature baby Ward in a Hospital would be of doubtful value.

At the present time, there are no special wards for premature babies in any of the Maternity Units provided by the County Council, but special cots, heated blankets, etc., and the use of improvised accommodation has been practised for some considerable time before the receipt of the Circular on this matter from the Ministry of Health. When extensions at the Maternity Homes at Stourport and Stourbridge are possible, I hope the Management Committees will consider providing the comparatively simple requirements necessary, but I would stress that, to be successful, special knowledge and skill on the part of Maternity Homes Staff are the really important factors.

In connection with the tabulated statement of premature births, it happens that a considerable number of babies born in the County Maternity Homes belong to other Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities, *e.g.*, Kidderminster Borough cases born in the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital. Steps have been taken to see these cases are promptly notified to the Welfare Authority concerned so that they may be followed up, firstly for the welfare of the baby, and secondly in order that the tabulated return may be as inclusive as possible.

The Illegitimate Infant.

During 1944 a Conference was convened by the County Council at the Shirehall when possible further action for the care and welfare of illegitimate children was considered; representatives from Worcester City, Dudley, Oldbury and Kidderminster attended. As a result, additional financial assistance has been made available to the Worcester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association to extend their work for the County Council. This assistance takes the form of (a) A grant of £200 has been paid to provide additional clerical assistance and to aid the increasing cost of travelling and (b) Grants have been promised in aid of the establishment of a Home for unmarried mothers and their young babies. Premises have been obtained by the Diocesan Association in Malvern Link, which will accommodate 18 mothers, and it is hoped this Home will be functioning in 1945. It is intended that mothers shall remain for about 6 months, which will provide time and opportunity for them to plan for their future.

The County Council have been asked to provide a Residential Nursery which would accommodate the urgent case which has to be separated from its mother. It has not so far been possible to acquire suitable premises and the only accommodation, other than that provided by the Public Assistance Committee, is at Greenhill Hostel and the small War-time Residential Nursery at Evesham.

The most important factor, which spells success or failure in work of this kind, is that a complete liaison between the workers concerned must exist. The Diocesan Association is now a recognised Adoption Agency; two of my Health Visitors (Miss N. Ashton and Miss J. C. Butler) whose duties already bring them in contact with all District Nurses undertaking work as part-time Health Visitors, are the Infant Life Protection Officers of the County Council. Full co-operation between the County Staff of Health Visitors, the Diocesan Association and the District Nurses ought to be practicable and would completely cover the whole County.

The Greenhill Hostel has for a number of years provided a waiting and maternity unit for unmarried mothers; these activities, although curtailed by the War-time requirements for maternity accommodation, have continued and if co-ordinated with the work at the new post-natal Unit at Malvern, should prove of material assistance in solving what are some of the most urgent and difficult war-time problems which are now unfortunately so common.

A supply of rubber hot water bottles has been passed to the County Nursing Association for distribution to every affiliated Association in the County undertaking midwifery work.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

As outlined in previous reports, the County Council since 1938 has taken a more active part in the arrangements made for Blind Persons. A special Sub-Committee meets quarterly to review the circumstances of all persons on the Register and also new admissions to this list.

The Worcestershire Association for the Blind is represented on this Committee; the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. M. Mence, also acts, on behalf of the County Council, as Supervisor of Blind Welfare.

Two Home Teachers are employed by the County Council and motor transport facilities are available for both. The arrangements with the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind in connection with the Home Workers Scheme and Workshop employees were continued as in previous years. The war time demand for labour has opened up new possibilities and several blind persons have obtained employment in sighted industry independently.

The Stourbridge Workshops arrangements were dealt with in my last review; there is nothing fresh to report.

I have noted with satisfaction that Worcestershire is included in the "white" area of a map indicating that the incidence of blindness is below the average. Of the 446 cases on the County Register 346 are over fifty years of age. The small number of

children (17 in this county) under 16 years of age who are blind emphasises the importance of prevention. The good work done by Midwives and Eye Hospitals has resulted in blindness following Ophthalmia Neonatorum becoming a rarity instead of a constant menace; but the tragedy of life without vision, although it may be faced by the individual with courage, calls for constant preventive effort and vigilance. The prevention of a single case of blindness in a baby or young child is really of greater national importance than the more spectacular result following the operation for cataract in persons of the advanced age groups.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of cases under supervision is :—

January 1st, 1944	-	-	66
December 31st, 1944	-	-	60

There are a number of Preparatory Schools in Worcestershire most of which have been visited; exemption, subject to periodic review, has been granted.

Several Homes and Nurseries have taken premises in the county. War-time conditions have made alterations of an extensive character impracticable and there have been instances where overcrowding existed. These homes have all been visited and fire precautions have been asked for, in which connection the advice of the N.F.S. has been sought. Overcrowding has been dealt with by agreement as to the maximum number to be accommodated and by allowing reasonable time for discharge so that the agreed figure may be reached in a fixed period.

The attention of the County Council was drawn to an advertisement in a County paper under a Box number "Parents wanted to adopt a healthy baby girl; no premium." The matter was taken up with the newspaper and an undertaking was given that there would be no further infringement of the Adoption of Children (Regulations) Act 1939.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

The administration of these Acts is carried out by the Clerk of the County Council's Department.

A course of instruction in child guidance (extending over two days) was held at Worcester when various aspects of Mental Hygiene were dealt with by Dr. Doris Heron and Miss Gibbs (Educational Psychologist) of Bristol and Dr. C. Burns (Birmingham).

The Health Visitors and School Nurses and a number of the Medical staff attended; the attendance numbered 32.

MENTAL TREATMENT ACT.

Out-patients clinics were continued at Worcester Royal Infirmary (Dr. H. F. Fenton) and at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge and the General Hospital, Birmingham (Dr. A. Shepherd).

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following Table gives details of the Worcestershire cases seen at the five Special Centres named :—

VENEREAL DISEASES SUMMARY 1944.

CENTRE.	"New" Out-patients.					"New" In-patients.					Total attendances of all patients.					No. ceasing attendance before completion of treatment	Salvarsan substitutes No. of doses.	No. of specimens examined.
	Syph.	Soft chancre	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total	Syph.	Soft chancre	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total	Syph.	Soft chancre	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total			
WORCESTER	15	—	15	247	277	10	1	1	4	589	1245	3	269	452	1969	22	758	696
KIDDERMINSTER	15	—	8	50	73	3	—	1	—	54	577	—	104	135	816	—	525	245
BIRMINGHAM	52	—	28	210	290	9	—	2	5	286	2448	—	550	1334	4332	11	2659	1563
DUDLEY	4	—	7	17	28	—	—	—	—	—	209	—	101	55	365	3	220	107
STOURBRIDGE	7	—	12	31	50	—	—	—	—	—	469	—	586	103	1158	30	292	268
TOTALS- 1944	93	—	70	555	718	22	1	4	9	929	4948	3	1610	2079	8640	66	4454	2879
1943	114	1	129	661	899	27	1	7	6	914	4090	8	2569	2655	9422	63	3639	3616
1942	94	—	135	517	746	10	—	6	5	571	2842	—	3446	2102	8390	89	2299	2928
1941	58	1	99	304	462	12	—	8	6	596	2477	6	2809	1607	6899	170	1866	2155
1940	55	—	126	241	422	6	—	10	10	478	2283	—	2959	1361	6603	98	1587	2299
1939	33	—	83	237	353	7	—	15	5	731	2456	—	4231	1142	7829	103	1712	2442
1938	48	—	138	187	373	17	—	17	11	1586	2662	—	8606	1084	12352	72	1704	2863
1937	48	1	110	145	304	5	—	19	—	1303	2861	4	7576	771	11219	109	1896	1885
1936	47	—	117	184	348	8	—	10	2	750	3069	—	6998	594	10661	73	2042	2085
1935	59	1	99	175	334	8	—	7	7	801	3080	—	6162	662	9904	140	1902	2010
1934	70	4	94	159	327	6	—	8	—	937	3316	37	6658	695	10706	101	1311	2275
1933	82	—	127	153	362	5	—	9	1	629	2984	—	6844	424	10272	88	1945	2301

Regulation 33b.

In 1944, twenty-nine notifications were received as follows :—

Quadruple	—	—	1
Triple	—	—	1
Double	—	—	2
Single	—	—	25

Informal action was taken in many of the single notifications and as a result some of the suspects were persuaded to attend at a Special Centre for examination and if necessary treatment. Several of the cases could not, however, be traced as the notifying particulars were so incomplete, in several instances being confined to the Christian name of the suspect and the address of a Public House which she was said to frequent.

Formal action was of course taken in the four other cases ; one of these on attendance at a Special Centre was found to have no evidence of Venereal Disease, a second one attended and received treatment ; the third one appeared before the Bench for an offence and was sent to prison, the Medical Officer of which was informed and arranged for treatment to be given whilst she was in prison ; while as the fourth case (the quadruple one) did not attend for examination, she was prosecuted and bound over on condition that she was admitted to Hospital for in-patient treatment. In this case she subsequently committed an offence for which she was sent to prison and while there received treatment.

There was one other prosecution during the year in respect of a case notified in 1943. The suspect was bound over for 12 months on condition she attended for treatment.

Only one of the notifications referred to a man and in this instance there was a counter allegation. The girl by whom the allegation was made was subsequently found to be pregnant and was admitted to the Cleveland House Hostel.

UNCLEANLINESS AND SCABIES.

School Nurses and District Nurses acting as Part-time Health Visitors pay periodical visits to all Schools for the purpose of detecting cases of uncleanliness and infestation with lice, fleas or the organism of scabies ; any cases found are in most instances followed up to the home and efforts made to deal with any other members of the family who are similarly affected. In most areas, there are a few families who always present a problem in that they fail to carry out the necessary cleansing even after their attention has been drawn to the condition. As mentioned in the School Report for the year 1943, eighteen prosecutions were undertaken to deal with cases of this type.

The use of Lethane has proved particularly useful for dealing with dirty heads ; at the present moment Lethane provides the method of choice for this particular condition. District Nurses and Health Visitors have had supplies of metal combs issued to them for dealing in particular with evacuated children but also others where there is any difficulty in procuring these articles.

The Civil Defence Cleansing Sections in a number of towns such as Bromsgrove, Blackheath, Cradley, Lye, Halesowen, etc., have been used for the treatment of scabies; baths have usually been supplied by the Local Authority. Emulsion of Benzyl Benzoate has provided the most commonly used remedy. The local First Aid Post staffs have given great assistance to School Nurses in these activities, which although in the main, were provided for school children, have been extended to include a few adults. In some towns, owing to the over-crowded position, persons in lodgings frequently had difficulty in obtaining baths. In Redditch, Dr. Follows arranged for the Civil Defence showers to be available on certain nights in each week, the users bringing their own towels and paying a fee.

The County Smallpox Hospital at Tolladine, near Worcester, has been used almost continuously for a long period for the in-patient treatment of scabies and allied skin conditions. In the case of unaccompanied school children and in other instances where domiciliary treatment proved difficult, this provision has been of the utmost value. It has been the means of dealing with several families *en bloc*, the Local Medical Officer of Health making arrangements for disinfection and cleansing in the home while the patients are in Hospital. It has provided a means of dealing with the intractable case, usually with marked secondary infections, which had not responded to the ordinary treatment in the home.

As compared with the immediately preceding years there was a distinct falling off in the number of cases of scabies. Throughout the year 145 cases were treated.

VACCINATION.

The records of the Vaccination Officers and Public Vaccinators have been examined each quarter.

The Annual Returns of Vaccination Officers with respect to infants whose births are registered are not made until 13 months after the completion of the year to which they relate; the last available figures are those for the year 1943.

Of the 6,121 children reported by the several Vaccination Officers in the Administrative County as having their births registered during the year 1943, 2,704 (44.01%) were successfully vaccinated, while certificates of conscientious objection to vaccination were received in respect of 2,384 (38.95%). Of the remaining 1,033 children, 151 (2.47%) died unvaccinated; 27 (.44%) had their vaccination postponed by medical certificate; 33 (.54%) were certified to be insusceptible to vaccination; leaving 822 (13.43%) as "removed," "not found," or otherwise unaccounted for as regards vaccination.

Year.	Births.	Vaccinated No. %	Objections. No. %	Died un- vaccinated. No. %	Vaccination Postponed. No. %	Insus- ceptible. No. %
1929	4752	1889 38.8	2459 57.1	233 4.9	38 0.8	9 0.2
1930	4667	1943 41.6	2403 51.5	184 3.9	17 0.4	8 0.2
1931	4665	1898 40.7	2364 50.7	225 4.8	30 0.6	19 0.5
1932	4251	1717 40.4	2225 52.3	183 4.3	24 0.6	19 0.5
1933	4178	1660 39.7	2171 52.0	192 4.6	17 0.4	9 0.2
1934	4363	1649 37.8	2427 55.6	150 3.5	18 0.4	13 0.3
1935	4488	1653 36.8	2500 55.7	178 4.0	29 0.7	10 0.2
1936	4789	1701 35.6	2714 56.7	174 3.6	22 0.4	9 0.2
1937	4732	1662 35.1	2648 55.9	167 3.6	37 0.8	5 0.1
1938	4837	1684 34.8	2725 56.3	173 3.6	32 0.6	10 0.2
1939	5247	1891 36.0	2796 53.3	176 3.3	24 0.4	11 0.2
1940	4737*	1746 36.9	2253 47.6	199 4.0	26 0.6	22 0.5
1941	5951	2540 42.7	2363 39.7	247 4.2	45 0.8	36 0.6
1942	6099	2809 46.1	2375 39.0	188 3.1	36 0.5	49 0.8
1943	6121	2704 44.0	2384 39.0	151 2.5	27 0.4	33 0.5

* The births registered in the No. 3 District (Bromsgrove) were not included in this figure as all the records had been destroyed.

The number of persons successfully vaccinated and revaccinated at the cost of the rates during the year ended 30th September, 1944, are given in the following Table :—

Number of Successful Primary Vaccinations of Persons :—			Number of successful re-vaccinations.
Under one year of age.	One year and upwards.	Total.	Total.
2189	209	2398	113

HOUSING.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

By comparison with pre-war years, work under the above Acts practically came to a standstill. There were, however, a few schemes approved but the difficulties in getting the necessary licences for controlled building materials were very often formidable and the schemes dragged on over long periods before being finally completed.

General.

In May 1944 the County Council received from the Minister of Health the now famous "Hobhouse Report" prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse. I think it would be agreed by all that this report is one of the most valuable reports ever issued on rural housing, and it may be of interest to record that Worcestershire was one of the Counties visited by Sir Arthur and his colleagues during their survey prior to the publication of the Report.

Following the report a County Rural Housing Committee was established presided over by the Chairman of the Evesham Rural District Council. A General Purposes Sub-Committee, and a Technical Sub-Committee have been appointed. Among the first duties of the latter Sub-Committee was to draw up a uniform system of housing inspection and record cards for all the rural districts. A County 'standard' was also agreed upon, but the housing conditions vary so greatly from an architectural point of view between one part of the County and another that experience has shown that the adoption of a standard will be most difficult to apply.

The housing survey suggested in the Report is now in progress in all the rural districts and will be referred to in later Annual Reports.

Before the War I carried out surveys in two parishes selected at random in each rural district of the County and I think it can be said that the County Council have some knowledge of the extent of the problem. I have always held the view that a proper system of housing inspection records form the basis of all housing work and that before a Local Authority can tackle the work thoroughly the extent of the problem should be known by such a survey as is now being done.

One of the difficulties which will have to be faced sooner or later is the great difference between the standard of fitness based on housing legislation as applied to existing dwellings and a standard of housing in its wider sense, embracing accommodation and amenities.

HOP-PICKERS ACCOMMODATION.

During this year's hop-picking season the hopfields were visited by a deputation from the National Union of Teachers, which included visits to farms in both the Martley and Tenbury Rural Districts. Subsequently a report was received which was both fair in its criticisms and also contained several constructive suggestions relating to matters entirely outside the scope of the present Bye-laws. These suggestions are being considered by other bodies and it is hoped to submit agreed recommendations to the Ministry of Health. In the past it has not always been appreciated by delegations who have visited the hopfields that the Local Authority can only require such structural and other conditions as the bye-laws specify and that where the standard of accommodation has been above the Bye-law requirements, it has been done by the good will of the grower.

Generally the black-out restrictions, the shortage of materials, and the difficulty of getting scavengers or suitable camp attendants have resulted in many camps being no better, in fact rather worse, than they were 10 years ago.

Progress will depend more upon an enlightened opinion of the conditions required for health and decency than the minimum requirements outlined in the Bye-laws. The Local Authority in whose area the quarters are situated has to play a part, but could

not help be obtained from the areas from which the pickers come ? The growers too, who must face their responsibilities, should have priority in regard to disposal of Government huts, as newly built accommodation will probably be difficult to provide for many years, and many quarters are now well overdue for replacement.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 became law. The Act has for its object the provision of either a new or an extension of an existing supply of water in a rural locality, and in making adequate provision for the sewerage, or the disposal of the sewage, in a rural locality. The cost of carrying out such schemes in rural areas is generally uneconomic and the Act therefore provides that the Central Government, the County Council and the Local Authority shall contribute towards the cost. The County Council under the Local Government Act 1929 might contribute in aid of a scheme ; now they must contribute such sum as the Ministry of Health decides.

The Local Authorities are now actively preparing their schemes and one of the duties of the County Council will be to see that these schemes are properly co-ordinated and that the needs of the County are looked at as a whole.

Incidentally, the Act provides that in future all expenses incurred by a Rural District Council in connection with this provision shall be regarded as general expenses to be defrayed by the district as a whole ; the special parish rates for water and sewerage will cease.

The Act appears to contemplate that the assistance to be made shall take the form of a lump sum payment. Experience of past schemes in this County indicates that the deficiency in the earlier years is much heavier than when full use and development has materialised in later years. In addition the extensions carried out by Public Water Companies are dependent on an annual guaranteed percentage cost of the scheme. The alternative of paying a contribution towards annual deficiencies would appear far simpler than trying to forecast the future development of the area, which would be necessary if a lump sum payment is made.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

The work of the prevention of Rivers Pollution has continued throughout the year under very difficult conditions. Mr. R. W. T. Owen (County Sanitary Officer) has tried to prevent new sources of pollution and to control existing sources. The work has not been easy owing to special difficulties created by war conditions and to the conflict of interests.

One of the most serious sources of pollution yet met with occurred to a small tributary of the Carrant Brook, in the south of the County, from the trade waste discharged from a Factory canning potatoes for a Government Department. As the source of the actual pollution was in an adjoining County the two County Councils have worked in co-operation, together with the Local Sanitary Authorities.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Very little new work has been undertaken during the year under review in the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal.

A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held at Evesham in connection with a scheme for a new sewage disposal works and another into an application by the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board for extensions to the sewage disposal works at Quarry Bank, which the County Council have an interest in, as the effluent discharges into the River Stour, which forms the County Boundary.

The new sewage pumping stations at Bewdley were formally opened in September, which is a further stage in the completion of the joint scheme for Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport.

A further difficulty at several sewage disposal works has been the overloading caused by large increases in the volume of sewage, and also by the complexity of the nature of the sewage caused by trade wastes.

MILK SUPPLY.

The appointed day for the transfer of the work to the Ministry of Agriculture under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 has not yet been fixed.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

The total number of licences operative at the end of 1944 under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations were:—

Tuberculin Tested.

Production and Bottling	—	—	16	
Production	—	—	—	72
			—	

Accredited.

Production and Bottling	—	—	33	
Production	—	—	—	209
			—	
				281
				—

During the year 5 Accredited milk licences were suspended by the County Council. In one of these cases the farmer appealed to the Ministry of Health, who upheld the decision of the County Council to suspend the licence.

Compared with the previous year the total number of licences has been increased by 30, the increase being due to a jump in the number of Tuberculin Tested licences from 41 to 72. The bonus now being paid by the Milk Marketing Board for this type of milk has undoubtedly led to this increase and applications for licences indicate that the numbers will further increase.

Samples.

The following table shows the number of samples of designated milk examined during the year.

Grade of Milk.	Total No. of Samples	Result of Examination.				
		Pass	Fail	Failures due to		
				Methy. Blue only.	Coli only.	Both
Tuberculin Tested	287	263	24	5	—	19
Accredited	897	744	153	13	—	140
TOTAL	1184	1007	177	18	—	159

The following table shows the number of samples of Pasteurized and Heat-Treated milk examined from all sources in the County during 1944.

Type of Milk.	Total No. of Samples.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
Pasteurized	173	165	8
Heat-Treated	9	7	2
Sterilized	5	5	—
TOTALS	187	177	10

During the year 155 samples of all grades were submitted to the biological test, one being positive, the sample being obtained from a retailer only.

During the year the Government made a new Defence Regulation 55G. In future, in any area specified by the Ministry of Food, no milk will be allowed to be sold by retail unless it is (a) Tuberculin Tested (b) Accredited, all milk being from one herd, or (c) Heat-Treated, Pasteurized or Sterilized. A district will not be specified as an area unless :—

1. Retail deliveries have been rationalised.
2. There are facilities for the supply of adequate quantities of the permitted classes of milk to meet the requirements of the area.

The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, will have to enforce the Regulation except in Oldbury and Kidderminster.

No areas have yet been specified and at the present time the work is restricted to the collection and examination of samples at dairies licensed by the Ministry of Food for the heat treatment of milk. For the time being the work is controlled by the Public Health and Housing Committee.

Non-designated Milk Supplies.

Under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, 59 undesignated samples were taken by the District Sanitary Inspectors. Adopting the standard for designated milks, the results were as follows:—

Satisfactory	—	—	43
Unsatisfactory	—	—	16

The County Sanitary Officer has continued to serve on the Milk Production Sub-Committee of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee. His assistance, not only in connection with milk supplies and farms in the County, but also in connection with schemes of water supplies sponsored by that Committee, has been of considerable help.

The Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

The scheme has been maintained throughout the County, in spite of very considerable difficulties due to war-time conditions. I regret to say that it has not been possible to provide a supply of milk in the case of a very few Schools. At one time the Ministry of Food interested themselves in this scheme with the view to getting either Tuberculin Tested milk or Pasteurized milk in all cases but they came up against the same difficulties as we have all along experienced in our efforts in this direction in the rural parts of the County.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

One small Residential Nursery capable of accommodating 16 infants has continued to function at Leicester Gables, Evesham. The unit has served a very useful purpose but is too small to be really an economic proposition.

The Princess Royal honoured the Stourbridge War-time Day Nursery with a visit at the end of 1943.

The following is a list of the Day Nurseries which were open throughout the year:—

1. Bromsgrove Nursery—New Hut, Recreation Road.
2. Summerfield Nursery, Hartlebury—Adapted Huts.
3. Malvern Nursery—St. Cuthberts, adjoining Birmingham Children's Hospital Annexe.
4. Redditch, Church Green House—adapted House.
5. Redditch, Evesham Street—new Hut.
6. Redditch, Beoley Road—new Hut on Recreation Ground.
Opened in July 1944.
7. Halesowen, Tenter Street—part of Infants School.
8. Hill and Cakemore, Long Lane, Blackheath—part of Senior School.
9. Stourbridge, 24 Worcester Street—Adapted house.

Supervision. Considerable help was obtained from Dr. E. M. Bulmer and Dr. A. B. Follows in supervising the work of the Nurseries. In addition, the Assistant County Medical Officer of the area, acted as the Doctor responsible for the medical inspection, diphtheria immunisation etc. of the children. There have been periodic outbreaks of measles, whooping cough etc., which have affected the attendances.

Staff. Difficulty has been experienced on occasions in getting both nursing and domestic staff, but on the whole the position has not been serious as it was possible to lend staff from other Nurseries in emergencies.

Training of the students has been carried out and most of the students sitting for the examination of the National Society have obtained their diplomas. Attention should be called to the help given by Dr. S. C. B. Walker, Dr. A. B. Follows, Miss E. F. M. Johnson, Miss E. M. Lyons, and others, in this direction.

The Rushcliffe scale was adopted by the Ministry of Health and all the salaries were brought into line with the recommendations.

Affiliation. Each of the Nurseries has been affiliated with the National Society of Children's Nurseries and approved for training purposes.

Attendances. A monthly attendance return is obtained from each Nursery and forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

Voluntary help. Considerable voluntary help has been maintained at most of the Nurseries, and in this connection the Redditch Management Committee (under Mr. G. E. Whitmore the Chairman) which has been assiduous in the monthly meetings since 1940 should be recorded.

Toys. Under a scheme carried out by the W.V.S. great help has been received in the provision of toys and games for the children.

The work done by the Medical, Dental, Nursing and Clerical Staff during 1944 was arduous and I am grateful for all the work they did under very trying conditions.

Your obedient Servant,

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ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Notifications. The total number of notifications for all forms of tuberculosis has for 1944 fallen back to the 1942 figure. The rate per 1,000 for 1944 is 0.91 compared with 1.04 for 1943. The fall is not confined to either pulmonary or non-pulmonary nor can any one age group—male or female—be picked out as showing a startling change, except possibly the 25—34 group of females, where a reduction from 37 to 21 is noted.

Table I. shows the notifications and deaths over a period of 9 years, Table II. the notifications for 1944 in age groups and Table III. the Districts and rates.

TABLE I.

Year.	Pulmonary	Notifications		Pulmonary	Deaths	
		Pulmonary	Total		Pulmonary	Total
1936	330	80	410	200	43	243
1937	317	99	416	172	40	212
1938	293	92	385	171	28	199
1939	237	65	302	151	35	186
1940	281	76	357	172	40	212
1941	291	75	366	168	51	219
1942	270	62	332	156	38	194
1943	309	77	386	156	47	203
1944	273	62	335	150	35	185

TABLE II.

Notifications of Tuberculosis during 1944 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 -	1	1	2	1	14	26	34	32	23	20	3	157
Females -	1	4	3	4	17	31	21	13	12	7	3	116
Non-Pulmonary—												
Males -	2	5	7	8	2	8	4	-	1	-	-	37
Females -	-	6	4	-	3	3	3	1	3	2	-	25
Totals -	4	16	16	13	36	68	62	46	39	29	6	335

TABLE III.

District.	Notif'n Rate per 1000	Death Rate per 1000	Total cases notified	Total Deaths
Bewdley Borough — —	1.5	—	7	—
Bromsgrove Urban — —	0.55	0.5	14	13
Droitwich Borough — —	1.5	0.19	8	1
Evesham Borough — —	1.0	0.35	12	4
Halesowen Borough — —	0.75	0.5	28	19
Kidderminster Borough — —	0.76	0.54	27	19
Malvern Urban — —	0.7	0.65	15	14
Oldbury Borough — —	1.17	0.57	59	29
Redditch Urban — —	0.66	0.4	17	10
Stourbridge Borough — —	1.1	0.5	38	18
Stourport-on-Severn Urban — —	1.1	0.68	10	6
Bromsgrove Rural — —	0.79	0.25	19	6
Droitwich Rural — —	0.7	0.8	9	10
Evesham Rural — —	1.1	0.2	17	3
Kidderminster Rural — —	0.5	0.3	5	3
Martley Rural — —	1.3	0.9	15	10
Pershore Rural — —	1.1	0.7	16	10
Tenbury Rural — —	0.4	0.9	2	5
Upton-on-Severn Rural — —	1.3	0.4	17	5
Whole County — —	0.91	0.5	335	185

Mortality. The total deaths for pulmonary cases is the lowest ever recorded in Worcestershire. The number of non-pulmonary deaths remains unaltered. The death rate per 1000 is slightly lower than the previous year. In considering the District rates, it must be stated that the Oldbury rate compares more favourably with the County rate.

Maintenance allowances. These allowances have been continued during 1944 and have been confined to those cases which are eligible in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Health.

Dispensary work. Table IV. shows the work at the Dispensaries during the year. It will be noted that the New cases seen are higher than the previous year. Attendances at all the Dispensaries are higher, due to some extent to the attendances for artificial pneumothorax treatment.

Contact examinations are more than doubled than the previous year.

TABLE IV.

RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF DISPENSARIES DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.				Total.			
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts) : (a) Definitely tuberculous (b) Doubtfully tuberculous (c) Non-tuberculous	135	93	3	6	13	21	15	6	148	114	18	12
									176	127	28	24
									338	210	36	23
												292
												355
												607
												1254
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year :— (a) Definitely tuberculous (b) Doubtfully tuberculous (c) Non-tuberculous	1	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	1
									2	2	2	2
									56	138	93	92
												10
												8
												379
												397
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as (a) Recovered (b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberculous (including cancellation of cases notified in error)	15	8	3	2	8	4	6	5	23	12	9	7
												51
									471	401	149	135
												1156
												1207
D.—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on December 31st :— (a) Definitely tuberculous (b) Diagnosis not completed	619	528	36	45	73	84	98	79	692	612	134	124
									319	266	88	95
												1562
												768
												2330

Institutional treatment. The pulmonary beds at our disposal at the end of 1944 are :—

					Male.	Female.
Knightwick Sanatorium	—	—	—	—	50	32
Hayley Green Hospital	—	—	—	—	19	—
Hill Top Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	23
Romsley Sanatorium	—	—	—	—	4	2
Papworth Colony	—	—	—	—	6	—
					<u>79</u>	<u>57</u>
					136	

The beds used for non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year were at the following institutions :—

					Male.	Female.
Birmingham Royal Cripples Hospitals	—	—	—	—	20	16
Newtown Hospital	—	—	—	—	4	4
Worcester Royal Infirmary	—	—	—	—	5	3
Other Hospitals	—	—	—	—	2	2
					<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>

X-ray work. The work at the Hospitals where X-ray arrangements are available for County cases worked satisfactorily during 1944 but in one instance (West Bromwich) a long waiting list occurred and steps were taken to obtain an additional session monthly. A considerable amount of work is carried out in this connection and is of great help in diagnosis and treatment.

This short report has been prepared in the Office owing to the illness of Dr. S. Deaner. It is hoped to prepare a more detailed summary in future years.

November 1945.
