

PURFLEET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1931.

GRAYS.

John Higgins, Printing Contractor.

1932.



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To the Chairman and Members of Purfleet Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to submit to you my third Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Purfleet Urban District. The services of the District are now fully established, and unlike last year, members will have an opportunity of comparing the results of two complete years' work. The 1930 Report was a Survey Report as far as possible, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's requirements. This report is shorter, housing and similar matters not calling for the same exhaustive comment.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population for statistical purposes is 8,505, against 9,141 for 1930.

Vital Statistics—The Birth Rate (22.2) is considerably in excess of that for 1930 (16.0). The Death Rate at 10.7 is higher also, but below the rate for England and Wales (12.3). The Infantile Mortality Rate has shown a regrettable increase from 45.1 to 79.35, compared with 66 for the country as a whole. I regard the Birth and Death Rates as very satisfactory and Purfleet as a healthy district.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The most important administrative change in 1931 was the transfer of these duties from the Urban District to the County Council on and from the 1st April, 1931. In reading the appropriate section of this Report it should be borne in mind that all attendance figures, Maternity and Child

Welfare appointments and agreements between the Council and outside bodies *relate only to the first three months of the year.*

Housing work has continued evenly and no legal proceedings have been necessary.

Purfleet again shows a remarkable freedom from infectious disease, which is all the more remarkable when one remembers the huge influx of daily workers from the Metropolitan and other areas. Close co-operation is maintained with adjoining Public Health Authorities in regard to the supervision of Small Pox contacts. Most of the large firms have a welfare organisation to assist their employees in health matters, and their hygienic standard sets an example which has contributed materially to the good of the district. They have shown a pleasing co-operation with the Department upon all occasions. Infectious diseases have proved more than anything else, perhaps, the value of the combined Medical Service, from both the administrative and financial viewpoints. The interests which connect Purfleet with adjoining districts occur daily, and instead of matters having to pass formally through two or three separate Departments and officials they are dealt with in the minimum time and at the smallest administrative cost.

One instance in which Purfleet is particularly well served is in the purity of its milk supply. The key to the problem of clean milk is the reliability of the milker and dairy worker. Unless he is scrupulously clean in every respect the finest cows and the most elaborate buildings will not help the producer. I have found amongst local farmers a genuine desire to produce clean milk of Grade 'A' quality by perfection of method alone, not merely to conform with regulations, but with an appreciation that it is infinitely better for everybody con-

cerned. No doubt the keen competition in the district has contributed substantially towards this view, but I can say that Purfleet has a very satisfactory supply on the whole, and the public are reaping the benefit.

The work of the Department has been helped considerably by the support accorded by the Council, and I wish to thank the Members for the sympathetic manner in which my representations have been received. To my colleagues in other Departments, for their ready assistance, to all those Bodies who have supplied information for this Report, and to the local medical practitioners, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for past courtesies.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. G. BOUL, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
QUARRY HILL, GRAYS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Urban District of Purfleet stands upon the northern bank of the Thames, about 15 miles from London. It comprises the parishes of Purfleet, West Thurrock, Aveley and South Ockendon, the two former being industrial and the latter agricultural areas. A certain amount of shipping trade is carried on with the factories on the river bank, while chalk quarrying and cement-making form one of the principal industries.

The rainfall is light and the climate equable, but heavy mists are frequent from autumn to spring, making the district unsuitable for people with rheumatic tendencies.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are—

- (1) Employment in Cement Factories, Quarries, Oil Works, Margarine Factories, Board Mills, &c.
- (2) Agricultural.
- (3) Transport work.
- (4) Tradesmen and Clerical.

There is no evidence to suggest that any particular occupation exercises a deleterious effect upon the general health of the district.

Area	....	....	....	8,899 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate, 1931)	8505			
No. of Inhabited Houses at 31/12/31	....	....	2,100	
Rateable Value	....	....	....	£50,975
Product of 1d. Rate	....	....	....	£196 14s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	85	98	183
,, ,, —Illegitimate	5	1	6

Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population 22.2

	M.	F.	Total
Stillbirths	2	6
Rate per 1000 total (live and stillbirths) births			42.3

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	37	54
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population			10.7

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and Childbirth :—

(a) From Sepsis	....	Nil.
(b) From other causes	....	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births ...	....	79.35
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate live births	70.6	
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate ,, ,	333.3	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ....	....	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ....	....	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ....	....	Nil

Congenital debility, prematurity, malformation, &c., accounted for 11 deaths, i.e., 12%. Heart disease was responsible for 16 deaths, Cancer for 10, and Pneumonia for 9.

The following tables are supplied by the Registrar-General, with the exception of the line marked * in Table No. 2.

CIVILIANS. 76, S.D. 30.

CAUSES OF DEATH, PURFLEET U.D., 1931.

Causes of Death.		M.		F.
ALL CAUSES.	...	37	...	54
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	—	...	—
2 Measles	...	—	...	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	—	...	—
4 Whooping cough	...	—	...	—
5 Diphtheria	...	—	...	1
6 Influenza	...	1	...	2
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	—	...	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	—	...	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	1	...	2
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	—	...	1
11 Syphilis	...	—	...	—
12 General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	5	...	5
14 Diabetes	...	—	...	1
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	...	1	...	5
16 Heart disease	...	2	...	14
17 Aneurysm	...	—	...	1
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	1	...	—
19 Bronchitis	...	2	...	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	5	...	4
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	—	...	1
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	2	...	1
23 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	—	...	—
24 Appendicitis	...	2	...	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	—	...	—
26 Other diseases of liver, &c.	...	—	...	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	—	...	1
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	1	...	1
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	—	...	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	—	...	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	...	4	...	7
32 Senility	...	—	...	—
33 Suicide	...	2	...	—
34 Other violence	...	2	...	2
35 Other defined diseases	...	6	...	3
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	—	...	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—				
Small-pox	...	—	...	—
Poliomyelitis	...	—	...	—
Polioencephalitis	...	—	...	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total	5	...	10
	{ Legitimate	4	...	9
	{ Illegitimate	1	...	1
LIVE BIRTHS ...	{ Total	90	...	99
	{ Legitimate	85	...	98
	{ Illegitimate	5	...	1
STILLBIRTHS ...	{ Total	2	...	6
	{ Legitimate	2	...	6
	{ Illegitimate	—	...	—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY

DURING THE YEAR 1931. (Provisional Figures).

The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
	Five Births.	Still-births.	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Total Deaths under Two years	Deaths under One year	Certified by Coroners	Inquest Cases	Cases after P.M.	Deaths due to Injury		
England and Wales ...	15.8	0.67	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.54	6.0	66	91.18	6.17	1.70	0.95		
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.0	0.67	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.33	0.48	71	91.43	5.84	2.24	0.49		
159 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000) ...	15.6	0.73	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.36	0.43	4.0	62	92.17	5.49	1.25	1.09	
London	15.0	0.50	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.26	0.57	9.7	65	89.52	6.23	4.24	0.01	
* Purfleet	22.2	0.94	10.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.35	0.70	0.0	79	91.46	6.18	2.35	0.01

* Figures calculated by Public Health Department.

COMPARISON OF VARIOUS STATISTICS.

		1929.	1930.	1931.
Population ....	....	9,846	9,683	8,505
Number of Births	....	118	155	189
Birth Rate ....	....	17.2	16.0	22.2
Death Rate ....	....	7.8	7.5	10.7
Infantile Mortality Rate		33.8	45.1	79.35

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.—This is administered by the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.

Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.—This is undertaken by the County Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

1. *General.*—There has been no alteration in the arrangements. Four District Nursing Associations, one in each parish, serve the district. Their work is co-ordinated with that of the County Council, from whom they receive an annual grant. The 48th Nursing Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade, have also carried out some excellent work, which may be divided into the following:—

Motor Ambulance Duties	-	-	683
Home Comforts Centre	-	-	268
Orthopædic Clinic	-	-	271
Other cases, including night visits	-	-	1,122

The Division comprises 1 Lady Superintendent, 2 Lady Ambulance Officers, and a number of Ambulance Sisters. Their services at the Orthopædic Clinic have enabled staff costs to be kept at a low figure, which should earn for them the Council's appreciation.

Arising out of St. John Ambulance Brigade, a Hospital Home Comforts Committee was established in 1926, to supply at a nominal charge any article for use in a sick room. The Medical Officer of Health is

Chairman, and Sub-Centres have been established at Purfleet, West Thurrock and South Ockendon. Articles have been issued as follows:—

Bedpans	-	130	Waterproof Sheets	-	37
Bedrests	-	93	Air Pillows	-	31
Air Rings	-	91	Urine Bottles	-	31
Crutches	-	53	Bronchitis Kettles	-	29
Hot Water Bottles		47	Invalid Chairs	-	25
Air Beds	-	39	Feeding Cups	-	19
Bed Cradles	-	18			

Year.	Centre Depot		Sub-Centres.	Total.
	(Grays).			
1928	369	126	495
1929	374	188	562
1930	380	249	629
1931	383	309	692

The Committee have compiled a Register of experienced Nurses, persons with some nursing experience, and domestic helpers willing to attend cases of illness. Applicants for such help are placed in touch with suitable persons from the Register. This innovation has proved a great success owing to the widespread illness in the latter months of 1931, and steps are being taken to increase the Register.

2. *Infectious Diseases*.—There are no arrangements for home nursing except that which may occasionally be given by the Health Visitors.

MIDWIVES.—There are five practising Midwives in the Urban District. They are not employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The Essex Counties Public Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, undertake the examination of all bacteriological and Pathological specimens.

Specimens.		No. Examined.
Diphtheria	-	18
Sputa	-	17
	Total	35

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations relative to Public Health in force in the District.

ACTS AND SECTIONS ADOPTED.

ACTS.	SECTIONS IN FORCE.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. In operation in Dec., 1930. Adopted 4th Nov., 1930.	Part III. Section 29 operative from November 15th, 1930.
Small Dwellings Acquisitions Act, 1899-1923. In operation May 21st, 1925.	Whole Acts.
Public Health Act, 1925. Adopted Sept. 8th, 1927. In operation Oct. 15th, 1927.	Part II. Secs. 13-16, 20, 23, 25-33. Part III. Secs. 36-38, 40-43. Part IV.
Private Street Works Act, 1892. Adopted 1st July, 1930. In operation 9th Aug., 1930.	Whole Act.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.	Part II. Secs. 15-17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 33. Part III. Secs. 34, 38, 43, 48, 49, 50. Part IV. Secs. 52-58. Part V. Secs. 59, 60, 62, 65, 67.
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.	By a resolution dated July 2nd, 1929, the County Council delegated their Powers under this Act to the Purfleet Urban District Council.
Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings.	These were adopted by the Council and confirmed by the Ministry of Health on the 27th May, 1930.
Bye-laws with respect to Slaughterhouses.	Adopted by the Council and confirmed by the Ministry of Health on the 2nd Dec., 1930.
The question of the adoption of Bye-laws <i>re</i> Nuisances is still under consideration.	

HOSPITALS.

1. *General.*

Seamen's Hospital, Tilbury Docks. Accommodation: Men, 52 beds; Women, 24 beds; Children, 16 beds.

The Hospital is equipped with efficient X-Ray, Dental and Ophthalmic apparatus, and I wish once again to record my appreciation of the kindly co-operation extended to this Department by the staff. The Medical Officer of Health is a member of the consultant staff, and I am indebted to the Secretary, Seamen's Hospital Society, for the following statistics relating to the Hospital.

Number of In-patients	-	1,257
„ Out-patients	-	5,408
„ Major operations	-	327
„ Minor operations	-	374

Orsett (Public Assistance) Infirmary. Accommodation: General Medical, 97 beds; General Surgical, 50 beds; Tuberculosis, 21 beds; Children, 20 beds; Maternity, 7 beds; Mental (observation), 5 beds.

2. *Infectious Diseases.*

Orsett Joint Hospital Board, of which Purfleet is a constituent authority, maintains:—

(a) Isolation Hospital, Stifford Long Lane, Little Thurrock, 96 beds.

(b) Small Pox Hospital, Stifford Long Lane, Little Thurrock, 22 beds.

These have been found adequate for the needs of the district during the year.

Owing to Purfleet's proximity to the Metropolis, a large number of persons attend various London Hospitals. Most of the firms in the district maintain branch groups of the Hospital Savings Association, and the arrangement of treatment is a comparatively simple matter.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.—The Essex County Council is the authority under the Nursing Homes' Registration Act, 1927. There are no Nursing Homes within the Urban District.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.—There is no accommodation for the above except that provided by the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council, at Orsett Public Assistance Institution.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) *Infectious Diseases*.—A Motor Ambulance is maintained at the Isolation Hospital and is available immediately upon application at any hour of the day or night.

(b) *General and Accident*.—St. John Ambulance Brigade, Grays Division, maintain two motor ambulances and various hand vehicles. The hire charges are very moderate, and I am indebted to W. R. Lucas, Esq., for the following details of work during 1931 :—

Number of Journeys	....	770
„ Miles covered	....	15,360
„ Road Accidents	....	49

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Clinic.	Address and Accommodation.	Hours.	Remarks.
Parish Room, W. Thurrock (Two Rooms). Welfare Hall, Purfleet.	1st & 3rd Monday, 3.0. Alternate Tuesdays, 2.30-4 p.m. M.O. from 3-4 p.m.	Essex County Council	
British School, S. Ockendon (Three Rooms). Church Room, High Street, Aveley (Two Rooms).	4th Monday, 2.30 p.m., M.O., 2nd Monday, H.V. Alternate Fridays, 2-3.30 p.m. M.O. from 2-3.	Voluntary Welfare Centre Essex County Council	
Parish Room, W. Thurrock (Two Rooms).	2nd Monday at 2.15.	Essex County Council	
Ante-Natal Clinics	MINOR AILMENTS, Daily, 9.30-11 INSPECTION CLINIC, Wed., 9.30-11.30 *EYE CLINIC, Thursdays, 9.30-11.30 DENTAL CLINIC. (a) Extractions, Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. (b) Conservative Treatment, *Thursday, 9.30 a.m. Monday, 9.30 a.m.	The School Clinics are provided by the Essex County Council, the Medical Officer of Health, as School Medical Inspector, supervising the work of the Clinic.	
Quarry Hill, Grays. School Clinic	By Arrangement. Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri., at 2.30 p.m. " " " " " " " "	Combined Purfleet, Grays and Tilbury U.D., Orsett R. D.C. and Essex C.C.	
Orthopædic Clinic , After-Care Clinic	Adults—Monday, 4-6 p.m. Children—Thursday, 2-4 p.m.	The Dispensary is provided by the E.C.C. the M.O.H. as Tuberculosis Officer supervising the work of the Dispensary.	
59 London Road, Grays.	Women—Tuesday, 12.45-2.30 p.m. , —Thursday, 3-4.45 p.m. Men—Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. , —Thursday, 4.45-6.30 p.m.	Kent County Council.	
Tuberculosis	22 Cobham Street, Gravesend.		
Venereal Disease			* Application should be made to any member of the Public Health Staff.

* Patients attend those Clinics by arrangement only.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—Maternal deaths, and cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Maternity and Child Welfare service was transferred to Essex County Council on and from 1st April, 1931. *All figures relate, therefore, to work accomplished during the first three months of the year only.*

Visits paid by Health Visitors :—

To Expectant Mothers	...	25
Infants under 1 year—		
(a) First Visits	....	54
(b) Re-visits	....	247
	—	301
Children 1-5 years	....	151
	—	—
Total	477	—

Welfare Centre.	Sessions Held.	Attendances of Children.	
		Under 1 Year.	1-5 Years.
West Thurrock	....	111	103
South Ockendon	....	31	59
Purfleet	....	82	79
Aveley	....	84	23
	—	—	—
Totals	24	308	264
	—	—	—

Children attending Centre for first time—

		Under 1 Year.	1-5 Years.
West Thurrock	....	6	1
South Ockendon	....	9	4
Aveley	....	25	4
Purfleet	....	14	2
	—	—	—
Totals	54	11	—
	—	—	—

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This is held at West Thurrock (see Table of Clinics).

Number of Sessions held....	....	3
Total Attendances ...	....	27
Number of Mothers on Books	....	16

Until the change-over of administration, the Council maintained their previous agreement with Dr. A. McAllister as part-time Obstetric Specialist, but his services were not called upon.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1921.—The following amounts were supplied during the period ending 31st March, 1931 :—

	£ s. d.
Milk supplied free in necessitous cases	6 14 10
Total Cost of Milk supplied	.... 33 18 1
Cost to Council ....	.... 6 14 10

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (1/1/31 to 31/3/31), Local Records :—

Births notified (live) ....	....	42
,, ,, (stillbirths)	....	Nil
Notified by Medical Practitioners....		8
,, Certified Midwives 		34

DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.—No applications for treatment under the Council's scheme were received.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908, PART 1.—This was transferred to the County Council on 1st April, 1931.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

Prior to the County Council taking over the Child Welfare services this scheme was administered by the Council in conjunction with the Urban District Councils of Grays and Tilbury, the Rural District of Orsett and the County Council, the latter dealing with all children of school age. The Orthopædic Surgeon, Mr. B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S., visited the district at intervals of two months. After-Care is carried out by a qualified Masseuse at a specially equipped Clinic at Quarry Hill, Grays.

The following tables show the work carried out during 1931:—

ORTHOPÆDIC ASCERTAINMENT CLINIC.

		County	Grays	Tilbury	Orsett	Total
No. on Register, 1st Jan., 1931	...	202	15	39	19	275
,, 31st Dec., 1931	...	209	12	45	13	279
No. Discharged as cured, &c.	...	84	8	47	8	147
,, of New Cases reported	...	91	5	53	2	151
,, of Cases treated in Hospital	...	17	2	6	—	25
,, of Cases in Hospital on 31/12/31	1	—	—	—	—	1

NOTE—Purfleet cases have been included in the County totals.

ORTHOPÆDIC AFTER-CARE CLINIC.

		County	Grays	Tilbury	Orsett	Total
No. of Cases on Register, Jan., 1931...	153	16	32	9	210	
,, ,, Dec., 1931...	183	15	41	12	251	
,, ,, Discharged as Cured...	58	8	8	3	77	
,, ,, other reasons	6	—	12	—	18	
,, New Cases during year	... 94	7	29	6	136	
,, Attendances during year	... 1163	84	150	35	1432	

Nature of Treatment Received :

(a) Exercises	...	...	46	—	—	—	46
(b) Massage & Muscle Re-education	15	3	—	—	—	—	18
(c) Superintendence of Appliances	22	3	8	1	—	—	34
(d) Wedges and After-Care	134	9	35	11	—	—	189
(e) Breathing Exercises	...	10	—	1	—	—	11

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION, ORSETT DISTRICT.

*Annual Report of School Medical Inspector for year
ending 31st December, 1931.*

I am pleased to record an increase in almost every branch of the School medical work of this district during 1931. This may be attributed to the provision of extra school medical inspectors and to the fact that arrears of inspection amounting to sixteen departments, outstanding from 1930, were completed. To facilitate comparison the figures for both years appear side by side.

One of the most unsatisfactory features of the work of the district consists of the non-provision of a whole-time Dentist. This, as stated in last year's Report, is a most pressing need. The part-time Dentist has been so fully occupied in treating urgent cases, that dental inspection for conservative treatment has not been carried out. It will be seen that during the year only one School received a dental inspection. The School Dentist arranges to carry out one inspection per month on the third Tuesday. Owing to the continual congestion of the waiting list almost every one of these occasions has had to be used as an extra Dental Extraction Clinic. The present arrangements are utterly inadequate, and I hope the matter will receive early attention.

The Orthopædic Clinic has continued to carry out useful work, and it is hoped that changes in the personnel have finished. The After-Care Clinic is staffed by lady members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, for whose help I am indebted.

The local treatment scheme at Tilbury Hospital for the removal of tonsils and adenoids continued very satisfactorily during the year. Owing to the small number of patients who can be operated upon at one session a long waiting list has been inevitable and a

large number of extra Clinics have been held, and my thanks are due to the authorities of Tilbury Hospital for their readiness in granting the use of the operating theatre.

The Refraction Clinic brought some regrettable facts to my notice. Over-study, reading by artificial light and excessive homework were responsible for many cases of eyestrain, and this was particularly noticeable amongst scholarship students and pupils of the higher grade schools. Education gained at the expense of eyesight is dearly bought.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.—I am indebted to Inspector F. E. Sacret for the following details of work in the riverside area during 1931 :—

Number of cases investigated	....	41
,, Boys concerned	....	50
,, Girls concerned	....	34
,, Offenders (Male 34; Female 39)	....	73
,, Supervision Visits paid	....	197

Classification of Complaints.

Neglect to obtain medical treatment for Orthopædic defects	....	....	....	13
Neglect to obtain medical treatment for defective vision	....	....	....	5
General neglect	....	....	....	14
Ill-treatment	....	....	....	3
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	6
				—
				41

Cases reported by

(1) Medical Officer of Health	....	....	22
(2) Education Officials	....	....	2
(3) Other Officials	....	....	2
(4) General Public	....	....	15
			—
			41

Only one case occurred within the Purfleet Urban District, and no prosecutions were necessary.

SIGHT-SAVING (MYOPE) CLASS.

This is held at Quarry Hill School, Grays, and children from all parts of the Orsett district are admitted.

		Males.	Females.
Number on Register, 1/1/31	....	8	10
„ admitted during the year....	....	3	1
„ discharged during year ....	....	1	1
„ on Register, 31/12/31	....	10	10

REASON FOR DISCHARGE.—

Left district	....	....	—	1
Attained School-leaving age and found employment		1	—	

CLASSIFICATION OF VISIONAL DEFECTS.—

Myopia	....	....	12
Cataract	....	....	2
Dislocation of lenses	....	....	1
„ with Myopia	....	....	1
Nystagmus	....	....	1
„ with Myopic astigmatism			1
Strabismus	....	....	1
Myopia, Cataract, Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...		1

The children are divided into Division 1 (Infants), Division 2 (Juniors 8-11 years), and Division 3 (Seniors over 11 years).

EDUCATIONAL MATTER.—Prior to December, 1931, all reading matter had to be hand written, thus limiting its scope and quantity. In December, however, some American reading books were purchased, printed in specially large type on unglazed paper, and these have proved of great assistance to the pupils. It is to be regretted that British publishers seem unable to produce literature so eminently suitable in size and text, particularly as American spelling varies from the English to a considerable degree.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES.—The problem of physical training and games received attention during the latter part of the year. It has been thought proper that children in attendance at the Myope School should receive training of this kind in their own class rather than with a neighbouring School and the matter of the provision of suitable games, &c., is now under consideration. Organised games and country dancing form part of the curriculum.

HANDWORK.—Manual skill must necessarily play an important part in the lives of these children, and I am pleased to report that in a Handwork Competition held in this district, five scholars were successful with cane basketwork, in which they competed against children of normal vision.

There is no doubt that the Myope Class fills a gap between the elementary school and the blind school. The children would be out of place in either of the latter, but are cared for efficiently in the class. Although a small branch of the school medical service it is a very important one.

MINOR AILMENT TREATMENT CLINICS.

	GRAYS.		TILBURY.	
	1930	1931	1930	1931
No. of Individual children treated ....	....	935	1245	1119 1261
Total No. of attendances made during year ...	2021	3332	3618	3697 (excluding Dental Clinic).

EYE CLINIC.—Owing to the kind assistance of Dr. W. A. M. Stewart, a larger number of Refraction Clinics were held than in 1930. A number of extra sessions were held thus keeping the long waiting list within reasonable proportions. Owing to the greater amount of inspection carried out in the Schools more cases of

defective vision were discovered, and if these cases are to be dealt with promptly similar assistance will be necessary in 1932, as owing to the time required for each refraction only a small number can be performed at each session.

No. of Refractions during 1930—251. During 1931—283
No. of Glasses prescribed 1930—133. During 1931—232

In addition to these cases, a large number of re-tests and minor defects were seen. The attention of the N.S.P.C.C. to several cases produced the desired effect upon the parents.

TONSILS AND ADENOID CLINICS.—

No. of cases operated upon during 1930— 92
" " " " " " 1931—151

During the year it will be seen that a large increase in the number of cases operated upon took place. With the co-operation of Drs. Barrow, Hawes and Bennett, and the Authorities of Tilbury Hospital, the waiting list has been kept within reasonable proportions. At the close of the year arrangements were made that all children over the age of thirteen should remain in Hospital for at least one night. Co-operation with such Societies as the Hospital Savings Association, London Midland and Scottish Railway and all local benevolent associations continued during the year.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—One School was inspected during 1930: Lansdowne Road School, Tilbury.

Children Inspected.	Offered Treatment.	Age Groups.
		5-7. 7-9.
182	129	105 77

SUMMARY OF WORK AT DENTAL CLINIC.—

Children.	Attendances.	Extractions		Gas		Fillings		Operations.
		Temp.	Perm.	Cases.	Temp.	Perm.		
1930—	785	930	2103	167	708	95	121	63
1931—	1240	1365	2704	469	934	91	138	28

I have again to remark that a vast amount of dental disease is unascertained. The waiting list has made it impossible for inspections and conservative treatment to be undertaken. Present treatment is confined almost exclusively to the relief of pain and not, as it should be, to prevention. Although 1240 cases have been treated there are still about 100 outstanding, and I do not anticipate that the work will reduce during 1932. The Dentist has been fully occupied with cases found during routine inspections, and until these are dealt with it would be unwise to add to the waiting list the results of dental inspections.

SCHOOL BATHS.—The figures under this heading show a reduction from the previous year.

	1930	1931
GRAYS	....	3990
TILBURY	....	2664
	6742	4601

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

No. of places in the School	....	60
„ vacancies, 1/1/31	....	9
„ children admitted during year	...	67
„ children discharged during year		58

REASONS FOR DISCHARGE.

Fit for ordinary school	....	....	38
L.C.C. tuberculosis contacts returned to London			5
Removed from District	....	....	4
Attained school-leaving age	....	....	3
Unfit for open-air treatment (rheumatic, &c.)	...		3
Non-attendance	....	....	2
Orthopædic cases removed to Hospital			1
Other reasons	....	....	2

ADMISSIONS.

Recommended by School Medical Inspector	....	57
„ „ Tuberculosis Officer	....	6
„ „ private practitioners	....	4

WEIGHT AND HEIGHT.—During the first half-year 76% of the scholars showed increased weight while 8% lost weight and 16% remained stationary. In the second

half-year every child recorded an increase in weight, while throughout the year the scholars showed advances in height. This is very satisfactory.

WASHING ACCOMMODATION.—In my half-yearly report to the Open-Air School Sub-Committee in July, 1931, appeared the following remarks :—

“ The Register numbers 33 boys and 27 girls, but only 2 wash basins apiece are provided in the cloak-rooms. I submit that in a school where a considerable portion of the staff’s time is occupied in teaching the principles of health and cleanliness, these are inadequate. The County School Medical Officer comments on the same in his Annual Report for 1930, and suggests that they should be augmented.”

These remarks, with little modification, still apply, and I hope that the matter will receive early attention.

Children from Purfleet and West Thurrock attend the School, but the meagre bus services to outlying parts prevents children from South Ockendon and Aveley from attendance, especially young children.

GENERAL.—The value of the School to this district is unquestionable. Many expressions of gratitude have been received from parents, who show a pleasing co-operation with the medical and teaching staffs. Parents of children discharged from the school receive a letter setting out the health routine thereof, and explaining how it could be continued at home, emphasis being placed upon the need for its regular observance. Cases of malnutrition coming from homes where unemployment and poverty exist are frequent, and the improvement wrought in the children’s health by a course of open-air instruction is very satisfactory.

In a school where no two children may be suffering from the same condition, knowledge of the domestic circumstances, &c., is very useful, and owing to the keen interest displayed by the teaching staff in each individual scholar, this is usually available. Credit is due to them for their help in this direction.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) WATER.—The greater portion of the district is supplied by South Essex Water Works Company. The supply has been adequate and satisfactory. There are a few wells in the outlying parts of the area and these are subjected to periodical inspection. During 1931, samples were taken from two wells and both were found to be polluted. The water main was too far from each house for connection, and the tenants now obtain their drinking water from adjacent farms.

(b) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The chief stream is the Mardyke, which rises in Bulphan Fen, goes through Orsett Fen, and thence into the Urban District, forming a boundary between Aveley and West Thurrock. It receives the effluent from Aveley and Purfleet Sewage Works. Samples are taken at intervals by the Port of London Authority, but no complaints re pollution have been received.

(c) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The major part of the area is connected to the Thurrock, Grays and Tilbury Joint Sewerage Board's mains. A commencement has been made to link up Aveley with main drainage. The arrangements for sewage disposal are adequate and efficient. The Joint Board possess Disposal Works, complete with Sedimentation Tanks and Circular Revolving Distributors on Bacterial Beds. I am indebted to the Works Manager for the undermentioned details:—

Year.			No. of Galls. Pumped.
1927	....	....	410,706,000
1928	....	....	429,081,000
1929	....	....	474,012,000
1930	....	....	468,993,000
1931	....	....	461,529,500

I am of opinion that the district is well and adequately equipped, not only for present demands but for the future.

Steps are being taken in South Ockendon to connect the parish to main drainage, which should eventu-

ally lead to the majority of the privies and pail closets being abolished. The scheme is expected to reach completion very shortly.

(d) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No of Privies	....	....	8
„ Pail Closets	....	....	90
„ Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s	Nil.		
„ Privies converted to Pails	....	„
„ New Pails provided	....	„

(e) SCAVENGING.—This is carried out by contract. The refuse dumps are kept under supervision and rat suppression is carried out from time to time. The Council have had under consideration the adoption of Bye-laws containing clauses to govern refuse tipping on the lines of the "Bradford" system. At the present moment the date of their adoption is unknown, not having been approved by the Ministry of Health. Some form of legislation is certainly desirable if the district is to remain free from the disfiguring dumps that scar the riverside on the way down from London. Controlled tipping is an asset, inasmuch as it enables marshland to be reclaimed for useful purposes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Action taken *re* nuisances, contraventions, &c. :—

Premises inspected 75

„ whereat nuisances existed 70

No. of Visits paid *re* above 450

Defects remedied by

(1) Owners without formal notice ... 41

(2) Owners after formal notice 27

Formal Notices outstanding 2

Informal Notices outstanding Nil.

	Inspections Made.	Defects Remedied.
Visits to Bakehouses ... 26		1
Animals kept in an unfit state 2		2
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops 53		2
Slaughterhouses 343		—
Shops 573		8

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES,
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	In- spec- tions 2	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted 4
1	2		
Factories	19	—	—
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	21	—	—
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces	13	—	—
(Other than Outworkers premises)			
Total	53	—	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND,
in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Offences in respect to which Prosecu- tions were Instituted
	Found.	Rem- edied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts —</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under Factory & Workshops Acts—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s.101)....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork, and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Mi- nistry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total	1	1	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—One complaint was received from a district on the Kent side of the Thames, that smoke and the odour of burning oil was causing a nuisance. Observation was kept upon possible sources of complaint, but no nuisance could be traced.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

BAKEHOUSES.

No. on Register (Factory-Bakehouses)	4
Inspections	26
Defects found and remedied	1

There are no houses let in lodgings, or common lodging houses within the district, neither are there any Offensive Trades premises.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES.—There are no premises of this description in the area. It has been necessary at various times to "move on" members of the caravan fraternity—a very desirable precaution. The establishment of an encampment of this type provides a continual source of complaint and worry to a Public Health Department, and seriously depletes the value of surrounding land and property.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Urban District.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.—Cemeteries exist at West Thurrock, Aveley and South Ockendon. The present arrangements are adequate.

MORTUARIES.—There is one Mortuary at West Thurrock.

SCHOOLS.—The water supply and sanitary condition of the schools are generally satisfactory. Minor defects which may be noted from time to time receive attention from the Education Committee.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928.—There are no premises within the Urban District to which these Regulations apply.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :				
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	314			
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1884			
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	239			
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1434			
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil			
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	246			
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :				
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	218			
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :				
A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	27			
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices				
(a) By Owners	26			
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	1			
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1			

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:			
(a) By Owners	1		
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil		
C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4		
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4		
D. Proceedings under Section 20 of Housing Act, 1930 :			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil		
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil		
E. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil		
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:			
(a) By Owners	Nil		
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil		
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil		
F. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil		

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....				4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....				Nil

NOTE.—Sections 11 to 15 of the Housing Act, 1925, have been repealed by the Housing Act, 1930, but the proviso to Section 64 of the Act of 1930 continues in force any Closing Orders and Demolition Orders made before the operation of the Act (15th August, 1930), and houses subject to those Orders must continue to be dealt with under the relative provisions of the Act of 1925.

(*Addendum*) *Section 19, Housing Act, 1930* :

Number of premises which were the subject of undertakings given by Owners and accepted by the Local Authority 5

Nature of such undertakings :

(1) Premises to be rendered fit regardless of cost	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) To cease to be used for human habitation					Nil
(3) To cease to be used for human habitation after the determination of existing tenancy by tenant	....	....	....	....	5
Number of premises now standing void as a result of undertakings given under heading 3	....	....	....	....	2

VOLUNTARY DEMOLITIONS.

Number of houses voluntarily closed and demolished 2

OVERCROWDING.

Number of instances coming to notice of Local Authority 3

Number of instances abated :

By Owners	....	...	....	Nil
By Local Authority	....	...	....	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK.

No. of Milk producers registered ....	....	7
„ Inspections made ....	....	53
„ Defects remedied ....	....	2
„ Producers of Grade "A" Milk ....	....	1
„ Retailers of Grade "A" Milk ....	....	1
„ Retailers of Grade "A" (T.T.) Milk ....	....	1

The conditions under which Milk is handled in the Urban District are satisfactory. Samples were taken from various producers and retailers, see following table :—

No.	Date Taken.	No. of Bacteria per 1 c.c.	B. Coli. present in
1.	31st March	22,500	1·0 c.c.
2.	30th June	260,000	0·0001 „
3.	31st July	98,000	0·001 „
4.	28th September	52,000	0·01 „
5.	5th November	13,000	—
6.	5th November	22,000	0·01 „

Nos. 2 and 3 were taken from the same premises. The results indicate that although some improvement was effected in the methods of cleanliness in the dairy, there was room for improvement on the milker's part, since a high B. Coli content shows that manurial contamination has taken place. The farmer's attention was drawn to the matter. Samples 1 and 5 are exceptionally good for ungraded milk.

There seems to be a genuine desire amongst the producers to produce milk up to Grade "A" Standard, and they have acted upon the suggestions of the Sanitary Inspector in a praiseworthy manner.

No. of Cowsheds on Register	...	15
„ Dairies „	....	8
„ Milkshops „	....	6

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No. of Slaughterhouses registered	4 (all licensed)
„ Inspections made	.... 343
„ Occasional Slaughter notices	62
„ Beasts slaughtered	.... 158
„ Sheep „	.... 530
„ Swine „	.... 381
Unsound food surrendered	.... 2,679 lbs. meat.

Electric lighting was installed in two premises at the Inspector's suggestion. One slaughterhouse has fallen into disuse, and is being replaced in 1932 by a modern structure.

ADULTERATION.—Essex County Council is the Authority under the Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 & 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 & 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—This is carried out at the instance of the County Council, by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

NUTRITION.—Periodical articles upon diet, nourishment and general health are contributed to the local Press by the Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
CASES NOTIFIED, 1931.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Treated in Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ....	... 9	7	—
Diphtheria ....	.... 14	14	1
Pneumonia ....	.... 3	—	2
Erysipelas ....	.... 2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	.... 1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—

The district is remarkably free from Infectious disease, especially when it is remembered that there is a large daily influx of workers from other areas. The number of cases shows an all-round reduction from 1930.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases in Wards:

DIPHTHERIA.	SCARLET FEVER.
9	Aveley
1	Purfleet
2	South Ockendon
2	West Thurrock
	—
	2
	1
	6

There has been no Schick Testing or Dick Testing carried out during the year. Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available upon application to the Public Health Department, but there has been very little application for it. Only 13,000 units were issued.

PNEUMONIA.—The efficiency of notification of this disease is far from satisfactory, despite constant reminders.

SMALL POX.—No notifications were received during 1931, but a number of contacts from cases outside Purfleet were kept under supervision. No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES TREATED.			Vision Un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	At Home	In Hospital				
2	2	—	2	—	—	—

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action has been taken under Section 66, Public Health Act, 1925.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES (EXCLUDING
 TUBERCULOSIS) AT VARIOUS AGES, 1931.

Age Groups			Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	years	....	2	2	1	—	—	—
5-10	„	....	3	5	—	1	—	—
10-15	„	....	5	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	„	....	3	1	2	—	1	1
25-35	„	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	„	....	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-55	„	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	„	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards		....	—	—	—	1	—	—
		Totals	14	9	3	2	1	1

DISINFECTION.—Each case of Infectious Disease is followed by steam sterilisation of the patient's bedding and articles which have been exposed to infection.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.—School children infested with vermin are dealt with at the Grays School Baths (see figures in School Medical section). No other action has been taken.

PREVALENCE OF VERMIN.—Rat suppression has been carried out at the Council's Refuse Dumps. No special action has been taken to deal with mosquitoes and similar pests.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1931.

Age Periods.	New Cases.						Deaths.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year
1-5 years	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-10 "	1	...	...	...	...	1
10-15 "	1	...	...	...	...	...
15-20 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20-25 "	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
25-35 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
35-45 "	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45-55 "	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-65 "	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards
Totals	4	6	1	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	1
												5
												10
												3

Of the Pulmonary cases, 1 male and 1 female were removed from the Register as "Diagnosis not confirmed."

The efficiency of notification is satisfactory. There were no deaths of unnotified cases during the year.

Patients' bedding is disinfected upon death, removal, or admission to sanatorium. Crepe paper handkerchiefs and disinfectant are available for patients upon application to the Sanitary Inspector's Office. Leaflets have been compiled which set out precautions which should be taken to prevent spread of infection in households, and a copy is sent to each patient upon receipt of a primary notification.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The County Council maintain various Sanatoria, to which patients were admitted as follows during 1931:—

	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Adults	-	3	2	—
Children	-	1	—	1

The adult males went to Harold Court Sanatorium, the adult females to Black Notley and Colchester respectively, and the children to Black Notley.

In my report for 1931 I commented on the insufficient in-patient accommodation for advanced cases. From one point of view it is undesirable, I suppose, that an advanced case in which cure is impossible should occupy a bed to the exclusion of a patient in the early stages of Tuberculosis and with a good chance of recovery, but the former, knowing that death is inevitable, often grow careless in his habits. In this way infection is spread amongst other members of the family, and for this reason I consider in-patient treatment desirable for such cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SEC. 62.

No action has been taken under these headings.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—Essex County Council have an arrangement with Kent County Council (see table of Clinics and Treatment Centres) whereby patients from the Riverside area attend the Clinic at 22 Cobham Street, Gravesend. Every inducement is offered to patients to attend, fares being paid by the County Council in necessitous cases.

I am indebted to Dr. R. Erskine Gray for the following figures relating to the work of the Clinic during 1931. Although not classified into various districts, they show that the problem of Venereal Disease is of much more importance than the public realise.

No. of Essex patients attending during 1931,—82.

ATTENDANCES.	M.	F.	Total.
For Medical Officer in Charge ...	7,943	2,012	9,955
Intermediate treatment	... 5,020	950	5,970
	—	—	—
	12,963	2,962	14,925
	—	—	—

Essex contributed 20% of the new infection amongst males, and 28% was estimated to have been contracted abroad. 55% of new infections had a history of one or more previous infections.

