

## YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH, 1949

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—*continued.*

VOTE—HEALTH— <i>continued</i>	1948-49.	1947-48.	
		Voted.	Expended.
<i>Subdivision No. I—Health—continued</i>	£	£	£
OTHER CHARGES FOR AND INCIDENTAL TO— <i>continued</i>			
<i>Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act—</i>			
Subsidies to Hospital Boards .. .. . (a)	4,250,000	3,460,000	3,147,950
Subsidies to separate institutions .. .. .	425	425	425
	4,250,425	3,460,425	3,148,375
<i>Masseurs Registration Act—</i>			
Examination expenses, &c. (part recoverable)	250	200	232
<i>Medical Practitioners Act—</i>			
Expenses (part recoverable) .. .. .	200	200	140
<i>Nurses and Midwives Registration Act—</i>			
Examination expenses, &c. (part recoverable)	3,000	2,850	3,041
<i>Opticians Act—</i>			
Expenses (recoverable) .. .. .	300	250	336
<i>Plumbers Registration Act—</i>			
Examination expenses, &c. (part recoverable)	1,400	850	1,346
<i>Poisons Act—</i>			
Expenses (part recoverable) .. .. .	50	50	4
<i>Sale of Food and Drugs Act—</i>			
Law-costs (part recoverable) .. .. .	300	100	339
Other expenses (including purchase of samples)	1,200	1,000	1,299
	1,500	1,100	1,638
<i>Social Hygiene Act—</i>			
Expenses .. .. .	500	500	357
Treatment, &c., of indigent patients by medical practitioners .. .. .	100	500	35
	600	1,000	388

(a) As from the 1st April, 1947, the hospital levy on local authorities has been limited to 0.5d. in the pound (Finance Act (No. 2), 1946, section 15). This has resulted in the amount of subsidies being substantially increased. From estimates supplied by Hospital Boards it is apparent that the amount required for subsidies for 1948-49 will be substantially in excess of the amount paid during 1947-48. The increase arises from increased salaries paid to hospital employees and increased cost of materials.