

DIVISION OF HOSPITALS

(1) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF HOSPITAL BOARDS

At the time of writing, complete returns for the year under review are not yet to hand, but the following estimate made from the data available gives a general picture of the source of finance and the main headings of expenditure.

Receipts for both maintenance and capital purposes were, in round figures, as follows :—

From the Social Security Fund in respect of hospital and other benefits	£	2,600,000
Levies on local authorities	£	1,413,000
Subsidies from the Consolidated Fund	£	4,900,000
From other sources (recoveries on account of relief, including age-benefits, bequests, and miscellaneous receipts)	£	262,000
		<u>£9,175,000</u>

Expenditure under its main headings was as follows :—

Debit balances, net, as at 1st April, 1948	£	134,000
(a) Maintenance expenditure—	£	
(i) Hospital maintenance	£	6,900,000
(ii) Indoor and outdoor relief	£	225,000
(iii) Interest on loans	£	190,000
(iv) Administration	£	211,000
(v) Other items (District Nursing, grants to ambulance associations, subsidies to private hospitals, rents and rates, contributions to National Provident Fund, &c.)	£	429,000
		<u>7,955,000</u>
(b) Capital expenditure (excluding loan works)—		
(i) Buildings and equipment	£	686,000
(ii) Loan repayments and Sinking Fund instalments	£	340,000
		<u>1,026,000</u>
Credit balances, net, as at 31st March, 1949	£	60,000
		<u>£9,175,000</u>

When provision was made in the Finance Act (No. 2), 1946, limiting, at 0·5d. per pound of the rateable capital value, the rate of levy by Hospital Boards upon their contributory local authorities, it was anticipated that although revaluations would later result in some increased contributions by the local authorities a much greater share of the cost would be borne by the Consolidated Fund.

The following table indicates the extent to which local authorities as a whole have been relieved during the two years the rate of levy has been "stabilized" :—

	Total Levies on Local Authorities.	Subsidy Payable From Consolidated Fund.
	£	£
1946-47	1,889,045	1,937,571
1947-48	1,347,441	3,321,378
1948-49	1,413,249	4,941,832