

With the beneficiary's authority the whole or portion of a family benefit may be diverted to the Commissioner of Taxes for the purpose of meeting the income-tax payments of the beneficiary or her husband. At the 31st March, 1949, 4,737 benefits were wholly or partially being diverted in this manner, as against 5,520 for the previous year. The amount paid to the Commissioner of Taxes for the year was £198,874, compared with £227,535 for the year ended 31st March, 1948.

At 31st March, 1949, benefits were being paid in respect of 9,758 children beyond the age of sixteen years to assist in their further education.

Number of Family Benefits According to Size of Families

	Number of Children in Family.					
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Number of families. 31st March, 1948	101,325	68,883	38,871	18,552	8,048	3,737
Number of families. 31st March, 1949	95,681	75,178	41,488	19,741	8,586	3,975

	Number of Children in Family—continued.				Total Number of Benefits.	Total Number of Children.
	7.	8.	9.	10 or more.		
Number of families. 31st March, 1948	1,984	988	462	287	243,137	521,394
Number of families. 31st March, 1949	2,088	1,098	531	360	248,726	548,330

INVALIDS' BENEFITS

Applications were received from 1,581 persons during the year on the grounds of permanent incapacity for work or total blindness. Grants were made in 1,022 cases and 622 applications were declined, mainly because medical evidence did not indicate permanent incapacity, and 9,242 existing benefits were renewed for a further year.

The number of benefits in force decreased by 631, from 10,682 as at 31st March, 1948, to 10,051 as at 31st March, 1949.

The expenditure for the year decreased by £18,684 from £1,367,300 for the year ended 31st March, 1948, to £1,348,616 for the year ended 31st March, 1949.

The following table, prepared as at 31st January, 1949, indicates the nature of the diseases suffered by invalid beneficiaries who are permanently incapacitated for work :—

Disease Category.	Total.	
	Males.	Females.
<i>Infectious and Parasitic Diseases—</i>		
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	446	370
Other forms of tuberculosis	81	68
Acute poliomyelitis and sequelae	147	167
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	90	54
<i>Neoplasms—</i>		
Malignant neoplasms	30	19
Nonmalignant neoplasms	15	18
<i>Rheumatic Fever, Diseases of the Endocrine Glands and Nutrition and Other General Diseases—</i>		
Rheumatic fever	25	19
Diabetes mellitus	37	40
Diseases of the thyroid and endocrine glands	42	103
Other nutritional and general diseases	5	19
<i>Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs</i>	25	26
<i>Chronic Poisoning and Intoxication</i>	..	..