

**[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Axbridge R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Axbridge (Somerset, England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1944

**Persistent URL**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1944.


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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Thomas Lamb Scott,     | L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Medical Officer of Health.   |
| Henry Richard Day,     | Chief Sanitary Inspector.<br>Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.<br>Fellow of Sanitary Inspectors Association.  |
| Albert Reginald Smith. | District Sanitary Inspector and Housing Maintenance Officer.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.B. Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.  |
| John Harry Ellis,      | District Sanitary Inspector.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.B. Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.  |
| Harry Hill,            | District Sanitary Inspector (Temporary)<br>Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science.<br>Diploma on Institution of Sanitary Engineers.<br>Fellow of Sanitary Inspectors Association. |

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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL      REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out by your Public Health Department for the Year 1944 and it is hoped that this will be the last report in this shortened form.

This Report has been produced in collaboration with your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr Henry R. Day. The Report which he has formerly submitted is included in this Report.

Area of District (in acres) ... ..	89,767
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	6,939
Rateable Value ... ..	£169,952
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£708. 2. 8d.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Overcrowding caused by the influx into the District of Evacuees and people formerly resident in nearby Towns has been relieved by reason of dwellings subject to Demolition Orders having been requisitioned and put into a reasonable state of repair to provide accommodation for the more urgent cases of overcrowding and by the gradual return of evacuees to their homes in other areas.

The treatment of Scabies - a condition foreign to this District in peace time and which has caused some anxiety - is now well in hand; the establishment of a Treatment Centre in the District and another Centre administered by an adjoining Authority has considerably alleviated the problem.

EVACUATION.

Local practitioners have carried out general medical treatment to Evacuees. The establishment of a Sick Bay in the Area for the care of those cases where treatment cannot be carried out in the private home has proved of great value.

The requisitioning of premises and utilisation of such for the communal billeting of more than one family has also proved a success.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

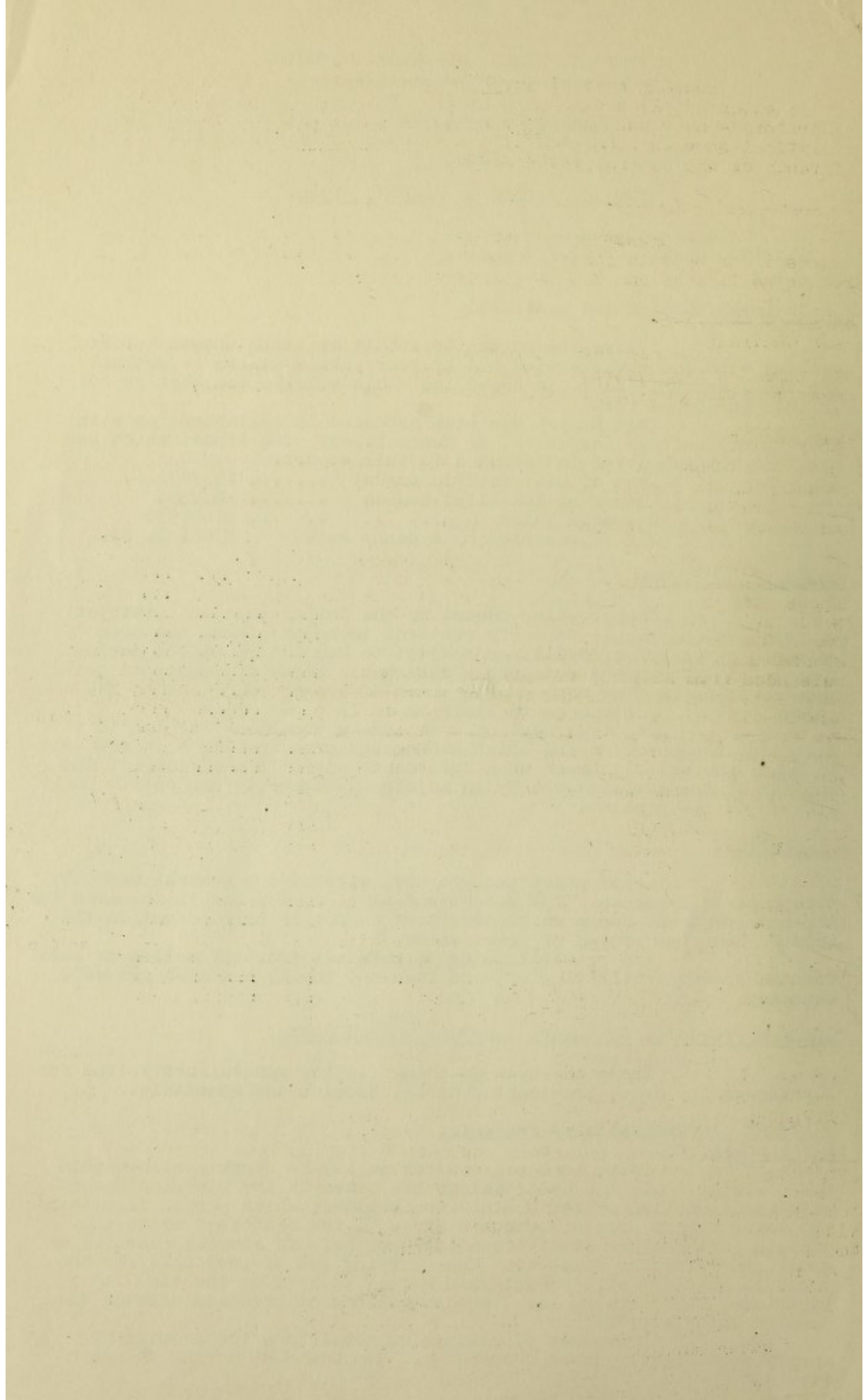
There has been no change in the general provisions for nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres, Clinics and Hospitals.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is a pipes water supply to every parish within the District. All the Undertakings are owned by the District Council with the exception of the Scheme for Kewstoke; which parish is within the water supply area of Weston-s-Mare. A few scattered areas in certain parishes are still dependent upon private sources (usually good) and rainwater supplies. The carrying out of proposals for the areas in question will be put into effect as soon as the time is opportune. There are no large concentrations of premises outside the area of water supply.

By reason of prevailing conditions the sources of supply were heavily drawn upon but all demands made during the year were met.





Monthly bacteriological examination of the Council's public water supplies were made at the Somerset County Council's Laboratory - such supplies proving to be excellent in quality and analytical samples submitted with a view to ascertaining the plumbosolvency of the waters proved negative.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The urgent necessity of schemes of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for certain parishes must be borne in mind as also the reconstruction of one Sewage Disposal Works.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION.

A Scheme for the collection of Refuse and Salvage throughout the whole of the District is in operation and has proved a success in reducing nuisances and a help with war emergency measures.

#### SCAVENGING.

Co-operation with the military has been maintained and Contract works for scavenging for the Military Authorities are still being carried out. A cesspool emptier is used in connection with such Contracts and for private dwellings.

#### SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR.

Agricultural dwelling-houses erected (Axbridge R.D.O.)	...	...	8
Houses and premises inspected (apart from re-inspections)	...	...	604
Total inspections (including re-inspections)	...	...	1500
Complaints investigated.	...	...	130
Written notices and letters sent.	...	...	1167
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated.	...	...	3
Nuisances from the accumulation of manure abated.	...	...	94
Sewers and drains - re-laid or repaired.	...	...	19
New branch drains laid and premises connected to sewer	...	...	7
Complaints from overcrowding dealt with.	...	...	4
Premises provided with Public Water Supply.	...	...	34
Rooms, Classrooms and domestic offices disinfected and disinfested.	...	...	140
Milk samples taken.	...	...	549
Council House - General Maintenance Repairs.	...	...	1240

#### PERIODICALLY VISITED.

Registered Cowkeepers & Wholesale Purveyors.	...	...	836
Registered Retail Purveyors.	...	...	193
Private Slaughterhouses (all slaughtering carried out at Weston-s-Mare Public Abattoir)	...	...	19
Bakehouses.	...	...	17
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.	...	...	106

#### CAMPING SITES.

The continued use of Camping Sites as sites for stationing of moveable dwellings used for permanent habitation is still giving great concern. As firm a control as is possible is being maintained.

#### SCHOOLS.

As previously stated the question of improvement in the sanitary conditions of certain schools has again been emphasised by reason of increased use arising out of the District being a Reception area. It is hoped that following the cessation of the present emergency the responsible authorities will give this matter immediate consideration

*Thomas H. Scott*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

