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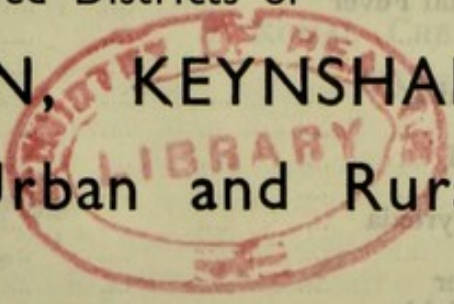
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R.D. Combined Districts of
**BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM,
 FROME (Urban and Rural)**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1944

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM, M.D., C.H.B., D.P.H.,
 Medical Officer of Health

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
9 ROYAL CRESCENT,
BATH.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Keynsham and Frome
District Councils.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another war year has passed without causing any undue concern regarding the general health conditions of the area. The infectious diseases have maintained last year's satisfactory levels and in the case of most of them the incidence has been even lower. For the third year in succession no death has occurred from Diphtheria.

There is a slight reduction in the birth rate but the general death and infantile mortality rates are almost the same as last year.

I should like to pay a tribute to the medical practitioners in the area for their part in the production of such satisfactory figures for the year. Many of them have been working under conditions of extreme difficulty, owing in some cases to personal illness, and in others to ever lessening assistance in their practices. Their efforts to maintain an efficient service in spite of all handicaps must have demanded a large measure of self endurance and self sacrifice.

My thanks are again due to the Chairmen and members of my respective Councils and the council staffs for their valuable co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM.

July, 1945.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications for Scarlet Fever were less than last year, 79 compared with 112. In view of the continued mildness of the disease and the fact that it is in many cases impossible to diagnose it by clinical examination alone owing to the transient nature and sometimes complete absence of the rash, it has been found advisable to advocate the home nursing of the majority of the cases. Removal to hospital is now determined only after consideration of the following points, (1) The severity of the disease; (2) The home nursing facilities; (3) The employment of another member of the household in the preparation or distribution of food for public consumption; (4) The approaching confinement of any female in the patient's house.

WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES

Whooping cough again showed an increase, 136 cases against 85 for last year and 64 for 1942. There was one death but this was an infant of 4 months who was suffering from a congenital deformity which in itself made survival unlikely. Only 12 cases of Measles were notified compared with 517 for the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA

Only 3 cases of Diphtheria were notified throughout the year and for the third year in succession no death occurred. It is interesting and gratifying to record that since 1941 when the bulk of the school children were immunised against the disease, the numbers of cases have gradually fallen as follows:—

1940	....	62 cases	....	2 deaths
1941	....	27	..	2 ..
1942	....	22	..	No deaths
1943	....	14	..	..
1944	....	3	..	..

This is surely a sufficient answer to the small group of doubters and *antis* who still regard with suspicion the efforts being made to banish the disease from the community. As reported last year the percentage of school children immunised is very satisfactory, the average for the area being 90%. The percentage of under 5's is still not so good and differs markedly in different parts of the area, the average being 67%. Towards the end of the year a drive was started to improve the figures in the lagging areas.

Immunisation is available for the Bathavon area on Saturday mornings at the Health Department, 9 Royal Crescent, Bath. For the Frome Urban and Rural areas at the Frome Dispensary on Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. and for the Keynsham area at the Social Service Hut, Avon Road, Keynsham, on the last two Wednesdays in the month, from 2.0 p.m.—3.45 p.m.

A stock of Diphtheria anti-toxin serum is still held at each of the Council Offices in the area to serve the needs of practitioners during the day. Out-of-Office hours, that is, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., the serum can be obtained from the following premises :—

Bath City Police Station for the Bathavon area ;
Keynsham P.A. Institution for the Keynsham area ;
Victoria Hospital, Frome, for the Frome Urban and Frome Rural areas.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

Four cases were notified as against 2 for the previous year. Two of these cases were of a very severe nature and both proved fatal.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified with one death.

PNEUMONIA

Fewer cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, 22 as against 27 for 1943. The deaths were greater, however, 9 compared with 8 for 1943, giving a case mortality rate of 41%. As mentioned in last year's report it is probable that these figures are not an accurate representation of the number of cases of Pneumonia that occurred during the year. It still occasionally happens that deaths certified in the weekly death register as due to primary Pneumonia have not been previously notified as cases of Pneumonia. It is therefore more than likely that a number of recovered cases have also missed notification. If this is so the mortality would be proportionately reduced.

SCABIES

Hamleaze Sick Bay at Keynsham has continued to supply completely the needs of the combined areas regarding the in-patient treatment of Scabies.

The treatment centre at Frome was closed in 1943 but out-patient treatment is still available at Midsomer Norton and at the Bristol Clinic by arrangement with the Bristol Health Department.

The lessened severity of the disease reported last year was again noticeable throughout 1944. The grossly infected case commonly seen a year or two ago is now a rarity.

No action was necessary under the Scabies Order (1940).

TUBERCULOSIS

40 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 7 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with 45 cases of pulmonary and 11 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis for the previous year.

ERYSIPELAS

15 cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID

One case of mild Paratyphoid Fever was notified. Diagnosis was only made by blood agglutination test carried out in the investigation of an unexplained pyrexia. The primary origin of the disease was not discovered.

MALARIA

A case of Malaria was also notified. This was a soldier who had seen service in Italy and Sicily and was awaiting his discharge from the Army.

FOOD POISONING

A number of cases of Food Poisoning were reported from Frome during the period May 24th—27th. Notifications were received in respect of 21 persons but it is almost certain that there were many more mild cases which did not have medical attention and therefore were not notified.

In all cases the symptoms followed the consumption of pressed beef purchased from a local butcher. The meat was cooked and pressed on the premises and sold two days after it was cooked. Symptoms appeared in about 3½ hours, the first complaint being of extreme nausea and restlessness followed by vomiting and diarrhoea. In one case, an elderly woman, there was complete collapse for upwards of 3 hours. The acute symptoms lasted approximately 3 hours and apart from feeling a trifle shaken most of the people recovered in 24 hours.

Samples of meat, vomited matter, etc., submitted to the County Analyst proved that the outbreaks were due to Staphylococcal organisms but unfortunately efforts to trace the origin of these organisms were unsuccessful. Swabs were taken from the nose, throat and hands of all persons in the shop concerned with the preparation or handling of the meat but in no case were any staphylococci of the same type discovered. Following the last outbreak the preparation and sale of this particular type of meat was permanently discontinued.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

CASUALTY SERVICE

No. 2 (BATHAVON) AREA

I am indebted again to Mr. Barrett, the Area Organiser, for the following account of the Casualty Service activities during the year :—

“ In the first half of the year, the whole of the Services were keyed up ready for action to meet the expected enemy attack when the invasion of the Continent took place. Many exercises were held in which Anti-personnel Bomb Attacks, Incident Inquiry Points, Combined Fire Guard and Civil Defence actions and combined First Aid and Rescue Parties were all featured. Although events made it unnecessary to require their services to any great extent, I think all members are to be congratulated on the enthusiasm and the high standard of efficiency displayed.

The Wardens were, as in other areas, asked to volunteer for service in London to assist in meeting the Flying Bomb menace, and from June to September Wardens went at intervals from Keynsham, Swainswick, Midsomer Norton, Chilcompton, Radstock and Frome, and at the present time one of the lady telephonists is still in London having been there for over six months.

A number of incidents due to enemy attack took place but one which occurred at Paulton on September 17th in which a British glider crashed and 22 men were killed, deserves special mention. This happened on a Sunday and within five minutes of the incident taking place, Paulton Rescue Party, Paulton Home Guard, Police and N.F.S. were on the spot. The ladies of the up-graded Point at Paulton were there almost as soon as the Rescue Party and rendered first aid in treating the wounded and assisting in collecting the dismembered bodies of the glider crew. Paulton Cottage Hospital gave further treatment to the wounded, after first aid had been rendered by the ladies of the upgraded Point and the members of the Rescue Service.

The present position of the Casualty Service is one of “ Stand by ”, but the personnel are still at full strength and ready to be called upon if required.

The First Aid posts at Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Frome have been closed, the buildings de-requisitioned and the equipment placed in County Stores.

The Rescue Service has been reduced from 17 Parties with rescue vehicles and ambulances, to 6, these being stationed at Keynsham, Weston, Paulton, Combe Down, Radstock, and

Frome. Each of these Rescue Depots is manned by a skeleton staff each night and would be ready to act immediately, if required.

The whole of the Wardens' Service throughout the area and Report Centres at Keynsham, Frome and Norton-Radstock are only on duty should enemy action take place, but the Bath-avon Report Centre and Sub-Control are continuously manned throughout the 24 hours. No alteration has been made in regard to First-Aid Points and Dressing Stations and it is hoped that the invaluable work done by the ladies concerned with these will be continued until we are ordered to "Stand down" as enemy attack is now a remote possibility but accidents may occur to our own aircraft, as instanced at Paulton, when prompt first aid was of paramount importance.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all who have helped in training and working the various Exercises; it would be invidious to mention names, but the whole of the medical profession, surveyors to the Urban and Rural Councils and the Heads of Police and Fire Services have co-operated in every way possible to make the Service attain the highest degree of efficiency."

April, 1945.

STATISTICAL TABLE

The following Table shows the comparative birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the years 1939-1944 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

The areal comparability factors are still in suspension by the Ministry of Health, and the death rates shown in the statistics for the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 are therefore the recorded rates only.

				Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
Combined districts	1939	....	....	13·8	11·1	45·2
England and Wales	1939	....	....	15·0	12·1	50·0
Combined Districts	1940	....	....	12·9	11·9	51·1
England and Wales	1940	....	....	14·6	14·3	55·0
Combined districts	1941	....	....	13·2	11·8	45·2
England and Wales	1941	....	....	14·2	12·9	59·0
Combined districts	1942	....	....	16·4	11·7	29·6
England and Wales	1942	....	....	15·8	11·6	49·0
Combined districts	1943	....	....	18·68	11·44	29·47
England and Wales	1943	....	....	16·5	12·1	49·0
Combined districts	1944	....	....	17·75	11·52	29·96
England and Wales	1944	....	....	17·6	11·6	46·0

These figures have remained remarkably constant for the past three years. There is a slight drop in the birth rate this year but the general death and infantile mortality rates remain almost the same as the previous two years.

The figures continue to bear favourable comparison with those of England and Wales.

STATISTICAL TABLE

The following Table shows the comparative birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the years 1939-1944 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

The first comparability factors are still in suspension by the Ministry of Health, and the death rates shown in the statistics for the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 are therefore the reported rates only.

Year	England and Wales	Combined Districts	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Death Rate
1939	13.8	11.1	15.2	20.0	25.2
1940	13.0	12.1	20.0	25.0	30.0
1941	12.0	11.0	21.1	25.0	31.1
1942	14.0	14.3	22.0	25.0	32.0
1943	13.2	11.8	25.2	20.0	35.2
1944	14.2	12.0	20.0	20.0	30.0
1945	16.4	11.7	20.0	20.0	30.0
1946	13.8	11.6	19.0	20.0	29.0
1947	18.08	11.44	20.47	20.0	30.47
1948	16.2	12.1	29.0	20.0	39.0
1949	17.75	11.22	20.00	20.00	30.00
1950	17.6	11.0	20.0	20.0	30.0

These figures have remained remarkably constant for the past three years. There is a slight drop in the birth rate this year but the general death and infantile mortality rates remain almost the same as the previous two years.

The figures continue to bear favourable comparison with those of England and Wales.

BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED 1944	.....	20,850
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	.....	41,151 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	.....	5,890
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	.....	3.5
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	.....	£434
RATEABLE VALUE	.....	£106,170

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	.....	P. M. WILLCOX, Esq., J.P.
<i>Chairman of the Sanitary Committee</i>	.....	T. L. FREEMAN, Esq.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	.....	C. C. AXFORD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	.....	H. C. L. MORRIS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
<i>Health Department Clerk</i>	.....	MISS TENNANT

Council Offices :
9 Royal Crescent, Bath.

Telephone : BATH 4283 /4
 2822
 3028

Health Dept. : BATH 5789

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 379.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	188	159	347
Illegitimate	21	11	32
	209	170	379

STILL BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	5	8
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	3	6	9

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1944	16.98
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	23.20
Death Rate, rate per 1000 estimated average population	11.16

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	34.30
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	37.46
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
" " Other puerperal causes	Nil
" " Cancer (all ages)	44
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 249, 139 males and 110 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	1	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
Influenza.....	3	1	4
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	1	—	1
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	1	5	6
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	4	3	7
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	12	16	28
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	18	16	34
Heart disease	33	34	67
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	6	13
Bronchitis	11	3	14
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Other respiratory diseases	3	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	3	1	4
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases	4	1	5
Nephritis.....	7	2	9
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	2	3
Congenital malformation, birth injury	3	2	5
Suicide	1	—	1
Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
Other violent causes	4	—	4
All other causes	12	7	19
	139	110	249

Deaths under One year of age

There were 14 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 8 males and 6 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	....	5	1—4 weeks	....	5
1—6 months	....	2	6—12 months	....	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	34	31	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	—
Measles	8	1	—
Whooping Cough	24	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—
Pneumonia	7	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
	82	37	2

TUBERCULOSIS

26 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 21 male and 5 female. Four cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, one male and three female.

	Total Cases notified	Total Deaths
Respiratory	26*	7
Non-respiratory	4	1

* 2 Army.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Bathavon and Keynsham Tuberculosis Care Committee continues its good work under the chairmanship of Miss Date.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

Details of the water supplies of the various Parishes are given hereunder :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>By whom supplied</i>	<i>Percentage of houses with water laid on</i>	<i>Percentage served with standpipes</i>	
Bathampton	R.D.C. and Bath Corp.	95%	1%	Chlorinated
Batheaston	Bath Corp.	97%	—	„
Bathford	R.D.C.	86%	14%	„
Camerton	R.D.C.	58%	40%	„
Charlcombe	Bath Corp.	47%	—	„
Claverton	Combe Down Water Co. & Estate supply	81%	—	„
Compton Dando	Private	20%	4%	Unchlorinated
Combe Hay	Private	7%	—	„
Corston	Part West Glos. Water Co., part private	18%	72%	Part Chlor. „ Unchlor.
Dunkerton	R.D.C.	42%	18%	Chlorinated
Englishcombe	Combe Down Water Co. & private	37%	—	„
Freshford	Combe Down Water Co.	86%	10%	„
Hinton Charterhouse	R.D.C.	69%	14%	„
Kelston	Private	87%	—	Unchlorinated
Marksbury	R.D.C.	9%	51%	Chlorinated
Monkton Combe	Part Combe Down Water Co., part private	97%	—	Part Chlor. „ Unchlor.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>By whom supplied</i>	<i>Percentage of houses with water laid on</i>	<i>Percentage served with standpipes</i>	
Newton St. Loe	Private	19%	14%	Unchlorinated
Northstoke	Part R.D.C. Part private	38%	61%	"
Priston	Priston Water Supply Co.	9%	76%	Unchlorinated
Southstoke	Combe Down Water Co.	91%	—	Chlorinated
St. Catherine	Bath Corp.	38%	—	"
Swainswick	R.D.C. and Bath Corp.	94%	—	Part Chlor. " Unchlor.
Wellow	R.D.C.	80%	11%	Part Chlor. " Unchlor.
Weston	Bath Corp.	96%	4%	Chlorinated.
Whitchurch	West. Gos. Water Co.	97%	—	"

The statutory water undertakers gave the parts of the district served by them a constant supply. The quarterly samples from these supplies showed no evidence of contamination.

The exceptionally dry summer affected a number of the private supplies and also some of the district council water supplies. Difficulties were experienced at Bathford, Bathampton, Wellow, Newton St. Loe and Stanton Prior. At the first three parishes named the supply was insufficient to maintain a constant supply and the water was turned off at night. At Bathford alterations have been carried out to the spring to increase the yield and at Bathampton and Wellow the Council are preparing schemes to bring additional water to the parishes.

The other two parishes have an estate supply and here the National Fire Service gave valuable assistance in keeping filled emergency tanks which the Council supplied at various points in the villages. At the time of writing the Council are in negotiation with the West Gloucester Water Company with a view to extending their mains into various parts of the district in which these two parishes are included.

The purity of the supplies both private and those of the Council have been maintained with the exception of Bathford and Wellow. At Bathford following the receipt of a bad analysis it was dis-

covered that a supplementary supply we were taking from a Government department to augment the village supply was impure owing to insufficient chlorination. This was duly rectified.

At Wellow a bad analysis was received during a period of heavy rainfall. This supply is obtained from a number of small springs and before the faulty spring could be traced a satisfactory analysis was received.

Water supplies throughout the district are invariably hard and therefore no difficulties with plumbo solvent action are experienced.

SEWERAGE

The sewers in the district have functioned satisfactorily. The Council have as yet been unable to undertake any of the badly needed sewer extensions, etc., or the reconstruction of the Wellow sewage works mentioned in the report of last year.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse is collected by the Council's own three lorries, two of which are *Karrier Bantam* refuse collection vehicles and the other a three-ton *Bedford* lorry which is used in the more rural parts of the district. Eight men are employed on these lorries. The refuse is removed from all but two villages and salvage from all the villages. The frequency of collection varies from fortnightly to quarterly according to the density of population. In most parishes the refuse and salvage is collected at the same time but in a few of the smaller villages the salvage is collected from central dumps. Salvage is conveyed by means of covered trailers and during the year 166 tons were collected and sold for £1,011. The refuse is disposed of in disused quarries.

HOUSING

The Council have made good progress in the preliminary work in connection with their post-war housing scheme.

Twelve sites have been acquired to accommodate approximately 312 houses and negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of a further 12 sites to accommodate approximately 230 houses. The Council were in possession, at the outbreak of hostilities, of 9 sites to accommodate 93 houses.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :

By the local authority	..... Nil
By other bodies or persons without State assistance	..... 1

HOUSING INSPECTIONS :—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	441
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	290
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	76

MILK

The number of Producers on the Register was 269. There were 39 farms producing Accredited milk and 16 farms producing Tuberculin Tested. One licence to bottle Pasteurised milk was issued by the Council.

Examination of milk samples is carried out by the County Council. 92 Accredited, 43 Tuberculin Tested and 14 samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli were submitted for examination. Where unsatisfactory results were obtained the matter was followed up by both the Sanitary Inspector and the County Council.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The 11 slaughterhouses in the district are not in use owing to the Government scheme of centralised slaughtering.

During inspections made at retail shops the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

60 lbs. of Oranges
27 lbs. of Meat
23 tins of Meat Products
62 tins of Milk
50 tins of Fish
11 tins of Vegetables
6 tins of Jam

FOOD PREMISES

Routine visits to bakehouses and food premises have been maintained during the year and no difficulty has been experienced in getting our requirements carried out. There are no underground bakehouses in the area.

GENERAL

Rats and Mice. This Rural District was combined with Bath City Corporation to form a workable area for the waging of the rat destruction campaign initiated by the Ministry of Food. The preliminary survey showed that there were no major infestations and subsequent detailed surveys and advertisements showed that rats were present in most parts of the district but only in a minor degree. The staff of the Somerset War Agricultural Committee dealt with agricultural premises, close liaison with this Council being maintained. The Rodent Officers of this Council dealt with sewers, refuse tips, business premises and private houses. The sewers were found to be practically free from rats owing to the fact that they are almost without exception of comparatively recent construction, thus affording little access or harbourage.

Vermin. Two cases of bed bugs and two cases of flea infestation were brought to the notice of the Inspectors. In each case fumigation of the premises was carried out and the bedding and clothing removed for disinfection.

Infectious disease. The usual enquiries and disinfections were carried out in respect of the cases of infectious disease as reported by the Medical Officer of Health. In the majority of cases the bedding was removed for steam disinfection.

Camping Sites. 16 licences to erect or station and use individual movable dwellings and 4 licences authorising land to be used as camping sites were granted under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The licences are renewable every six months when the conditions are examined before a further licence is issued. The dwellings are chiefly for trailer caravans.

Smoke Abatement. We have had no trouble in any way with smoke arising from chimneys and it has therefore not been necessary for any action to be taken.

There are no public swimming pools or common lodging houses in the district.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in use in the district.

Council Offices: Keynsham.

Telephone: KEYNSHAM 25113.

GENERAL

Rats and Mice. This Rural District was combined with Bath City Corporation to form a workable area for the waging of the rat destruction campaign initiated by the Ministry of Food. The preliminary survey showed that there were no major infestations and subsequent detailed surveys and advertisements showed that rats were present in most parts of the district but only in a minor degree. The staff of the Somerset War Agricultural Committee dealt with agricultural premises, close liaison with this Council being maintained. The Rodent Officer of this Council dealt with sewers, refuse tips, business premises and private houses. The sewers were found to be practically free from rats owing to the fact that they are almost without exception of comparatively recent construction, thus affording little access or harbourage.

Vermin. Two cases of bed bugs and two cases of flea infestation were brought to the notice of the Inspectors. In each case fumigation of the premises was carried out and the bedding and clothing removed for disinfection. The usual enquiries and disinfections were carried out in respect of the cases of infectious disease as reported by the Medical Officer of Health. In the majority of cases the bedding was removed for steam disinfection.

Camping Sites. It is licensed for street or station and use individual movable dwellings and 4 licences authorising land to be used as camping sites were granted under Sec. 209 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The licences are renewable every six months when the conditions are examined before a further licence is issued. The dwellings are chiefly for trailer caravans and are of good standard.

Smoke Abatement. We have had no trouble in any way with smoke arising from chimneys and it has therefore not been necessary for any action to be taken.

There are no public swimming pools or common lodging houses in the district.

There is one licensed Racket Yard in use in the district.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises have been inspected at intervals and no special measures have been taken. The district has been inspected and no special measures have been taken. The district has been inspected and no special measures have been taken.

KEYNSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED 1944	....	....	....	8,000
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	....	4,170 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	....	2,091
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	....	3.82
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	....	£221
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	....	£52,454

-
- Chairman of the Council* G. E. CHAPPELL, ESQ., J.P.
- Chairman of the Health Committee* A. W. POWELL, ESQ.
- Sanitary Inspector* H. W. ARGILE, M.I.M. & Cy. E.,
A.R.S.I.
- Assistant Sanitary Inspector* D. F. G. LOCKYEAR
(Active Service)

Council Offices : Keynsham.

Telephone : KEYNSHAM 2291 /3.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 128.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	57	66	123
Illegitimate	....	....	....	3	2	5
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
				60	68	128

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	1	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
				2	1	3

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1944	....	....	....	....	....	18.06
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					22.90
Death Rate, rate per 1000 estimated average population						9.31

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	....	31.25
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....				32.52
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births					Nil

Deaths from	Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....	1
„	„ Other puerperal causes	....	....	....	Nil
„	„ Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	11
„	„ Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	Nil
„	„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	Nil
„	„ Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	....	....	....	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 66, 28 males and 38 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	2	—	2
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	3	7
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	6	8
Heart disease	7	8	15
Other diseases of circulatory system	—	—	—
Bronchitis	3	5	8
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	—	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other digestive diseases	—	3	3
Nephritis	—	—	—
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	—	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury	—	2	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents	1	—	1
Other violent causes	1	1	2
All other causes	6	2	8
	28	38	66

Deaths under One year of age

There were 4 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 1 male and 3 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	.... 1	1—4 weeks	.... 2
1—6 months	.... 1	6—12 months	.... Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	4	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	99	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
	122	6	—

TUBERCULOSIS

4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 2 male and 2 female. There were no cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	Total Cases notified	Total Deaths
Respiratory	4	2
Non-respiratory	—	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

KEYNSHAM INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

Everyone concerned with the Centre is to be congratulated on the excellent work which continues to be done there each year. The total attendances showed a reduction on last year's figures chiefly owing to the complete absence in the last six months of the year of the Saltford mothers. This was no doubt due to the considerable distance they have to travel to the Centre and not to any lack of enthusiasm on their part.

	<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	<i>Total</i>
Totals on the Register at the beginning of the year	323	44	16	383
Totals on the Register at the end of the year	321	40	23	384

The attendances for the year were as follows :—

	<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	169	1	—	170
February	166	—	—	166
March	225	2	—	227
April	156	1	—	157
May	148	2	—	150
June	112	2	—	114
July	156	—	12	168
August	181	—	23	204
September	178	—	14	192
October	136	—	7	143
November	192	—	12	204
December	100	—	7	107
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1919	8	75	2002
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Attendances for 1943 :	1942	139	2	2083

KEYNSHAM WAR-TIME NURSERY

The work at the War-time Nursery has continued satisfactorily during 1944.

Miss Green, the nursery school teacher, left in December after a stay of four years and her place was taken by the assistant warden, Miss Ware.

Apart from an epidemic of Whooping Cough during the spring months, there was little infectious disease among the children and the general standard of health was satisfactory.

KEYNSHAM SICK BAY

Hamleaze has continued to prove invaluable as a Sick Bay for the reception and treatment of the type of case for whom home treatment is inadvisable and hospital treatment impossible to secure.

The patients are chiefly children of school and pre-school age but the facilities have now been extended to include members of the National Fire Service as well as transferred war workers and members of the Women's Land Army.

Frequent difficulties were encountered during the year owing to illness among the domestic and nursing staff but the Matron did not allow these to interfere with the general working of the Sick Bay.

Seventy-eight cases were dealt with as follows:—

		<i>Scabies and/or Impetigo</i>	<i>Other Conditions</i>
Under 5	....	22	2
5 — 15....	....	40	5
Over 15	....	4	5
		—	—
		66	12
		—	—

Two members of the National Fire Service and two members of the Women's Land Army received treatment.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

RAINFALL

Month	Station (<i>Total depth in inches</i>)		Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date
	Somerdale	Wellsway		
January	1·69	2·15	0·50	23rd
February	0·58	0·80	0·25	13th & 16th
March	0·33	0·33	0·23	14th
April	2·22	2·29	0·37	20th
May....	0·75	0·74	0·27	16th
June....	2·25	1·83	0·65	26th
July	1·67	2·26	0·48	26th
August	2·58	2·50	0·65	19th
September	3·08	3·52	1·42	3rd
October	4·61	5·24	0·92	17th
November	5·26	5·98	1·25	17th
December	2·20	2·89	1·55	7th
TOTAL	27·22	30·53	—	—

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

With the exception of a few outlying properties all houses are connected to public sewers, the majority of which convey the sewage to the Disposal Works at Unity Road.

These Works are now dealing with a larger daily flow of sewage than that for which they were originally designed, the lowest flow recorded being 98,000 gallons compared with the designed capacity of 90,000 gallons per day. Still the effluent is generally satisfactory.

Much difficulty is experienced in drying off the sludge on the limited area available. In wet periods it is impossible to deal with it, in spite of some small improvements made in 1943, except by re-dosing beds already covered.

Probably the chief trouble is surface water, large quantities of which find entrance to the sewers and reach the Disposal Works where there is no by-pass or storm water tank. In November a flow of over a million gallons was recorded on one day, more than 20 times dry weather flow.

The domestic and trade refuse is collected weekly from the whole of the area by the Council's workmen. It is taken to the Stidham Gravel Pit, sorted for material of value as salvage and the remainder disposed of by controlled tipping.

HOUSING

No new houses have been erected during the year. Regular inspection of houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts has not been possible under war conditions. A number of inspections have been carried out, however, and where necessary the facilities available for the carrying out of urgent repairs have been employed.

The Council have proposals for their first and second year building programme amounting to 268 houses. In connection with the advance preparation of sites, they have joined in the Bristol Group Scheme and tenders are being invited which will include two of the sites at Keynsham.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

There are 24 producers of milk in the area ; 5 of these are also retailers. A number of distributors produce or obtain their milk in rural areas.

Three producers are licensed by the Somerset County Council for the production of tuberculin tested milk and three for accredited milk.

In addition, the District Council have issued the following licences to use special designations :—

- 1 Pasteurised Licence
- 3 Supplementary Licences
- 3 Dealers' Licences.

All premises used as Dairies are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Examination of milk samples is undertaken by the County Analyst and 36 samples of milk of special designations and 6 for examination of tubercle bacilli have been collected by the Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the County Council.

Bakehouses

There are 6 bakehouses situated within the Urban District and all have been satisfactorily maintained.

Food Premises

There are 22 premises registered for the preparation of food. During visits to grocers' and other shops, 1,127 tons of fruit, fish, preserves, etc., were condemned as unfit for food.

Meat, etc.

The three licensed slaughterhouses remain unused owing to the centralised slaughtering scheme of the Ministry of Food.

During visits to butchers' and other shops, 1 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lbs. of meat (including tinned) were condemned as unfit for food.

Rats and Mice Destruction

During the year all complaints of the presence of rats have been followed up by the Sanitary Officers, and satisfactorily dealt with. The Council decided to appoint an Officer specially to deal with infestations, and his first attention will be to the sewers of the district.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

During the year under review, in addition to the new industries brought to the area as a result of the war, the old industries of manufacture of chocolate and cocoa, paper and envelopes, ochre, paint and chemicals continue to employ a fair proportion of the available population.

WATER

Supply

The whole of the Urban District is within the area of supply of the West Gloucestershire Water Company. With the exception of about a dozen scattered houses and a few of the outlying farms, all domestic supplies are taken from the public mains. Two farms were successful in obtaining a supply from the mains during the year.

Quantity and Quality

No complaints have been made as to the quantity of water though pressure is low at the highest parts of the district.

The main complaints as to the quality of the water, relate to its hardness, which varies from about 20 to 23 parts per 100,000. Occasionally complaints are made as to discolouration which at times is quite dark, but this occurs apparently only when the main supply has been shut down for some purpose.

Analysis

As the source of the public supply is some distance outside the area of the Urban District no analysis has been made of the raw water from samples collected by officers of the Urban District Council.

Bacteriological analysis of the water is made quarterly, and all have proved satisfactory and show no contamination. Chemical analysis has been made also, this shows the water to be slightly alkaline with 3.5 to 5 parts per 100,000 of sodium bicarbonate.

Contamination

The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

In one case a sample from a domestic well proved very unsatisfactory. The owner had the well thoroughly cleared out and repaired, and a new suction pipe fitted to the indoor pump, the water was then found to be considerably improved.

Means of Supply

The whole of the supply from public mains is by pipes direct to the houses ; there are no stand pipes.

*Chairman of the General Pur-
poses Committee*

O. L. Seward, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector

A. J. Bell, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

Public Offices, Frome

Telephone : Frome 2348

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The Urban District Council have analysed 6 samples and all have been found to be satisfactory.

Analysis

As the source of the public supply is some distance outside the area of the Urban District no analysis has been made of the raw water from samples collected by officers of the Urban District Council. During the year under review 1,127 samples were analysed.

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During the year under review, in addition to the new industries brought to the area as a result of the war, the old industries of manufacture of chocolate and cocoa, paper and envelopes, acire, paint and chemicals continue to employ a large proportion of the available population.

WATER

Supply

The whole of the Urban District within the area of supply of the West Gloucestershire Water Company. With the exception of a few small farms all the supply is from the public mains. Two farms only obtain their supply from the mains during the year.

FROME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED 1944	....	....	....	13,000
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	....	1,194 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	....	3,082
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	....	4
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	....	£265
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	....	£66,244

Chairman of the Council H. M. SCOTT, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the General Purposes Committee O. L. SEWARD, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector A. I. BELL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone : FROME 2348

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 215.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	98	102	200
Illegitimate	....	....	....	10	5	12
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
				108	107	215
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	3	—	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	—	1
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
				4	—	4
				<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1944						17.92
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births						18.22
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population						13.00

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1000 live births						32.55
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births						30.00
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births						66.67

Deaths from	Puerperal Sepsis					Nil
"	"	Other puerperal causes				Nil
"	"	Cancer (all ages)				25
"	"	Measles (all ages)				Nil
"	"	Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil
"	"	Diarrhoea under 2 years of age				1

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 156, 73 males and 83 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	1	5	6
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	1	—	1
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	3	3	6
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	6	10	16
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	11	9	20
Heart disease	19	13	32
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	—	4
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	1	6	7
Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	1	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	—	6	6
Nephritis	7	2	9
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	—	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Road traffic accidents	—	2	2
Other violent causes	2	3	5
All other causes	7	15	22
	73	83	156

Deaths under One year of age

There were 7 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 2 males and 5 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	.... 1	1—4 weeks	.... 2
1—6 months	.... 4	6—12 months	.... Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	16	6	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	1	—	1
Erysipelas	3	1	—
Food Poisoning	20	—	—
	64	9	6

TUBERCULOSIS

7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 6 male and 1 female. Two cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, both female.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory	7*	2
Non-respiratory	2	1

* 1 Army.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FROME WAR-TIME NURSERY

Medical supervision of the children at the Nursery has been maintained during the year and routine examinations carried out approximately every three months.

The general health of the children continues to be very satisfactory. The Nursery was open for 252 days, the average attendance per session was 27, the highest number at any one session being 43. Total attendances for the year were 6,983.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

The Infant Welfare Centre has continued its good work throughout the year and the interest shown by all is reflected in the increased attendance figures.

The total attendances during the year and the numbers of children on the Register at the end of the year were as follows :—

<i>Age</i>		<i>No. of Children</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Under 1 year	....	135	907
1 — 5 years	....	81	293
		—	—
		216	1200
		—	—

The average attendance for the session was 24.4.

Total attendance for 1943 was 1,124. Average attendance for 1943 was 22.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Milk

Routine inspections of all dairies and cowsheds in the district have been carried out during the year. The general standards of milk production and control have been well maintained. Four producers are licensed by the Somerset County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one to produce Accredited Milk. In addition the Frome Urban District Council have issued one licence to Pasteurise milk, one licence to retail Pasteurised milk and one licence to bottle and retail Tuberculin Tested milk. Samples of Pasteurised milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

Bakehouses

All bakehouses (14) were inspected twice during the year and the requirements as to limewashing, cleanliness, etc., have been well carried out.

Food Premises

All food premises have been visited at least once during the year and particular attention was directed to infestation by rats and mice.

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughtering at the Government slaughterhouse in Merchants Barton continued throughout the year. The slaughterhouse is a "registered" one, *i.e.*, it was in existence at the material date when the provision of the Towns Improvements Clauses Act, 1847, came into operation, and has thus been in use for probably more than a hundred years. It is eminently suited for its original purpose of slaughtering for one butcher, as it is large, lofty, well lit and has excellent accommodation and a field adjoining. It is away from dwelling houses and off a main road. In the past five years, however, all the home-killed meat for the Frome Urban and Rural districts, the Warminster Urban district and part of the Warminster and Westbury Rural district has come from this slaughterhouse, and from time to time carcasses have been sent to London, Bath, Bristol and Trowbridge. Slaughtering is carried out daily from Sunday to Thursday, and, if the necessity arises, on the other two days also. All workers in the slaughterhouse are licensed slaughtermen, and all animals are humanely killed in accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Each morning the carcasses are graded, weighed and allocated, and the carcasses and offals are then transported to the butchers' groups for local allocation. The vehicles in which the meat has been transported have not been satisfactory and occasionally, after the breakdown of a lorry, meat has been placed in an open lorry and covered with tarpaulins. As a result of complaints to the Ministry of Food at the end of the year certain improvements have taken place and when the new 5-ton lorry is in use the position should be satisfactory.

All the slaughterhouse by-products (except blood) are collected. The inedible offal (surplus gut, udders, etc.) is collected twice weekly. Pending collection it is stored in a garage at the rear of the slaughterhouse. The hides are collected daily and the tripes three times weekly. Various glands are stored in a refrigerator, collected weekly, and used for pharmaceutical preparations.

The drainage of the slaughterhouse is satisfactory and no pollution of the river Frome occurred during the year.

The slaughterhouse is under the control of a Ministry of Food officer, the slaughterhouse manager, and is visited weekly by the Area Slaughterhouse Officer. In addition, the by-products inspector and the Technical Adviser on Meat Inspection make frequent visits.

It is unfortunate that the slaughterhouse is in such close proximity to the Frome Laundry and other factories. By-products, manure, and carcasses are often being loaded or wheeled from the slaughterhouse when factory workers are going to or from work,

but this cannot be avoided. The large population served and the shortage of staff due to slaughtermen being called for other work of national importance has resulted in the slaughterhouse being considerably overworked for several years. Great credit is due to the staff for its sustained continuous effort.

It is to be hoped that if centralised slaughtering continues in post-war years, more suitable premises will be available throughout the country. The provision of abattoirs by local authorities is a desirable Public Health reform. Despite many disadvantages great work has been done in the various Ministry of Food slaughterhouses. Not the least good has been done by the closing down of many undesirable slaughterhouses in rural areas.

The number of carcasses examined during the year was as follows 2,317 beasts ; 1,171 calves ; 5,841 sheep, and 1,013 pigs.

As a result of these examinations the following carcasses and organs were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption :

Beasts			
Carcases and viscera	(Tuberculosis)	....	73
Forequarters	(Ditto )	....	13
Hindquarters	(Ditto )	....	4
Heads	(Ditto )	....	271
Lungs	(Ditto )	....	376
Livers	(Ditto )	....	152
Mesenteries	(Ditto )	....	51
Carcase and viscera	(Johne's disease)	....	1
Carcases and viscera	(Oedema)	....	3
Carcase and viscera	(Septic pericarditis)	....	1
Forequarters	(Bruising)	....	1
Hindquarters	(Ditto )	....	6
Heads	(Actinomycosis)	....	3
Lungs	(Melanosis)	....	1
Hearts	(Fatty degeneration)	....	2
Livers	(Distomatosis)	....	289
Do., parts of	(Ditto )	....	131
Livers	(Angiomatosis)	....	21
Livers	(Fatty infiltration)	....	2
Liver	(Cysticercus Echinococcus)	....	1
Sheep			
Carcase	(Oedema)	....	1
Carcases	(Multiple abscesses)	....	2
Lungs and livers	(Strongylus rufescens)	....	335
Pigs			
Carcases	(Tuberculosis)	....	6
Carcase	(Erysipelas)	....	1
Heads	(Tuberculosis)	....	12
Plucks	(Ditto )	....	8
Mesenteries	(Ditto )	....	4

Calves

Carcase	....	(Immaturity)	....	....	1
Carcases	....	(Pyæmia)	....	....	3
Carcase	....	(Congenital Tuberculosis)	....	....	1

In addition a considerable amount of food was surrendered as being unfit for human consumption. The very considerable increase in the amount of tinned food of all kinds consumed is indicated by the amount surrendered, but the figures do not necessarily indicate any lessening in the purity and wholesomeness of tinned food. Before the war, quantities of damaged food were returned by retailers to the wholesalers without reference to the local authorities, but with the advent and continuance of rationing and "points values" the inspection and certification of food by sanitary inspectors has increased considerably.

In many cases damaged and dented tins, although harder to sell, were found to be quite fit. All food surrendered was used for animal feeding, the great majority being collected by the Surveyor and mixed with pigs swill boiled at the sewage works and sold to farmers.

The following food was thus dealt with :—

371 tins of meat and meat products
109 tins of fish and fish products
273 tins of fruit and vegetables
175 tins of milk
5 st. of fish
30 lbs. of sausages
1½ tons of oranges

Common Lodging Houses

The two common lodging houses in the town were regularly inspected and were well conducted.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

In addition to the routine disinfection of premises following cases of infectious disease, the arrangements for the disinfection and disinfestation of Army bedding, clothing, etc., were continued and all mattresses and blankets issued under the Government Evacuation Scheme were disinfected before return to store.

Two bug-infested houses were disinfested with satisfactory results.

Housing and Nuisances

It has not been possible under war conditions to maintain the normal standard of housing repairs.

Various nuisances and sanitary defects have been dealt with by informal action and satisfactory results obtained. Two statutory

notices were served. It may be pointed out that all local builders have suffered reduction in staff and this coupled with the shortage of materials, especially timber, militated against the old standard of housing maintenance. During the second six months of the year the majority of builders' men were drafted to London for first-aid repairs, and it was with the greatest difficulty that repairs of even the most essential nature were carried out in Frome.

Whilst no fresh cases of actual overcrowding were brought to light, the number of applications for Council houses increased, and there is no doubt but that, with the close of the war in Europe and the return of many young married serving men and women, the need for accommodation of a reasonable standard allowing for adequate room, good hygienic conditions and family privacy, will be increased.

Since the outbreak of war several houses which were the subject of demolition orders made under the Housing Acts have been in constant occupation, and other houses which would, no doubt, in normal times have been dealt with by the Housing Acts, have also been occupied. These houses have greatly deteriorated and will be appropriately dealt with when the opportunity to carry out the necessary action presents itself.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The town sewers serve practically the whole of the district and with the exception of a few houses on the outskirts, all houses are connected to the sewerage system which conveys sewage to the Outfall Works at Spring Gardens.

The domestic and trade refuse is collected by the Council's staff of workmen twice weekly from the centre of the town and weekly from the rest of the district.

River Pollution

One case of river pollution occurred during the year when a large number of dead fish were found floating down stream. Unfortunately it was not possible to discover the cause of the fish mortality, but inspection of possible sources of pollution was carried out.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Following the Infestation Order, 1943, a survey was made of vermin infested premises which showed four infestations of a major primary type and fourteen infestations of a minor secondary type. During the year most of these infestations were dealt with and work is still being carried on to clear rat and mice infested premises. The Ministry of Food methods of pre-baiting and poisoning with arsenic and zinc phosphide are used.

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FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED 1944	11,500
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	51,933 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	....	3,236
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	....	3½
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	....	£161
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	....	£38,782

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	....	W. M. JONES, ESQ., J.P.
<i>Chairman of the General Purposes Committee</i>	....	W. M. JONES, ESQ., J.P.
<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>	....	H. L. BURT, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., C. Meat & Foods I., C.S.I.E.B. (Lond.)

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: FROME 2625

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 184.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	80	94	174
Illegitimate	....	....	6	4	10
			<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
			86	98	184
			<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

STILL BIRTHS

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	2	7	9
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—	—
			<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
			2	7	9
			<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population,	
mid 1944	18.04
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	46.63
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	12.62

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	21.74
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	22.99
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	1
" " Other puerperal causes	Nil
" " Cancer (all ages)	24
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 129, 62 males and 67 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—	1
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza.....	3	—	3
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	1	1	2
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	1	2	3
Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	9	6	15
Diabetes	—	3	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	4	11	15
Heart disease	18	15	33
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	3	7
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other digestive diseases	—	1	1
Nephritis.....	1	2	3
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury	—	2	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents	1	—	1
Other violent causes	3	1	4
All other causes	8	6	14
	62	67	129

Deaths under One year of age

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 1 male and 4 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	.... 2	1—4 weeks	.... Nil
1—6 months	.... 2	6—12 months	.... 1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	20	12	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
	34	15	6

TUBERCULOSIS

3 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 1 male and 2 female. One case of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified, female.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory	3	2
Non-respiratory	1	Nil

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

District Council Water Supplies (Springs)

The following villages in the district are supplied from the Council's own springs :—

Coleford, Buckland Dinham, Leigh on Mendip, Norton St. Philip, Rode, Beckington, Standerwick, Nunney, Wanstrow.

The following are supplied by the Council from bulk supplies of the adjacent authorities :—

Rodden, Oldford, Spring Gardens, Marston Back Lane, The Mount, Extensions from the Frome Urban District Council's mains.

Upper and Lower Vobster, Hoare's Lane. Extensions from Norton-Radstock U.D.C. mains.

Kilmersdon Common. Extensions from Shepton Mallet U.D.C. main.

Village pump supplies : Faulkland, Laverton, Upton Noble, Rudge, Tytherington.

Private Supplies

The following villages obtain their supply from private systems: Berkley, Elm, Farleigh Hungerford, Tellisford, Hemington, Lullington, Witham Friary, Wolverton.

The village of Kilmersdon is supplied by private agreement from the mains of the Norton-Radstock U.D.C.

The following refers to the principal water supplies :—

COLEFORD. This supply was adequate to meet all needs, until the end of the summer when there was a falling off in the yield of the springs, and a shortage of water was experienced at several of the houses on the higher levels.

The last occasion upon which this was experienced was in 1938.

LEIGH ON MENDIP. The supply to this village was supplemented by an automatic electric pump, which raises water from an additional source, and although the springs fell to a low level, the water available to the village was adequate to meet all demands.

BUCKLAND DINHAM. This supply was again abundant to meet all needs.

NORTON ST. PHILIP, RODE, BECKINGTON AND STANDERWICK REGIONAL SUPPLY. These works which have been in operation just over 7 years have again provided a continuous supply to the area concerned.

Observations which have been kept on the water level in the boreholes, do not indicate any falling back in the water level.

The work of reconstruction of both the borehole pumps which was rendered necessary on account of their breaking down, was

completed in the early part of the year. The total volume of water pumped to the mains during the year was 11 million gallons.

MELLS. The yield of the springs to this supply was sufficient to meet all demands, during the greater part of the year, but the usual shortage of water at high levels was felt during the summer.

Towards the end of the year another small spring was located and piped into the supply.

NUNNEY. The spring to this supply again maintained its constant supply, but the greatly increasing demands made by the number of farms taking their water from this system, showed that at times the demands were in excess of the supply. This was particularly noticeable during hot weather, when the consumption of water by cattle was greatly increased, and additional use was being made of water by farmers for other purposes.

WANSTROW. These springs maintained a supply to the village throughout the year, but the usual summer diminution in the yield was again experienced and caution in the use of water had to be exercised.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS. The sampling of the Council's supplies has been carried out during the year, and the samples submitted to the County Analyst for bacteriological examination. The results showed three of the supplies to be satisfactory and four of the supplies varying from satisfactory to slightly below the standard.

None of the waters showed any liability to plumbo solvent action.

The proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public supplies is approximately two-thirds, and of these by far the greater number have the water laid on direct.

Sewage Disposal

NUNNEY. These works have received regular attention and the two precipitation tanks have been cleaned out each month. The method of emptying them by means of a vacuum lorry, which was adopted during the year, has proved a distinct improvement upon the system of emptying which has been carried out in the past.

RODE. The new sewage disposal works have continued in operation, but the very large and varying quantity of sewage and land water which the plant has to deal with, adversely affects its working.

It is hoped that the time is not too far distant when it may be possible for works to be carried out, which will eliminate the land water now finding its way into the sewer.

COLEFORD. These sewage works have received regular attention and the final effluent from them has been satisfactory.

Refuse Collection

The monthly collection of indestructible house refuse is still being carried out over the whole area, and at Coleford a weekly

collection of all house refuse is made. This work is done by local contractors.

A new site for the tipping of the Coleford refuse had to be found during the year, and the Council have secured on lease a suitable piece of land near the village.

Salvage

A considerable amount of work has been entailed in carrying out the arrangements for the salvaging of waste paper, etc. As the Council have no staff of their own the collection has had to be done on a voluntary basis, and a lorry engaged monthly to pick up at the village dumps, for transport to a central depot where a man is engaged on the job of sorting and baling.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Activities in regard to this matter have been considerably stimulated during the year, and at the instigation of the Ministry of Food, a workable area was formulated and operatives appointed to carry out the destruction of rats in the area, other than those at farms, which were being dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Surveys and reports were made in connection with the presence of rats upon premises and a number of interviews were held during the year with rat officers from the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Agriculture. Attendances were made at courses of instruction, conferences and monthly meetings in connection with this problem.

Eradication of Bugs

One case of bug infestation was reported during the year, but upon investigation no evidence of the presence of bugs was observed.

As a precaution, however, the house was treated and subsequent inquiries have revealed no further complaints.

Milk supply

Visits of inspection to farms and dairies were made during the year, and informal action taken where necessary was sufficient to deal with all matters arising.

At the end of the year there were 79 Accredited and 25 Tuberculin Tested Producers on the Register.

Number of Producers on the Register, 386.

Number of Distributors on the Register :—

(a) Distributors only, 1

(b) Distributors who are also Producers, 113

Number of Licensed Milk Producers :—

Supplementary Pasteurising, 1.

Food Premises

All food premises have been visited during the year and supervision exercised in the methods of handling and preparation of foodstuffs. The following tinned foodstuffs were examined and condemned :—

- 18 tins of Milk
- 17 tins of Meat and Meat Products
- 7 tins of Fish
- 17 tins of Fruit and Vegetables
- 15 lbs. of Bacon
- 6½ lbs. of Cheese

Food Decontamination

The arrangements made for dealing with this emergency were continued during the year.

Housing

In this connection the Council have adopted a post-war programme to build 500 houses, and sites have been chosen and layout plans prepared for the carrying into effect of the first part of this programme.

Under the Public Health and Housing Acts all matters arising from Housing defects and nuisances have been satisfactorily dealt with.

One new bungalow was completed during the year and four houses for Agricultural workers.

Twenty-nine houses and premises were surveyed and recorded owing to damage from air raids.

River Pollution

Several straw pulping plants have been set up by farmers during the year, and in all cases inspection has been made and consideration given to the possibility of pollution of streams, before they have been approved.

General

After a somewhat extended period of absence through ill-health the Council decided to terminate the appointment of Mr. V. C. S. Robey, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and owing to the great shortage of suitable candidates for this post, it was decided to advertise for unqualified help and to this post Mr. J. F. Summers was appointed.

I wish to express my appreciation of the invaluable assistance he has given me in the work of the department.