

**[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Bebington Borough.**

**Contributors**

Bebington (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1944

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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

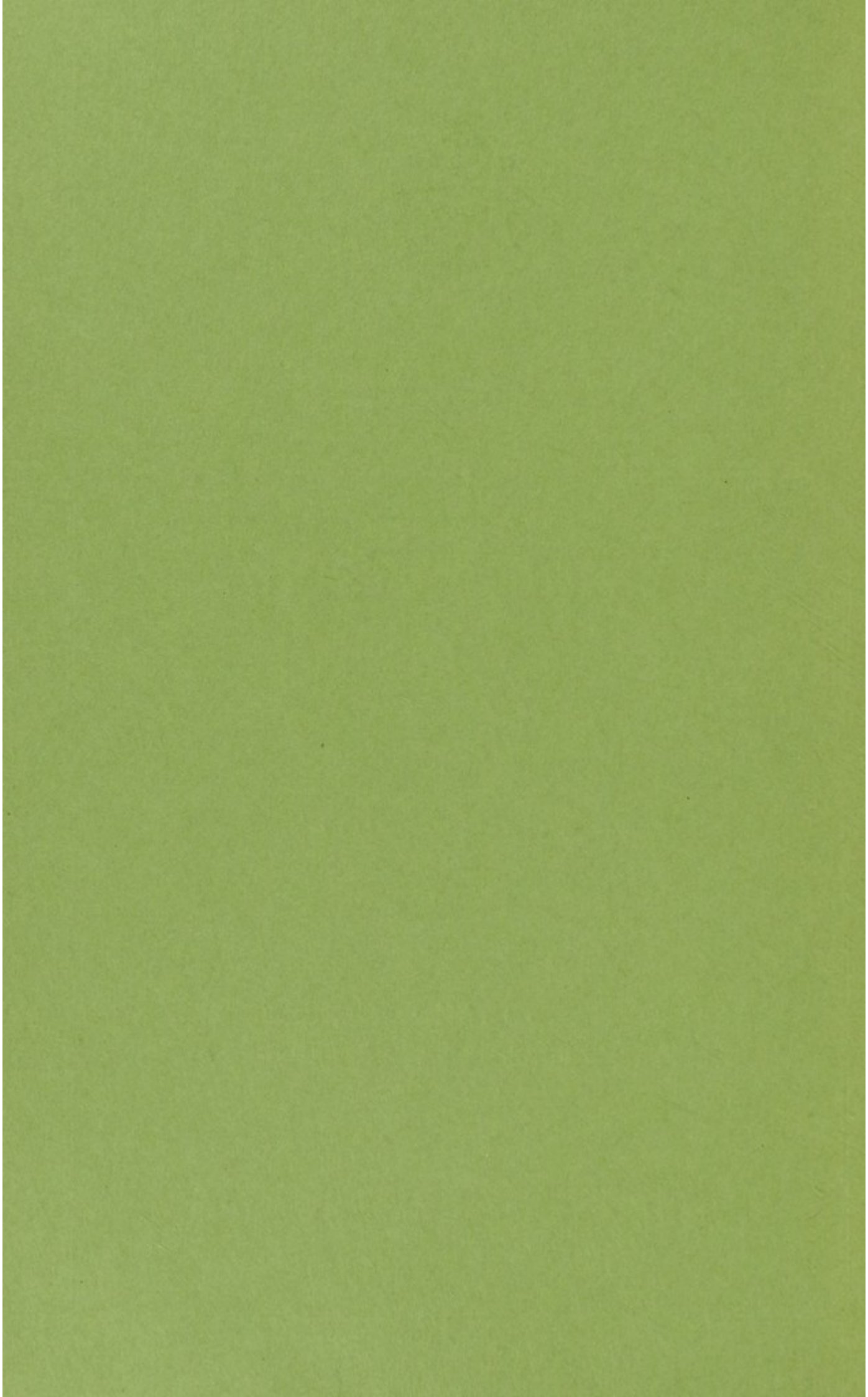
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*Annual Report*  
*of the*  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
for the year 1944

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By D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.).

*Health Department,  
Plymyard,  
Eastham.*







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Plymyard,  
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# *Annual Report, 1944*

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*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Corporation of Bebington.*

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YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my fourth Annual Report for the year 1944.

In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health this Report is again an interim one confined to essential statistics, with notes on certain points of importance in relation to the Public Health of the Borough, which have arisen during the year.

The population of the Borough at my last reporting showed a decrease of 500, and this year shows an increase of 670 and stands at the figure of 41,970.

The Birth Rate for the Borough is still on the increase, and reads for this year 20.41 as opposed to 18.11 and 17.8 for the previous two years and for England and Wales as a whole, which stands at 17.6.

The Death Rate shows a decrease from 11.01 to 10.34 and for England and Wales as a whole, which stands at 11.6.

The Infantile Mortality Rate figure for this year is lower than last year, i.e., 42.00 in place of 62.83, and is also lower than the figure for England and Wales as a whole, which stands at 46.00. •

The Maternal Mortality figure stands at 3.38 as there were 3 deaths registered in the Borough for this year of mothers per 1,000 births (live and still) as opposed to one for the year 1943. The average figure for England and Wales for 1944 is 1.93. As this is



rather an alarming comparison with England and Wales as a whole I show below the 3 emergency conditions which established the figure:—

- (1) Patient aged 34 years, certified as shock following obstructed labour necessitating surgical interference under the administration of an anæsthetic.
- (2) Patient aged 32 years, certified as Ruptured Ectopic Gestation. This is an extremely rare condition and from my own experience of attending an average of 60 births a year for 13 years in General Practice, I never met such a case.
- (3) Patient aged 30 years, certified as shock due to Postpartum Hæmorrhage due to retained Placenta and without quoting National statistics on this cause of Parturient death, I am in a position to say that only one such case occurred in my experience in a specialised family Midwifery practice in 35 years, during which time an average of 130 deliveries were conducted yearly ; and when one realises that these cases of Maternal Mortality occurred in a Specialist Institution, one's only explanation is that Bebington had a most exceptionally unfortunate year.

Regarding the scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation, there were 688 children of all ages up to 15 years immunised during the year 1944 (569 under 5 years and 119 over 5 but under 15 years) as compared with the figure of 1,316 for 1943. The figure of 688 children immunised during 1944 includes 514 children of all ages immunised at Clinics during the year by your Medical Officer of Health, and so far as records show 58 children were immunised by private doctors. These figures show a drop of practically 600 on the immunisations performed as compared with last year. I consider this is due to the fact that such a large number of children having been immunised during the last four years that now we are beginning to see only those children produced yearly coming forward for immunisation. It will be noted that it was only necessary to hold eight school sessions for immunisation during 1944.

Regarding Infectious and Contagious diseases, there are no outstanding figures to quote, nor was there any form of local epidemic.



In continuation of the work under the Scabies Order, 1941, treatment at the Civil Defence Cleansing Centres at Brackenwood and Plymyard was still afforded for this complaint. During the year 1944, 221 cases were treated and 861 treatments given. These treatments have been carried out voluntarily by the Civil Defence whole-time and part-time personnel of the First Aid Post, Brackenwood and the Mobile Unit, Plymyard. At the time of making this report the Civil Defence personnel are no longer available at Brackenwood for Scabies treatment. With regard to Plymyard, which contains a battery of six baths in cubicles, treatment of this complaint is now covered by the temporary services, on a part-time sessional basis, by a State Registered Nurse, who has had several years' experience at both Scabies Cleansing Stations in Bebington. The Local Authority is about to consider the permanency of this arrangement and I feel certain they will agree to this nursing supply being increased should circumstances demand it. You will note the above-mentioned figures show a decrease from 1943, i.e., 41 cases and 796 treatments less than for the year 1943. This is a definite step in the right direction and at the time of going to press I hope with the cessation of hostilities and subsequent demobilisation that the Borough of Bebington does not suffer an increase of cases carried from the Continent, which can only be prevented by efficient delousing and disinfestation of troops proceeding on leave or discharge from the Services.

Swabs for Diphtheria continued to be taken by this department, and during the year 1944, 157 swabs were recorded.

### **Infestation by Head Lice.**

The steps taken to combat this type of infestation remained the same as my report for 1943 and are as follows:—

Combs were obtained as prescribed for purchase or loan, as was a supply of Lethane Hair Oil, which was distributed to the parents or guardians of cases requiring treatment. The Matrons and Staff of the two Wartime Nurseries were similarly advised and supplied with combs and oil. Daily inspections were made in the Wartime Nurseries of all the children from a cleanliness and lice infestation point of view, and cases requiring treatment were attended to by the Staff. Where



it was found that no attention was paid to the efforts of the Staff in keeping the heads clean by the parents, the Committee agreed that the Town Clerk write to the parents concerned in strong terms warning them that their Children would be excluded from the Wartime Nursery if they persisted in non-collaboration in maintaining the children in a state of cleanliness and free from infestation. The Health Visitors on their rounds of visits pay particular attention to this subject and in many cases treat it as well as demonstrate how to treat it to the parents.

### **Illegitimate Children.**

The illegitimate births during the last three years are as follows:—

1942	....	....	....	....	....	37
1943	....	....	....	....	....	43
1944	....	....	....	....	....	51

The totals of Live and Still illegitimate births for the year 1944 appear in the body of the report in the appropriate table.

It will be noted that during these three years the illegitimate births have increased and up to the age of five years of course these births throw a greater responsibility on to the Child Life Protection Officer and the Health Visiting Staff; and one can only hope with the advent of Peace that these figures will show a marked decrease in the next Annual Report. In considering the problem of the future of these illegitimate children one must not forget the problems, anxieties and difficulties of the unmarried mother for which unfortunate women Government and Municipal added provisions were visualised at the recent Maternity and Child Welfare Conference which I attended, and such establishments as humanely supervised Hostels combined with Nursery facilities were discussed from the point of view of a necessary provision for the future and whilst considering the future care of the young children where the mothers must work to help to maintain them, or supplement a Government pension, we must keep in front of us some form of facilities where the young War-widow may reside herself or place her young children during her working hours.



### **Premature Infants.**

There were four Premature births during 1944 as compared with seven for the year 1943. With the establishment of Peace, and the expectant mother's mind now being clear of all Wartime risks and anxieties, and the hope for more necessary nourishment of pre-War available feeding in quality and quantity, and the re-establishment of home life by the return of husbands, one may reasonably expect that in the next Annual Report there will be a further decrease in the number of Premature infants.

Regarding Wartime Nursery activities in the Borough these continued to flourish and at the time of going to Press, as indicated in other interim reports to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, I sincerely hope that such Nursery School activities will continue in the Borough's afforded services, possibly under some different title. I have had numerous letters of appreciation from mothers during the years in which these Wartime Nurseries have been available, but I will not labour this report with the '100 and one' reasons why Nursery and Nursery School activities should become a part of all Municipality Services as to the thinking person who will consider the many difficult years ahead for both mothers and children, any argument against maintaining these Institutions is absurd.

### **Water Supply.**

Regarding the Water Supply of the Borough of Bebington upon which I have been instructed to report by the Ministry of Health, I have collaborated with C. Hardman, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., F.G.S., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board and we are in mutual agreement with the following report:—

The water is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board from three sources, i.e., Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and is obtained by pumping from deep Wells, Bores and Adits through the installation of steam and electrically-driven machinery. The water contains much Lime and the following remarks are identical with those contained in my report for 1943, as so far the West Cheshire Water Board has not been able to revert to its pre-War softening standards; in the case of Prenton to 13.5 p.p. 100,000 before it is distributed, but



owing to present conditions, softening operations are suspended pro-tem and sterilisation by chloramination is carried out. In Hooton the water is filtered by Candy pressure process for the removal of a slight trace of iron, and is then softened to 13.5 p.p. 100,000 by a base exchange softening process followed by simple chlorination. In Mouldsworth in normal times the water is softened to about 13.5 p.p. 100,000 but owing to present conditions, softening operations are reduced pro-tem and the water is softened from about 30.5 to 25.5 p.p. 100,000 followed by sterilisation by chloramination.

The pH reaction from each source of supply continues to remain within the limits on an average of 7.0 to 7.4 and is non-Plumbo Solvent. The samples from the various sources are bright in appearance, most frequently neutral in reaction and free from Iron and other metals with the exception of the supply from Mouldsworth Pumping Station which shows a negligible trace of Iron. All three sources produce a pure and wholesome water suitable for the Public supply purposes.

Twenty-four witnessed and certified analyses were submitted by the West Cheshire Water Board to my department during the year 1944.

During the year 1944 there have not been any independent samples of water collected by the Local Authority for independent analysis.

There still remains the one house in the Borough of Bebington which is not supplied directly with water, i.e., Mr. E. Williams, George Croft Bungalow, who obtains his supply of water from Rakehouse Farm, in Bromborough Rake, which is 250 yards distance from his premises. He carries the water in an open receptacle sufficient for his daily needs, and this supply is augmented by rain water for washing purposes. He does not store water on his premises, and his sanitary accommodation is of the conservancy type.

There is one house in the Borough depending on a stand pipe supply and this is owned by the Council.



The furring of water pipes due to the large amount of lime in the water is not causing trouble in the mains, but causes furring in domestic premises when water is boiled and lime released.

This furring of course is experienced in the older properties or where plumbing faults are encountered.

In conclusion I acknowledge my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Lighting Committee and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for their help and constructive interest. I continue to receive willing co-operation from my colleagues in all departments to whom I express my appreciation, and specially must I thank the Staff of the Public Health department for their continued loyal support in the general conscientiousness with which they have carried out their work under Wartime difficulties, and I also wish to express my appreciation of the extra time they have given ungrudgingly on so many occasions. For some few months before this report went to Press the Maternity and Child Welfare Department has been without the available collaboration and service of Alderman Mrs. E. Caine, M.B.E., J.P., owing to illness and I have not had the usual advantage of discussing matters of a Maternity and Child Welfare nature with her before they appeared in my report. I am glad, however, to state that I have every hope of welcoming Mrs. Caine back in her usual active capacity and feel that I can do no less than pay her tribute by stating how seriously I have missed her friendly collaboration and advice during her period of absence.

I am, Your Worship, Aldermen, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.



## *PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.*

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Medical Officer of Health : D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. (Edin.), R.F.P.S. (Edin. & Glas.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector: E. V. CRAPPER.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

E. M. DUTTON.

A. DAVIDSON (With H.M. Forces).

W. H. THOMPSON.

C. CROWCROFT (Temporary Meat Inspector).

One van driver.

One drain tester.

One disinfecter.

### **Clerical Staff.**

Managing Clerk : G. HALLIWELL (with H.M. Forces—Missing).

Acting Managing Clerk: Mrs. D. E. MURDOCK (née HOSKER).

Three Shorthand Typists.

One Telephonist.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare Staff.**

Senior Health Visitor and Child Life Protection Officer :

Mrs. V. R. BLADES (née ELLERINGTON).

Three Assistant Health Visitors : Miss FAWCETT.

Miss SEARCH.

Miss NICHOLSON.

One Shorthand Typist.      One Junior Clerkess (Vitamins, etc.).

Dr. J. B. Yeoman continued to deputise in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health. Dr. W. Mayne Farr acted in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health as deputy for Civil Defence Services.

### **Consultants.**

Orthopædic Surgeon : T. HARTLEY MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B. (L'pool)  
(now deceased).

Mr. MARTIN's appointment has been filled with the approval of the Bebington and County Council by Dr. J. A. GILLET, Senior Medical Officer Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, Leasowe.

Gynæcologist : MORRIS DATNOW, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Aural Surgeon : PHILIP GARSON, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.L.O.

Ophthalmic Surgeon : ERNEST ALLAN, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.).

Pathologist : J. MORRISON RITCHIE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Glas.), (Birkenhead Municipal Laboratory).



### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) .....	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (Mid-Year, 1944)....	41,970
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1944) ....	12,308
Rateable Value ....	£364,591
Product of a Penny Rate ....	£1,480

### Births.

Number of Live Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate .....	416	392	808
Illegitimate .....	21	28	49
Total .....	437	420	857

Number of Still Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate .....	10	15	25
Illegitimate .....	2	—	2
Total .....	12	15	27

Total Number of Births (Live and Still) :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
449	435	884

### Deaths.

Male.	Female.	Total.
220	214	434

## Deaths from :—

Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....	....	....	—
Other Puerperal Causes	....	....	....	....	....	—
All Puerperal Causes....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	....	....	....	....	....	—
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	—
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	—
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	—
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....	....	4
Cancer	....	....	....	....	....	74
Deaths due to Enemy Action	....	....	....	....	....	—
All other Violent Causes	....	....	....	....	....	14

## Deaths (under 1 year) :—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	....	....	20	....	11	....	31
Illegitimate	....	....	—	....	5	....	5
Total	....	....	20	....	16	....	36

## Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1944.

				England and Wales. (inc. London). 1931 Census).				148 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000)
				Bebington, and Wales. (inc. London). 1931 Census).				
				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	....	....	20.41	....	17.6	....	20.3	.... 20.9
Still Births	....	....	0.64	....	.05	....	0.64	.... 0.61
DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)	....	....	10.34	....	11.6	....	13.7	.... 12.4
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	—	....	—	....	—	....	—	.... —
Smallpox	....	....	—	....	—	....	—	.... —
Measles	....	....	0.00	....	0.01	....	0.01	.... 0.01
Scarlet Fever	....	....	0.00	....	0.00	....	0.00	.... 0.00
Whooping Cough	....	....	0.00	....	0.03	....	0.03	.... 0.02
Diphtheria	....	....	0.00	....	0.02	....	0.03	.... 0.03
Influenza	....	....	0.04	....	0.12	....	0.10	.... 0.11



## Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths under 1 year of age	42.00	....	46.0	....	52.0	....	44.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	....	....	4.6	....	4.8	....	7.3
							4.4

## Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).

## Maternal Mortality :—

Abortion with Sepsis	....	—	0.31	Figures not communicated.
Abortion without Sepsis	....	—	0.09	
Puerperal infection	....	—	0.28	
Others	....	....	3.38	1.25
Total	....	....	3.38	1.93

## Death Rate of Infants under 1 Year.

All Infants per 1,000 Total Live Births	....	....	....	42.00
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Total Live Legitimate Births....				38.3

## Comparative Rates.

		Bebington.		Bebington.		England and
		1943.		1944.		Wales. 1944.
Birth Rate (Live Births)	....	18.11	....	20.41	....	17.6
Death Rate	....	11.01	....	10.34	....	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	....	62.83	....	42.00	....	46.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	....	1.27	....	3.38	....	1.93

### Causes of Death.

Based on Registrar General's Short List of Causes of Death.

All Causes.	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	19	13	32
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis... ..	3	4	7
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	4	1	5
9. Influenza... ..	2	—	2
10. Measles ...	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis ...	—	—	—
13m Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus (male)	3	—	3
13f Cancer of Uterus (females) ...	—	3	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum... ..	6	4	10
15. Cancer of Breast ...	—	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	23	30	53
17. Diabetes ...	4	2	6
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	18	21	39
19. Heart Disease ...	59	41	100
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	3	5	8
21. Bronchitis ...	11	12	23
22. Pneumonia ...	8	6	14
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	4	4
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	1	3
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	3	1	4
26. Appendicitis ...	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	5	8
28. Nephritis ...	2	10	12
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis... ..	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes ...	—	3	3
31. Premature Birth ...	3	3	6
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	9	9	18
33. Suicide ...	4	—	4
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	4	—	4
35. Other Violent Causes ...	9	5	14
36. All other Causes ...	17	26	43
TOTAL	220	214	434



### Table of Infantile Mortality.

Year.						Rate per 1,000 Births.
1922	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64.0
1923	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47.2
1924	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43.9
1925	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.0
1926	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68.0
1927	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36.0
1928	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.0
1929	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54.0
1930	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	74.0
1931	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.0
1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55.0
1933	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61.0
1934	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48.0
1935	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.8
1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50.0
1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49.0
1938	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.0
1939	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43.53
1940	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67.2
1941	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52.6
1942	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.07
1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.83
1944	....	....	....	....	....	42.00

(England and Wales, 1944 — 46.00.)

Analysis of the figures is given below :—

Total number of deaths of infants during the twelve months in 1944 was 37. Of the 37, 23 were neo-natal deaths. These were distributed as follows:—

#### Neo-natal Deaths.

Acute Inf. Gangrene	....	....	....	I
Atresia of Jejunum	....	....	....	I
Convulsions	....	....	....	I
Gastro Enteritis	....	....	....	I

Congenital Deformity	....	....	....	2
Prematurity	....	....	....	4
Broncho-Pneumonia	....	....	....	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	....	....	....	2
Intercranial Hæmorrhage Birth Injury	....			1
Asphyxia due to suffocation owing to inattention at birth on account of sudden confinement	....	....	....	1
Inanition	....	....	....	1
Atelectasis of Lung	....	....	....	1
Congenital Debility	....	....	....	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage—Birth Trauma	....			3
				—
				23
				<u>      </u>

The other 14 deaths were caused as follows:—

Broncho-Pneumonia	....	....	....	7
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	....	....	....	1
Marasmus	....	....	....	1
Gastro Enteritis	....	....	....	2
Congenital Hydrocephalus	....	....	....	1
Congenital Heart Disease	....	....	....	1
Intersusception	....	....	....	1
				—
				14
				<u>      </u>

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

The following summary is based upon information and figures supplied by Mrs. V. R. Blades, Senior Health Visitor:—

#### (1) MATERNITY SERVICES.

Consultant Obstetrician—Mr. M. Datnow.



## 1. Ante-Natal Clinic.

Total Sessions held (Mondays and Fridays) ....	81
Number of new cases examined ....	436
Number of cases continuing from previous year	153
Re-examinations ....	2,362
<hr/>	
Total attendances (with re-examinations) ....	2,798
<hr/>	

Average attendances per session—35.

88% of total Births in the Borough attended the Ante-Natal Clinic, as compared with 1943, when 77% attended.

It will be noticed that a definite majority of the mothers still prefer to go into Maternity Hospitals or Maternity Homes, notwithstanding the provision of County Midwives and the tightening of regulations governing the admission of confinement cases to Clatterbridge Hospital.

## 2. Post-Natal Clinic.

Total sessions held ....	12
Number of new cases examined ....	178
Re-examinations ....	16
Referred to Hospital ....	6
Referred to own Doctor ....	11
<hr/>	
Total attendances ....	194
<hr/>	

## (2) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

The County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, together with the Wirral Joint Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge, are both situated in the Borough, but apart from these two Hospitals there is no special provision in the Borough for mothers and babies. The Heathfield Maternity Home was opened during 1944 which to a degree has relieved the pressure on the demand for the County General Hospital Maternity Block.



## (3) HEALTH VISITING.

Changes in the Health Visiting staff were, Miss L. Bate resigned in January to take up duties nearer her home for family reasons and Mrs. F. Davies was appointed as temporary Health Visitor from February to July when Miss Nicholson was appointed whole-time Health Visitor. A trained nurse was engaged in December to visit Measles and Whooping Cough cases and help the District Nurse in cases where necessary.

**Records of Visits Paid by Special Measles Nurse.**

UNDER 5 YEARS.			OVER 5 YEARS.		
Visits to Measles	....	45	Visits to Measles	....	73
Visits to Whooping Cough	....	16	Visits to Whooping Cough	....	10
Visits to Mumps	....	—	Visits to Mumps	....	8
Visits to Chicken Pox	....	1	Visits to Chicken Pox	....	9
Visits to Pneumonia (after Measles)	....	—	Visits to Pneumonia (after Measles)	....	1
Visits to German Measles....	....	—	Visits to German Measles....	....	1
		62			102
		<hr/>			<hr/>

Total Visits: 164.

**Number of Visits Paid.**

To Expectant Mothers (first visits 156)	....	Total Visits	204
To Infants under 1 year (first visits 797)	....	„	1985
To Children between 1-5 years	....	„	2857
To Children under the Infant Life Protection Act	„	„	2
To Measles cases (Health Visitor)	....	„	41
To Whooping Cough cases (Health Visitor)	....	„	88
To special Immunisation visits to children under 5 years	....	„	880
To all other visits, including special non-access clinic visits and supervision visits, etc.	....	„	6175



To Medical Defect visits re Orthopædic, Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat and Dentist ....	190
Number of Clinics attended ....	904
	<hr/>
	13,326
	<hr/>

Special interviews at Centres .... 4,398

#### (4) INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

There have been no cases under the Council's care during the year 1944.

#### (5) CLINICS.

##### Infant Welfare Clinic.

Conducted by Medical Officer of Health.

Total number of Children attending Centres—1,565.

(This is an increase of 126 over the year 1943.)

1,565 children have made 15,684 attendances during the year at the three Centres, and mothers have made attendances totalling 13,908—a grand total of 29,592 attendances.

725 children under one year and 68 over one year attended for the first time in 1944, and 772 children continued their attendances—1,565 children altogether.

##### Attendances for the Year.

Clinic.	New Ferry.	Bromborough.	Hr. Bebington.	Total.
Sessions ....	102	53	47	202
Attendances of Children				
under 1 year ....	5,238	2,939	3,345	11,522
Attendances: Children 1-5	1,912	1,252	1,101	4,265
Attendances: Mothers	6,572	3,615	3,721	13,908
Total attendances—Children and Mothers to all Clinics ....				29,592

##### Medical Consultations at Infant Clinics.

Attendances of Mothers with infants under 1 year ....	540
Attendances of Mothers with children 1-5 years ....	468
	<hr/>
	1,008
	<hr/>

From these consultations :—

72	Children	were	advised	Hospital	treatment.
42	"	"	"	to	attend own Doctor.
34	"	"	"	"	Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.
33	"	"	"	"	Eye Clinic.
40	"	"	"	"	Orthopaedic Clinic.
16	"	"	"	"	District Nurse for treatment.
12	"	"	"	"	Dentist.
104	"	"		referred	for special visits from Health Visitors.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation of children from one year of age is undertaken at all the Centres by the Medical Officer of Health on the same day as he attends the Infant Welfare Centre for consultation with mothers and children.

Children	under	5	years	completely	Immunised	in	1944	....	472
"	"	5	years	partly	Immunised	in	1944	....	49
Children	over	5	years	completely	Immunised	in	1944	....	42
"	"	5	years	partly	Immunised	in	1944	....	16
									<hr/> 514 <hr/>

Attendances	under	5	years	....	....	....	863
"	over	5	years	....	....	....	94
							<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	957 <hr/>

### Dental Treatment.

Under the scheme arranged by the Council, 12 children received treatment during 1944.

### Home Help Services.

One additional Home help was engaged during the year 1944, making two whole-time Home Helps. 19 cases were attended for confinements having booked in advance, and 9 emergency cases were attended, for reasons such as mother ill with young children in the house.



### **Leasowe Hospital for Children.**

There were two children in the Leasowe Hospital during 1944, one having been there for a year and nine months and was discharged in July, 1944. This child's condition was very much improved and was attending the Infant Clinic occasionally to see the Medical Officer of Health. The other child was admitted on the 12th October, 1944 and said to be progressing.

### **Cases Sent into Homes and Hospitals.**

Two children were sent into the West Kirby Convalescent Home. One over 5 years of age was paid for by the Ladies' Voluntary Fund and the other child under 5 years of age was paid for by the Bebington Corporation. Both children enjoyed being in the Home and derived much benefit from their holiday.

### **Babies Home and Hospital, Trinity Road, Hoylake.**

One baby was sent into the home and stayed six weeks on account of its mother being ill and requiring rest in bed for several weeks.

### **Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby.**

One mother went into the Home and remained three weeks owing to a Heart condition and general debility after the birth of twins.

### **Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.**

Surgeon: Mr. Philip Garson.

Total number of sessions	....	....	....	11
Total attendances	....	....	....	90
Number of new cases seen	....	....	....	40
Number of re-examinations	....	....	....	50

42 cases referred to Health Visitors for special home visits.

17 „ „ „ own Doctor.

15 „ „ „ School Clinic.

22 cases discharged.

### Eye Clinic.

Surgeon: Mr. Ernest Allan.

Total number of sessions	....	....	....	9
Total attendances	....	....	....	113
Number of new cases seen	....	....	....	26
Number of re-examinations	....	....	....	87

8 cases referred for Spectacles.

19 cases referred to school for further treatment (reaching 5 years of age).

2 cases discharged.

### Toddlers' Clinic.

Dr. D. O. Macdonald.

Total number of sessions	....	....	....	7
Total number of children examined....	....	....	....	71

4 cases referred to Hospital.

6 „ „ „ own Doctor.

3 „ „ „ Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

3 „ „ „ Eye Clinic.

2 „ „ „ Orthopædic Clinic.

1 „ „ „ Dentist.

16 „ „ „ Health Visitors for special home visits.

### Routine Inspection at Infant Clinics (Birthday Examinations)

Dr. D. O. Macdonald.

Children 1-2 years	....	....	....	....	64
„ 2-5 „	....	....	....	....	46

### Orthopædic Clinic.

Surgeon: Mr. Hartley Martin (now deceased).

21 monthly sessions were held, at which 109 new cases were seen, and 471 re-examinations were made (an average of 27 cases per session).



These figures are elaborated as follows :

		In Relation to School Age.				
		Under.		Of.		Over.
<b>NEW CASES.</b>						
Non-Tuberculous	....	62	....	47	....	—
Tuberculous	....	—	....	—	....	—
<b>RE-EXAMINATIONS.</b>						
Non-Tuberculous	....	191	....	272	....	1
Tuberculous	....	—	....	4	....	3

Table I shows all cases on the Register grouped into disease and age categories. The number of cases discharged and the reason for discharge are also shown.

Table 1.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	Remaining 1943 In Relation to School Age			New Cases 1944 In Relation to School Age			Remaining 1944 In Relation to School Age			Discharged, 1944					
	Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over	Under	Of	Over	Relieved	Over Age—Relieved	Left District	Refused Treatment	Unsuitable	Died
Infantile Paralysis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spastic Paralysis ...	3	5	—	2	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Rickets ...	2	—	—	4	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous—Osteitis and Arthritis ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Non-Tuberculous Do. ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities—Congenital ...	20	16	1	13	8	—	27	18	—	2	2	—	4	—	—
Do. Acquired ...	61	53	—	39	30	—	80	64	—	1	—	—	17	—	—
Diagnosis ...	5	—	—	4	5	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Totals ...	91	79	1	62	47	—	123	95	—	26	5	2	23	5	—



### Orthopædic After-Care Clinic, 1944.

Visits by Surgeon	....	....	....	....	21
Attendances by Orthopædic Sister	....	....	....	....	20
Attendances by Masseuse	....	....	....	....	109

Non-Tuberculous.						Tuberculous.					
Under School Age.		Of School Age.		Over School Age.		Under School Age.		Of School Age.		Over School Age.	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls

#### NEW CASES.

Surgeon	28	34	26	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Masseuse	5	5	14	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### ATTENDANCES.

Surgeon	128	125	189	131	—	1	—	—	4	—	3	—
Masseuse	132	144	567	514	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DISCHARGES—(See Table I).

### Government Issue of Vitamins.

#### Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices.

Distribution of the above during 1944 to children under five years and expectant mothers at the New Ferry Health Centre and Branch Centres was as follows :—

			Cod Liver Oil.		Orange Juice.		Capsules (Expectant Mothers).
New Ferry—Paid	....	....	1,813	....	16,048	....	620
Free	....	....	49	....	193	....	—
Bromborough—Paid	....	....	1,162	....	9,692	....	167
Free	....	....	11	....	75	....	—
Higher Bebington—Paid	....	....	890	....	7,465	....	106
Free	....	....	15	....	116	....	1

It will be noted that more mothers and children have taken advantage of these Vitamins by the figures this year.

### Analysis of Borough Births.

Total number of notified births for the Borough after deducting the 566 transferable births, was 878. Of these 24 were still born. These births occurred in the Borough Wards as below:—

Park	....	....	....	....	92
New Ferry	....	....	....	....	141
Port Sunlight	....	....	....	....	57
Bebington	....	....	....	....	86
Higher Bebington	....	....	....	....	76
Woodhey	....	....	....	....	125
Poulton	....	....	....	....	47
North Bromborough....	....	....	....	....	68
South Bromborough....	....	....	....	....	80
Eastham	....	....	....	....	106
					<hr/>
					878
					<hr/>
Males (Still-born 11)	....	....	....	....	441
Females (Still-born 13)	....	....	....	....	437
					<hr/>
					878
					<hr/>

Where births occurred:—

At home attended by Midwives and Doctors	....	323
In Clatterbridge Maternity Hospital	....	344
In Hospital or Homes in Birkenhead	....	136
The Garth, Neston (evacuated mothers)	....	6
Liverpool Maternity Hospital	....	8
Liverpool Royal Infirmary	....	2
Heswall Nursing Homes....	....	2
West Kirby Nursing Homes	....	10
Chester Nursing Homes	....	4
Wallasey (Midwife attended)	....	1
Emergency Hospital, Wales	....	2
Heathfield Maternity Home	....	39
Lancashire Nursing Home	....	1
		<hr/>
		878
		<hr/>



88% of the mothers to whom these infants were born had attended the Borough Ante-Natal Clinic.

51.25% of the births were born in Maternity Homes or Hospitals. The gross notified births were 1,444 and transfers out were 566, the majority being from County General Hospital, Clatterbridge and a few from the Heathfield Maternity Home and Nurse Fields' Home to various places in Wirral.

### Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	163	144	—
Diphtheria ... ..	48†	48	1
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	28	28	—
Pneumonia—Acute Primary ...	21*	5	4
"    Acute Influenzal	1	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	11	10	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	5	5	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	3	3	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	6	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	1	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	319	3	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	148	19	—
Chicken Pox (notifiable 18/5 to 17/6/44) ....	100	1	—
Total ... ..	857	276	8

† Of these 48 cases, 8 occurred in the County General Hospital and belonged to an area outside the Bebington Borough.

\* Six nursed at home under the Council's Domiciliary Nursing Scheme.

**Table showing Ward Distribution of Total Cases of Notifiable Diseases, 1944.**

Disease.	Ward.										TOTAL
	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton	
Scarlet Fever ...	14	30	18	19	9	16	12	26	13	6	163
Diphtheria ...	2	2	4	9	2	—	2	1	2	24	48
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	28
Pneumonia ...	3	9	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	22
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	4	11
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5
Opth'lmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Measles ...	35	80	45	27	12	33	36	22	6	23	319
Whooping Cough ...	9	26	31	8	9	5	3	12	19	26	148
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chicken Pox (18/5 to 17/6/45 notifiable) ...	6	19	12	6	2	6	2	4	29	14	100
Totals	69	167	116	70	37	62	55	66	70	141	857

### Tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods					NEW CASES				DEATHS			
					Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..					—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..					—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
5 ... ..					—	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
15 ... ..					7	5	—	—	1	1	1	—
25 ... ..					3	10	1	—	2	5	—	—
35 ... ..					3	5	—	1	2	4	—	1
45 ... ..					4	—	—	—	8	1	—	—
55 ... ..					3	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...					—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Age not known ...					1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...					21	21	2	6	21	12	2	4
					42		8		33		6	
					50				39			



### Sanitary Circumstances.

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the following reports on the Sanitary Inspection of this area :—

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of and Nature of Inspections made	No. of Notices Served		Result of Notice						
	Total for 1944	Informals	Statutory	Outstanding from 1943	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings	Total for 1943	Total for 1942
Dwelling Houses Inspected	648	648	—	372	478	542	6	691	479
Do. re-inspected	1997	—	182	—	—	—	—	1499	1123
Overcrowding ... ..	83	3	—	23	—	—	2	75	23
Offices ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Courts, Passages ... ..	58	2	—	10	4	8	—	10	22
House Drainage ... ..	531	67	12	—	58	9	1	548	642
Privy Middens ... ..	919	337	41	75	302	110	—	831	741
Cesspools ... ..	39	4	—	3	3	4	—	23	12
Ditches, Watercourses ... ..	47	1	—	—	—	1	—	14	18
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	65	4	—	6	2	8	—	69	57
Keeping of Animals ... ..	19	—	—	3	1	2	—	18	40
Slaughterhouses ... ..	633	2	—	—	—	2	—	420	344
Butchers' Shops ... ..	42	1	—	—	1	—	—	72	146
Grocers ... ..	49	—	—	1	1	—	—	53	96
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	44
Other Food Premises ... ..	147	14	7	—	1	13	—	219	172
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
Piggeries ... ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	20
Dairies ... ..	98	—	—	1	1	—	—	79	122
Cowsheds ... ..	251	1	—	2	2	1	—	248	230
Factories ... ..	11	1	—	6	6	1	—	9	20
Workplaces ... ..	38	1	—	6	2	5	—	30	16
Bakehouses ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	11
Smoke Observations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	16
Public Schools ... ..	7	1	—	2	—	3	—	10	9
Private Schools ... ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Places of Entertainment ... ..	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences ... ..	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Licensed Premises ... ..	2	1	—	2	2	1	—	8	4
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	322	—	—	—	—	—	—	568	382
Do. Revisits	221	—	—	—	—	—	—	268	213
Verminous Premises ... ..	224	—	—	—	—	—	—	266	228
Miscellaneous... ..	211	—	—	—	—	—	—	287	198
Appointments outside Office	202	—	—	—	—	—	—	165	241
Totals ...	7433	1089	242	513	855	710	9	6673	5753



### **Housing Act, 1936.**

The following figures relate to work carried out during 1944:—

- 16 Applications have been received for "permitted numbers."
- 10 Existing houses have been measured.
- 31 Visits have been paid to inspect rent book, to enquire into cases of overcrowding, etc.
- 6 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent book the permitted number, etc.
  - 2 Warning letters sent.
  - 1 Prosecution taken.
- 5 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent book the name and address of the M.O.H.
  - 2 Warning letters sent.
- 4 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent book information relating to persons responsible for keeping houses in a reasonable state of repair.
  - 2 Warning letters sent.
  - 1 Prosecution taken.
- 2 Cases of overcrowding abated.
- 4 New Cases of overcrowding.

In reference to the 2 overcrowded families re-housed and involving 7 people, these were dealt with as follows:—

- 1 Re-housed by Private Owner.
- 1 Reduction in family owing to death.

### **Housing Repairs.**

Difficulties were experienced in remedying defects in houses owing to labour shortage and shortage of some materials, and many more visits were required to property before work was completed. A lower standard had to be accepted, but it should be reported that a large number of small items are accumulating through the district which will call for ultimate action, and which will have become major defects by the time proper action can be taken.



### **Licensed Premises.**

Several notices were served for lack of ventilation and defective sanitary conveniences. They were all complied with. Two premises are still without proper toilet accommodation for females. The use of cracked and chipped glasses is far too frequent and methods of cleansing glasses should be dealt with by post-war legislation.

### **Places of Entertainment.**

These are periodically inspected with a view to maintenance of sanitary conveniences in a clean condition and good repair and to the ventilation being adequate.

### **Certificates of Disrepair.**

Two applications were received from tenants for certificates under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, and in each case certificates were granted. At the end of the year both were in force.

### **Work Carried Out in Default.**

16 Sanitary dust bins were supplied in default and the owners charged with the cost.

### **House Drainage.**

16 Smoke tests were applied to house drains.

3 of these were to new buildings or additions to existing buildings.

13 of these were at existing buildings.

91 House drains were cleared by plunging or rodding. This work is carried out free of charge so long as no work of repair is involved. The average time taken is ten minutes per house.

### **Disinfection.**

The following figures relate to verminous premises:—

Rooms treated:—



Council houses (Involving 7 houses owned by the Bebington Council)	....	....	15
Private houses....	....	....	149
Beds disinfected	....	....	94
11 premises were found to be infested with bed bugs.			
5 premises were found to be infested with fleas.*			
35 premises were found to be infested with cockroaches.			
12 premises were found to be infested with ants.			
11 premises were found to be infested with miscellaneous vermin (furniture beetles, woodlice, etc.)			

### Cleansing.

Seven houses were found to be in a filthy or unwholesome condition, but many more were unsatisfactory, and the standard of cleanliness has deteriorated. Whilst it is necessary to serve informal and statutory notices, it will be difficult to adequately deal with this problem.

### Methods of Disinfestation.

All premises infested with vermin are visited by a Sanitary Inspector, who, after inspection decides upon the methods of disinfestation. Bed bugs are usually dealt with by spraying with Zaldecide and steam disinfestation of the bedding. Tenants are advised to place the posts of their beds in tins (old boot polish tins., etc.) filled with paraffin. Owners are invited to co-operate with the Sanitary Department and the tenant, by filling in cracks in wall plaster, removing and/or refitting woodwork.

### Slaughter Houses.

#### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Figs.	Total.
Number killed	2145	2063	2734	18400	186	25528



Ante-mortem inspection, including supervision of humane slaughter...	2145	2063	2734	18400	186	25528
Notice of slaughter received ...	2145	2063	2734	18400	186	25528
Emergency notifications ...	2	29	2	13	4	50
Post-mortem inspection ...	2145	2063	2734	18400	186	25528

#### All Diseases, except T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	45	1	—	2	49
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	125	651	2	—	3	781
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B....	5.87	33.73	.109	—	2.68	3.25

#### Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	3	6	18	—	27
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	313	1328	4	509	—	2154
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	14.59	69.36	.36	2.86	—	8.54

### Food Inspection.

The under-mentioned food was found upon examination to be unsound and unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered :—

1489 tins Meat.	2½ cwt. Prunes.
17 lbs. Luncheon Meat.	15 lbs. Dried Peaches.
124¾ lbs. Bacon.	8 tins Fruit.
30 lbs. Cooked Ham.	3 jars Jam and Marmalade.
5 lbs. Sausage.	127 tins Jam and Marmalade.
14 stone Fish.	187 tins Milk.
400 tins Fish.	5½ lbs. Cheese.
17 tins Soup.	2 lbs. Biscuits.
276 lbs. Tomatoes.	6 lbs. Madeira Cake.
29 tins Vegetables.	11½ doz. packets Yorkshire
877 tins Beans.	Pudding mixture.
35 cases Oranges.	176 lbs. Rice.
37 jars Pickles.	47 lbs. Barley.
9 tins Bournvita.	5 bars Peppermint chocolate.
2 tins Ovaltine.	¾ lb. Liquorice Allsorts.



### **Food Premises.**

These have been inspected as often as it has been found possible to do so, but like other routine visits they have not been so frequent owing to staff difficulties. Special attention has been directed to cleanliness of utensils and premises, to the frequent removal of refuse as well as to the condition of the food exposed for sale.

### **Legal Proceedings.**

Prosecutions were instituted as follows:—

- 1.—Against an owner for failing to comply with notice to carry out repairs under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936.

The Magistrates made an order for the work to be carried out within 14 days.

- 2.—Against an owner for failing to comply with notice to carry out repairs under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936.

As the work had been completed on the date of hearing, the case was dismissed on payment of costs.

- 3.—Against an owner for failing to comply with notice to carry out repairs under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936.

An order was made for the work to be completed within three days and costs to be paid.

- 4 and 5.—Against an owner for failing to comply with notices under Section 39 and 93, P.H.A., 1936.

Orders were made for the work to be completed within 21 days and costs of 10s. 6d. to be paid.

- 6, 7, 8 and 9.—Against an owner for (a) failing to inscribe in the rent book a summary of provisions of Sections 58, 59 and 61, Housing Act, 1936. (b) Failing to state in writing his own interest in a house from which he received rent. (c) Failing to inscribe in a rent book the name and address of the person responsible for repairs. (d) Failing to inscribe in a rent book the name and address of the M.O.H.



Defendant was fined £2 10s. od. and 3s. costs in the first and second cases ; and £1 0s. od. and 3s. costs in the other two cases.

10.—Against a chemist for failing to comply with a notice requiring him to cleanse his premises.

As the work was completed when the case was heard, the Magistrate dismissed it on payment of costs.

11 and 12.—Against an owner (4 and 5) for failing to comply with Magistrates Orders.

Fined 20s. on each count.

### **Supervision of Milk Production.**

#### **Sediment Tests.**

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors continued their efforts to maintain a clean milk supply, and to this end at least one visit was made each week during early morning milking. Sediment testing of milk was continued and again proved useful in demonstrating to the producer on the spot, whether his methods of milking were satisfactory. Forty-two visits were made and a cleanliness percentage of 38.2 resulted, an improvement when compared with the previous year, but lower than other years. Figures since 1937 are as follows:—

1937 ....	No. of tests	254	Cleanliness %	60%
1938 ....	„	160	„	61.2%
1939 ....	„	66	„	61%
1940 ....	„	254	„	61.27%
1941 ....	„	85	„	63.5%
1942 ....	„	104	„	53.46%
1943 ....	„	25	„	31%
1944 ....	„	42	„	38.2%

The reasons for the low percentage during 1943 and 1944 may be summarised as follows:—

1. Labour difficulties.
2. Black-out conditions encouraging milking in poor light where cleanliness of hands, stools, cows' udders and teats, etc., cannot be easily noted.



3. Inspectors have had to concentrate on the producers giving bad results.

Your Inspectors follow-up all unsatisfactory results, give advice to the producers, and continue sampling until good results are obtained.

Souring of milk continued to be a source of complaint, and there is no doubt that the chief reason is the age of the milk. The pooling system and transport delays with churns exposed to the sun for hours and the exposure of milk bottles to the sun on roundsmen's trollies and on customers' doorsteps have all contributed to the conditions complained of.

Pasteurised milk is continually sampled and the following results obtained :—

				Bacteriological Results		
				Number.	Passed.	Failed.
From Schools	....	....	20	....	17	.... 3
From Factory canteens	....	....	5	....	5	.... —
Others	....	....	20	....	13	.... —

The three unsatisfactory samples were from outside the area and the authority and dealers concerned were notified.

### Milk Sampling (Tuberculosis).

The following tables show the result of milk sampling :—

#### Produced Within the Area.

				No. of Samples.	No. T.B.
Commercial Milk	....	....	36	....	1
Accredited Milk	....	....	152	....	5
T.T. Milk	....	....	2	....	—
T.T. Certified Milk	....	....	4	....	—

#### Produced Outside the Area.

Commercial Milk	....	....	4	....	—
Accredited Milk	....	....	2	....	—
T.T. Milk	....	....	2	....	—
Pasteurised	....	....	45	....	—
			<u>247</u>		<u>6</u>



The following figures show the number and result of examinations for T.B. during the past 14 years :—

	No.	T.B.	% T.B.
Commercial Milk ....	1,041	53	5.09
Accredited Milk ....	1,141	83	7.2
T.T. Milk ....	71	—	—
T.T. (Certified) Milk	71	1	1.3
Pasteurised Milk ....	308	—	—
Sterilised Milk ....	21	—	—
Goats Milk ....	1	—	—
	<u>2,654</u>	<u>137</u>	

The Table below shows the number and results of graded milk samples submitted for bacteriological examinations during the year 1944:—

**Produced in Bebington.**

	Number.	Satisfactory.
Accredited Milk ....	96	72
T.T. Milk ....	2	1
T.T. (Certified) ....	4	3
	<u>102</u>	<u>76</u>

**Produced Outside Bebington.**

	Number.	Satisfactory.
Accredited Milk ....	2	2
T.T. Milk ....	2	2
Pasteurised Milk ....	45	35
	<u>49</u>	<u>39</u>

**Mortuary Accommodation.**

The Council have three mortuaries under their jurisdiction, one at New Ferry opposite the Police Station, the second at Jobs Ferry, Eastham, and the third, a temporary mortuary for Air Raid casualties at The Oval, Port Sunlight. A reserve Civil Defence mortuary is available in Rock Ferry. During 1944, 21 bodies were received into the

New Ferry Mortuary. No air raid casualties were received during the year.

Improvements in both the permanent mortuaries have been recommended as part of the post-war developments.

Each of the three mortuaries are cleaned by workmen of this department and are always maintained in a condition fit for immediate use either for the reception of bodies or holding post-mortem examination.

### **Emergency Water Tanks.**

These were all visited from time to time and spraying was carried out where they were found to be in a reasonable clean condition, but where nuisance was likely to occur, for example where decomposing bodies of poultry, etc., were found, arrangements were made for emptying and refilling.

### **Shops Acts.**

As Chief Inspector under the Shops Acts, I have to report as follows :—

Black-out conditions and rationing have done more than any Act of Parliament to ensure the early closing of shops and those few shop-keepers whose desire it was in normal times, to keep open later than others were amongst the general body who had little to sell. Sanitary conditions and hours of employment however were checked and the following defects dealt with:—

Absence of sanitary conveniences ....	....	....	....	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences ....	....	....	....	4
Sanitary conveniences in direct communication with food premises ....	....	....	....	2
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes ....	....	....	....	1
Insufficient washing facilities ....	....	....	....	1
Foul and filthy sanitary conveniences ....	....	....	....	3
Insufficient light ....	....	....	....	1
Serving customers after 1 p.m. on half closing day ....	....	....	....	1



### **Rodent Control.**

A scheme prepared by the County Council and which came into operation on 1st January, 1944, had for its object the greatly increased action to counter the devastation by rats and mice. The Cheshire County Council continue to operate the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 under their existing powers, and the Rats Order, 1940, to such extent as may be required by the Cheshire War Agricultural Executive Committee.

The Ministry of Food directed that the County Council should operate the Infestation Order, 1943, and each of the County Local Authorities was appointed as the County Council's agent to operate the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order in respect of Non-Agricultural land.

Each local authority were requested to appoint a responsible Rats Officer, and this Council appointed your Chief Sanitary Inspector. It was also suggested that one rodent operative per 15,000 to 20,000 population should be appointed and your authority appointed three such rat catchers.

Before commencing work a complete survey of the area was made. Infested areas were inspected and individual premises visited following complaints. Upon being aware of rat or mouse infestation, informal notices were served upon occupiers informing them that they were under an obligation to rid their premises of rats or mice but that the Local Authority would carry out the necessary work if they wished to enter into an agreement.

### **Methods of Control.**

Poisoning was found to be the quickest and most effective method of killing rats and an 85 to 90% kill on first treatment was obtained with the exception of two premises where follow-up treatment gave good results.

Bait of sausage rusk with poison of zinc phosphide was found most effective but where poison with phosphorus had already been

used, we found it was advisable to change to arsenic. Hole baiting, container baiting and surface baiting were all used with good results.

In one instance a rat catcher employed by a local firm was given instructions in the latest methods of rodent control.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out :—

	Reservoir.	Major Primary.	Minor Secondary.	Supervisory Visits by S.I's.
<b>Inspections :</b>				
By Sanitary Inspectors....	108	37	178	—
By Rat Catchers ....	25	29	1,211	—
<b>Re-visits :</b>				
By Sanitary Inspectors ....	7	15	57	—
By Rat Catchers ....	111	88	1,053	—
Supervisory visits by Sanitary Inspectors ....	—	—	—	52
	251	169	2,499	52

Number of complaints received....	....	....	189
Number of complaints investigated	....	....	189

### Type of Visits Made.

Dwellinghouses	....	....	1,719
Factories and Workplaces	....	....	143
Canteens,, Restaurants, Cafes	....	....	82
Offices	....	....	29
Shops	....	....	273
Refuse tips	....	....	112
Sewers and drains....	....	....	301
Non-Agricultural land	....	....	310
Air Raid Shelter	....	....	2
Total ....			2,971



Referred to County Council re agricultural land	....	2
Number of advice notices served	....	207
Number of estimates provided	....	82
Number of contracts signed	....	48
Number of notices served	....	9
Estimated number of rats found during the year 1944....		6,857
Estimated number of rats killed during the year 1944	....	2,732

### **Estimates in Hand.**

62 Contracts for £243 10s. od.

### **Sewer Disinfestation.**

During the year an Order was made by the Ministry of Food requiring the Council to remedy infestation of sewers by rats. We had to deal with 10 sewage disposal plants and every sewer manhole in the area. 1,179 manholes were baited and poison placed in 318. Where "no take" occurred on the first treatment, application for exemption from second treatment was made.

An estimate of £1,190 os. od. was given by your Chief Sanitary Inspector but with the exemptions applied for and granted, the actual cost only worked out at £515 os. od.

As a result of the first treatment it is estimated, by the amount of poison taken, that 515 rats were killed and on the second treatment it is estimated that 25 rats were killed. The heavy cost per rat confirmed your officials' opinion that the baiting of all manholes was unnecessary and that our sewers were not infested generally, being limited to certain areas.





