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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

Annual Report

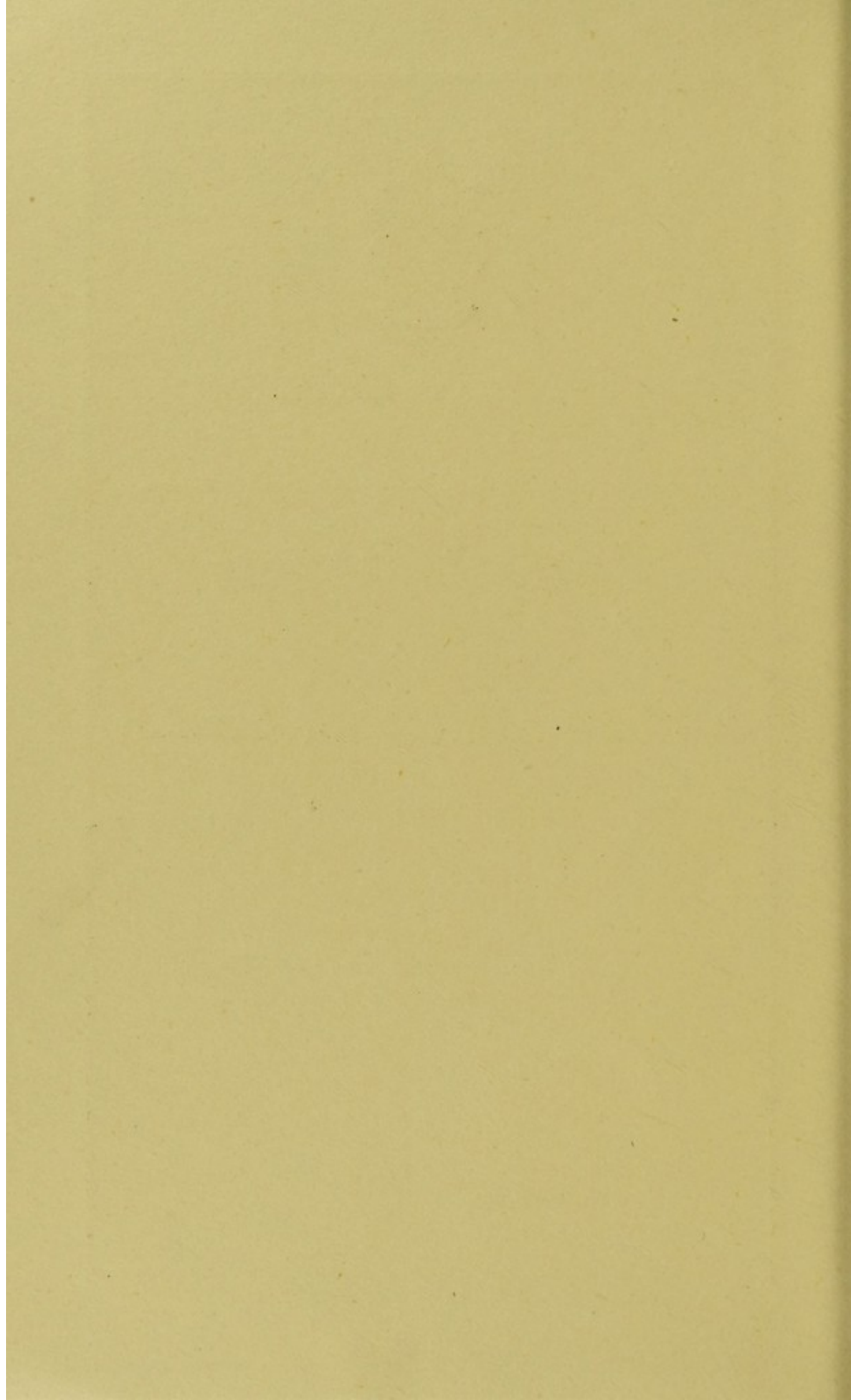
of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1946

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, Cheshire.*





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Eastham, Cheshire.*

Annual Report, 1946

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

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my sixth Annual Report for the year 1946.

The population of the Borough at my last reporting showed an increase of 420, and this year shows the substantial increase of 3,230, making a total of 45,620 (Registrar General's figure). On going to press (August 1947), the latest estimated figure of population is 46,750 (Registrar General).

The live birth rate for the Borough shows an increase for the year at 19.4 per 1,000 of population as compared with 18.3 for Bebington in 1945, and 19.1 for England and Wales in 1946.

The death rate shows an increase for the year at 10.8 per 1,000 as compared with 9.8 in 1945, but is lower than the rate for England and Wales in 1946, namely 11.5.

The Infantile mortality rate again shows an increase. There were 45 deaths of infants under one year, including 32 under one month, making an estimated death rate of 51 per 1,000 live births as compared with 43 for England and Wales for 1946. The causes of death are shown on p. 15, and in the circumstances I think it only proper to give an analysis of the place of death as follows:—Clatterbridge Hospital 31, Birkenhead Hospital 5, Heathfield Nursing Home 3, Liverpool Hospital 1, at own homes 5. Of the 31 deaths at Clatterbridge Hospital 26 were neo-natal. Half the births in which neo-natal death occurred had attended the Council's ante-natal clinics. Deaths through prematurity show a slight decrease as compared with 1945, and the other causes shown call for no comment beyond that their occurrence in no way points to insufficient care.

Maternity Services.

I would draw the attention of the Council to the following tables showing that the average weights of Bebington babies during 1946 and up to June 1947 have remained stable.

1946.			
Jan. to Mar. ...	April to June ...	July to Sep. ...	Oct. to Dec.
7 lbs. 6 ozs.	7 lbs. 5 ozs.	7 lbs. 3½ ozs.	7 lbs. 6 ozs.
1947.			
Jan. to Mar.	...	April to June	
7 lbs. 3½ ozs.		7 lbs. 7½ ozs.	

These figures are of outstanding interest as showing the value of the maternity services afforded, particularly in the light of statistics recently published by a neighbouring school medical authority regarding the under-average and small natural increases in weight, especially in the older boys attending school, which would lead one to believe that the loss of extra food, vitamins, and instruction in the way of life in young people is definitely felt by these boys. In my experience as a whole-time Medical School Officer it is rather the exception than the case that mothers, although invited to do so, make a practice of attending school medical examinations of their boys and girls in the junior and senior schools. The above tables include the weights of boys and girls at birth, and as the average weight for a boy is 7½ lbs. and for a girl 7¼ lbs., and taking into account that the figures include exceptionally small babies of 5 lbs. and occasional sturdy boys up to 9 lbs., it will be agreed that the birth averages shown are very satisfactory. The mothers are to be congratulated on their collaboration and appreciation in taking advantage of the maternity services offered.

Day Nurseries.

On p. 18 I give a table showing the average number of children on the registers and the average attendances during 1946. For some months up to the time of going to press with this Report there has been a steady increase of attendances at both Nurseries, and the averages now show:—

At New Ferry	Register (50)	...	Attendances (40-45).
At Bromborough ...	Register (35)	...	Attendances (20-25).

The increase is probably due (1) to the Nurseries being more widely known; (2) to the necessity for mothers to augment the family income by taking paid employment, owing to the rise in the cost of living; and (3) to the recent encouragement by the Government to married women to resume work.

Child Life Protection.

During the year the Curtis Report was issued, in the light of which it is hoped that the consciences of all authorities connected with the upbringing of children will become more fully alive to the neglect of children which is continually going on even in our midst. (See p. 24).

Premature Infants.

My Department was not called upon to assist in any cases of premature birth, which it will be remembered take place mostly in hospital, but the special equipment recommended by the Ministry is held in readiness at the Health Centre for immediate transfer to any home needing it. (See p. 23).

Adopted Children.

My Health Visitors continue to give every assistance to the recognised Adoption Societies both in preliminary visits of inspection and in regular follow-through visits up to the time when the adoptions are legalised, after which the children come under routine supervision. (See p. 25).

Immunisation.

(a) Under the scheme for **diphtheria immunisation** there were 450 children of all ages up to 15 years immunised by your Medical officer of Health during 1946 (444 under 5 years and 6 over 5 but under 15 years) as compared with the figure of 505 for 1945, and, so far as my records show, 62 children were immunised by private Doctors.

In my report for 1945 I stated that it would be unlikely that there would be much variation from year to year as the intensive immunisation practised during the previous years had covered the infant susceptibles except for the new births, but I find that the figure covering immunisation of the new births is not as high as it should be, as the Health Visitors, through no fault of their own, have not the time to whip up and explain immunisation to the mothers of the one year-olds. With the addition of another Health Visitor appointed in 1947 the immunisation for the new births should be more adequately covered.

(b) The scheme for **whooping cough immunisation** began in October 1945, and by the end of 1946 there were 546 children who had been immunised at the clinics, mostly at the age of one year. There were 73 cases of whooping cough during 1946, and an analysis

of the monthly whooping cough reports (from which are compiled the annual statistics required by the Ministry of Health as a condition of their approval of the service in Bebington) show that of the 73 cases of whooping cough which occurred during 1946 four of the cases had been immunised, one a few months previously at the Clinics by your Medical Officer of Health, and three some years previously by general practitioners who had not used the vaccine which is to-day the general choice, based on the reports received by your Medical Officer of Health from the few authorities offering immunisation against whooping cough. Further, these four cases were reported as being extremely mild, and I am inclined to believe the disease was modified by the immunisation.

A feature of the total cases suffering from whooping cough was their occurrence largely in the 3-6 group, which would appear to indicate their greater susceptibility than the 0-2 group in that they were not submitted for immunisation, neither, generally speaking, were the mothers (as in the case of the 0-2 group) present at the clinics where instruction was given as to the best methods of isolation and segregation.

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., 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. A new borehole is at present in course of being driven into the underlying sandstone bedrock on the existing Hooton Pumping Station site, and boring operations at the time of writing (June 3rd, 1947) have been carried down to 200 feet below the surface, and test pumping will be carried out after a sufficient penetration has been made into the water bearing sandstone rock, which was met at about 150 feet below the surface. The water from the three Pumping Stations contains much lime, and the following remarks are identical with those contained in my report for 1945, 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 Board intend, however, to resume full-scale softening operations at the earliest possible moment.

The pH reaction from our source of supply continues to remain within the limits on an average of 7 to 7.5 as against 7 to 7.4 in my last Report 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 1946.

During the year 1946 no independent analyses of water have been made by this Council of samples provided by the West Cheshire Water Board.

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 Rake House Farm, in Bromborough Rake, and there is one house in the Borough depending on a stand pipe supply and this is owned by the Council.

Infectious Diseases.

(a) Smallpox Outbreak.

It is significant that the outbreak we encountered formed part of a Merseyside outbreak, and that from 9th February to 2nd July, 1946, there were 31 cases admitted to the Port Sanitary Hospital, New Ferry. Of these, seven were landed from troopships (two deaths) ; eleven occurred in the City of Liverpool (two deaths) ; ten in Birkenhead (five deaths) ; and three in Bebington.

The first case was admitted from a troopship on the 18th February. The first Bebington case was taken ill on 19th March, and is presumed to have been infected on 6th March. Detailed inquiries by myself and the Chief Sanitary Inspector failed to elicit any information relative to contact with any suspicious source. The woman lived $5/12$ ths of a mile from the Port Health Hospital and she daily visited a house $1/3$ rd of a mile from the hospital. These visits necessitated passing within $1/12$ th of a mile of the hospital. It may be that the aerial infection of smallpox is now discountenanced, but the occurrence of this disease in our area following the admission of cases to the hospital compels attention.

Dr. C. O. Stallybrass, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, City of Liverpool, in the paper read to the North Western Branch, Society of Medical Officers of Health in September 1946, points out that the death rate in this outbreak was 29 per cent. He states, "In its severest form smallpox is a frightful disease and the management of an outbreak puts a heavy burden of responsibility upon all concerned."

The first Bebington case, a woman of 50 years, was a severe confluent type, and the fact that so many people had been in close contact with her before her illness was diagnosed created a most unusually high number of contacts for my staff to keep under daily observation. Only her husband contracted the disease.

A second outbreak occurred on 9th June when a woman, 24 years of age, was removed to hospital suffering from a moderate attack of smallpox. She lived $5/6$ ths of a mile from the Port Health Hospital. There was no known contact with either our first two cases or with any cases in any other area.

The fact that a ring was drawn round both these outbreaks indicates the efficiency and painstaking work of my department. They did not spare themselves; the office was kept open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

(b) General Notifications.

The notifications for 1945 were 25 per cent. less than for 1944, and the total for 1946 is roughly equal to that for 1945; the only observation to be noted is that the measles outbreak of 1945 was replaced by the chickenpox outbreak in 1946.

Scabies.

The incidence of Scabies was practically in abeyance by the end of 1946, the reason for the decrease being, I suggest, that the public were more fully aware of the 1941 Scabies Order making submission for treatment, either by general practitioners or by the municipal authority, compulsory.

Infestation by Head Lice.

The Health Visitors continue on their visits, at the Clinics, and at the Nurseries to make inspections for the prevalence of head lice and to provide combs and "Ascabiol" where necessary.

Tuberculosis.

The report submitted by the Council in July 1946 was an interim report and covered twelve months including partial statistics in 1946. I regret that I have not had time to submit a further comparative report including figures from other areas, but investigations so far indicate little stabilised improvement. New cases detected in 1946 were approximately 25 per cent. less than in 1945, and deaths also were less, but the new cases for 1947 up to the time of going to press already equal those of 1946.

Food Poisoning.

During the year 1946 there was one occurrence of food poisoning involving six people, and in certain of the cases severe and in other cases mild symptoms appeared. After intensive investigation amongst the staff of the bakehouse supplying the infected food, the infection was traced to a handler in the bakehouse.

Milk Supplies.

My remarks in my Report for 1945 from the "T.B. infection" and "souring" points of view still represent my opinion in these matters, and as no further legislation has been brought into force, I reprint completely my comments as they appeared in my 1945 report, with the "rider" (a) that the suggested scheme for the establishment of local pasteurising plant has advanced as far as the acquisition of the site, but is now held up indefinitely, due no doubt to the national crisis; and (b) that in 1946 37.8 % of the cows inspected were infected with T.B. instead of 45.2 % as in 1945.

"As far as T.B. infection is concerned, more might be done by legislation to control the movement of cows between the time of taking bulk samples for T.B. tests and receiving the analyses of such tests. An inevitable period of six weeks elapses, during which time the farmer can sell his cows either for milk purposes or for

slaughter, with the result that the discovery of tuberculosis infection may be, and frequently is, of no avail. In addition I consider the origin of cows taken to the slaughter house and found to be infected with T.B. should be traced, with a view to the respective farms concerned being notified and dealt with. It will be seen from the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report on slaughterhouses on page 33 that 37.8% of the cows inspected were infected with T.B., and in this connection I draw the attention of the Council to a recent report on T.B. provided by the Minister of Health when it was stated that 30 % of the T.B. glands and joint cases, mostly in young children, were due to bovine origin.

As regards the souring of milk, I attribute this to (i) its age owing to its collection and distribution over wider areas than heretofore; (ii) the pooling of morning and evening supplies; and (iii) the house deliveries taking place after breakfast. There must be a great wastage when the morning delivery is found to be sour on the same evening or on the following morning when it is required for breakfast.

In my opinion efforts should be made to revert to early morning deliveries, and local milk should be supplied locally in so far as it is sufficient, with deliveries twice a day. Members of the Council will be aware that Bebington at present is supplied with milk from localities as far distant as North Wales, which entails milk churns standing about in the sun waiting for collection and being subject to the heat of the sun and delay in the transport lorries on the road. It seems a poor reflection on what purports to be the improved organisation of milk distribution during the past few years, if one cannot rely upon the freshness of milk on the day on which it is purchased.

On going to press I regret to say that I know of no further progress in the mooted scheme for the establishment of a local pasteurising plant controlled by the local milk producers and distributors."

Finally, the Borough of Bebington has afforded during my six years in Bebington, and continues to afford, much material of general and special interest to the work of my Department, and work continues to increase in all branches, namely, in general public health and administration; the duties and problems of the sanitary inspectors in sanitation, housing and overcrowding, milk and food inspection; and in maternity and child welfare, which service is so nationally important in endeavouring to obtain for every infant born a proper

start in life up to the age of five years, and in the other branches of child welfare dealt with in the body of my Report. In all these matters I must express my thanks to the Council and to my respective Committees for their continued help and support which I have received in my various duties. Further, I am indebted to all members of my staff, without whose interest and keenness it would have been more than difficult to render you my Report in its present form.

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

Your obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Plymyard,
Eastham,
Wirral, Cheshire.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector : E. V. CRAPPER, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.,
M.I.P.H. and H.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors : E. M. DUTTON, A. DAVIDSON,
W. H. THOMPSON, T. TOWNSON.

One Van Driver, one Drain Tester, one Disinfector (part-time).

Clerical Staff.

Chief Clerk : Miss E. M. GLIDEWELL.

Three Shorthand Typists. One Telephonist.

Maternity and Child Welfare Staff.

Senior Health Visitor and Child Life Protection Officer :

Mrs. V. R. BLADES (née ELLERINGTON).

Four Assistant Health Visitors : Miss J. FAWCETT (to November) ;
Miss MILVENAN ; Miss NICHOLSON ; Miss WHITTAKER (to Feb-
ruary) ; Miss ROBERTS (from February) ; Miss CHAMBERS
(from November).

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

Dr. F. G. Foster and Dr. Friedman (and after September, Dr.
Hammick in place of Dr. Friedman) deputed in the absence of the
Medical Officer of Health.

Consultants.

Orthopædic Surgeon : JOSEPH GILLET, M.B., Ch.B.

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).

Day Nurseries Staff.

New Ferry Nursery : Nurse in Charge—Miss KENDRICK, with
2 assistants and 7 students.

Bromborough Nursery : Nurse in Charge—Mrs. NICHOLS, with
1 assistant and 4 students.

Mrs. Harrison—Teacher at both Nurseries to 31st August.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (end of 1946)	45,620
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946)	12,948
Rateable Value (end of 1946)	£370,725
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£1,500

Births.

Number of Registered Live Births:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	425	409	834
Illegitimate	28	13	41
Total	453	422	875

Number of Still Births:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	11	13	24
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	11	14	25

Total Number of Births (Live and Still):—

Male.	Female.	Total.
464	436	900

Deaths.

Male.	Female.	Total.
239	250	489

Deaths from:—

Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal Causes	1
Premature Birth	10
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—
Measles	—
Whooping Cough	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—
Scarlet Fever	—
Diphtheria	—
Syphilitic Diseases	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5
Cancer	100
Road Traffic Accidents	4
Suicide	4
All other violent causes	8

Deaths (under 1 year):—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	26	14	40
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Total	29	16	45

Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1946.

	Bebington.	England and Wales.	126 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	148 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000 1931 Census).
Births (per 1,000 civilian pop.) :—				
Stillbirths	0.55	0.53	0.67	0.59
Live Births	19.4	19.1	22.2	21.3
Deaths (per 1,000 civilian pop.) :—				
All Causes	10.8	11.5	12.7	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.08	0.15	0.13	0.14
Deaths (Per 1,000 live births) :—				
Under 1 year of age	51.0	43.0	46.0	37.0
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.7	4.4	6.1	2.8
Deaths (Per 1,000 total births) :—				
Maternal Mortality :—				
Abortion with Sepsis ...	0.00	0.13	Figures not communicated.	
Abortion without Sepsis .	0.00	0.06		
Puerperal Infection ...	0.00	0.18		
Others	1.14	1.06		
	<u>1.14</u>	<u>1.43</u>		

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (Bebington).

All infants per 1,000 Total Live Births	51.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Total Live Legitimate Births...	45.6

Comparative Rates.

	Bebington 1945.	Bebington 1946.	England and Wales, 1946.
Per 1,000 Population :—			
Birth Rate—Live Births	18.3	19.4	19.1
Death Rate	9.8	10.8	11.5
Per 1,000 Births :—			
Infant Mortality Rate	49.0	51.0	43.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	3.6	1.14	1.43

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	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	12	13	25
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	2	4
6. Syphilitic Diseases	2	1	3
9. Influenza	—	4	4
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis	—	1	1*
13m. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (male) ...	4	—	4
13f. Cancer of Uterus (females)	—	3	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	10	17
15. Cancer of Breast	—	15	15
16. Cancer of all other sites	31	30	61
17. Diabetes	1	5	6
17. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	15	37	52
19. Heart Disease	66	55	121
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	7	13
21. Bronchitis	13	7	20
22. Pneumonia	12	5	17
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	2	4
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4	1	5
26. Appendicitis	—	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	7	9	16
28. Nephritis	9	6	15
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1
31. Premature Birth	7	3	10
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	13	9	22
33. Suicide	3	1	4
34. Road Traffic Accidents	4	—	4
35. Other Violent Causes	4	4	8
36. All other Causes	15	16	31
TOTAL ...	240	250	490

*This is a case which occurred outside the Borough and is attributed in error to Bebington.

Table of Infantile Mortality.
(Under One Year).

Rate per 1,000 Births.

1923	...	...	...	47.2	1935	...	...	...	62.8
1924	...	...	...	43.9	1936	...	...	...	50.0
1925	...	...	...	62.0	1937	...	...	...	49.0
1926	...	...	...	68.0	1938	...	...	...	40.0
1927	...	...	...	36.0	1939	...	...	...	43.5
1928	...	...	...	45.0	1940	...	...	...	67.2
1929	...	...	...	54.0	1941	...	...	...	52.6
1930	...	...	...	74.0	1942	...	...	...	28.0
1931	...	...	...	45.0	1943	...	...	...	62.8
1932	...	...	...	55.0	1944	...	...	...	42.0
1933	...	...	...	61.0	1945	...	...	...	49.0
1934	...	...	...	48.0	1946	...	...	...	51.0

(England and Wales, 1946—43.00).

The total number of deaths of infants during the twelve months in 1946 was 45. Of these 32 were neo-natal deaths, which were distributed as follows:—

Neo-Natal Deaths. (Under One Month).

Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pyloric Stenosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dehydration	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningocele	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis of Lung	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage—Birth Trauma	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Icterus Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhagic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital oedema	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

32

The other 13 deaths were caused as follows:—

Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

13

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1946.

(a) Total cases.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever	129	110	—
Diphtheria	28†	27	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	33	33	—
Pneumonia—Acute Primary	11*	4	2
Acute Influenzal	9	—	3
Erysipelas	8	5	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Malaria	4	2	—
Measles	143	—	—
Whooping Cough	73	4	—
Chicken Pox... ..	200	—	—
Total	650	193	5

†Of these 28 cases, 1 occurred in the County General Hospital and belonged to an area outside the Bebington Borough.

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

(b) Ward Distribution.

Disease	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton	TOTAL
Smallpox	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	15	7	20	20	13	9	9	11	15	10	129
Diphtheria	1	2	3	14	1	3	1	2	—	1	28
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	2	24	33
Pneumonia	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	20
Erysipelas	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	8
Cerebro-spinal Fever... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	4
Measles	24	15	19	12	9	10	2	6	42	4	143
Whooping Cough	8	8	9	19	—	2	5	8	7	7	73
Chicken Pox	23	11	35	53	11	22	20	13	5	7	200
Totals	79	45	94	127	35	49	40	48	73	60	650

Tuberculosis.

(a) New Cases and Mortality notified during 1946.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	3	7	2	—	—	3	—	—
25	...	...	2	7	2	—	2	4	—	—
35	...	...	6	2	—	2	3	4	—	—
45	...	...	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
55	...	...	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age not known	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total			18	16	8	4	9	12	—	—
			34		12		21		—	
			46				21			

(b) Total live register June, 1947.

In Sanatoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Discharged from Sanatoria but not removed from Register...										173
Home treatment or to be admitted to Sanatoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
										<u>370</u>

Of the above total 288 of the cases are affected lungs and 82 are affected glands and joints.

DAY NURSERIES.

New Ferry Nursery.

Number of approved places	50
Average Number of children on Register throughout 1946 :—	
Group 0—2	10.0
Group 2—5	32.5
Average daily attendance of children :—	
Group 0—2	6.6
Group 2—5	22.5
Payments in Fees for 1946	£554 13s. 6d.

As the year 1946 progressed the infants' group 0—2 decreased to considerably below 10, and group 2—5 increased. At the time of publication of this report, the numbers are again 10 in the 0—2 group and 40 in the 2—5 group.

Bromborough Nursery.

Number of approved places	50
Average number of children on Register throughout 1946 :—	
Group 2—5	30.7
Average daily attendances of children :—	
Group 2—5	17.5

Children under two years of age were occasionally admitted for emergency reasons.

Payments in Fees for 1946	£334 7s. 9d.
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MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE.

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

(1) CLINICS.

(a) Maternity Clinics.

Consultant Obstetrician—Mr. M. Datnow.

Ante-Natal Clinic :

Sessions held (Mondays and Fridays) ...	80	
Number of New Cases examined		489
Re-examinations		2028
		<hr/>
Total Attendances		2517
		<hr/>

Average Attendance Per Session ... 31.46

54.7% of total Births in the Borough attended the Ante-Natal Clinic, as compared with 1945 when 42.9% attended.

Post-Natal Clinic :

Sessions held	11	
Number of New Cases examined		126
Re-examinations		1
		<hr/>
Total attendances		127
		<hr/>

Referred to Hospital	1
Referred to Own Doctor	2

(b) Infant Welfare and Toddlers' Clinics.

Conducted by Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. D. O. MacDonald).

Total Number of Sessions	239	
Total Children attending Clinics	1496	
Children under one year (new)		721
Children over one year (new)		37
Children continuing from 1945		738
		<hr/>
		1496
		<hr/>

Children's attendances	13,589
Mothers' attendances	11,674

Attendances for 1946 analysed.

	New Ferry.		Brom. borough.		Higher Bebington.		Thornton Hough.		Eastham.	Total
Sessions ...	101	...	48	...	45	...	22	...	23	239
Attendances :										
Children :										
0-1	5564	...	1862	...	2408	...	144	...	630	10608
1-5	965	...	499	...	1079	...	219	...	219	2981
Mothers :	5244	...	2252	...	3139	...	333	...	706	11674
Total attendances of Children and Mothers ...										25,263

Medical Consultations at Infant Clinics :

Attendances of Mothers with Infants under 1 year	...	...	643
Attendances of Mothers with Children 1—5 years...	...	...	394
			<hr/>
			1037
			<hr/>

From these consultations :—

56	Children were advised Hospital Treatment.
23	„ „ „ to attend own Doctor.
27	„ „ „ „ „ Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.
26	„ „ „ „ „ Eye Clinic.
19	„ „ „ „ „ Orthopædic Clinic.
6	„ „ „ „ „ Dentist.
13	„ „ „ referred to the District Nurse for treatment.
19	„ „ „ referred for special visits from Health Visitors.

Routine Inspections at Infant Clinics (Birthday Examinations) :

Children 1-2 years	...	...	...	...	34
„ 2-5 years	...	...	...	...	33

(c) Ear. Nose and Throat Clinic.

Surgeon : Mr. Philip Garson.

Total Sessions	...	...	...	...	9
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	78
Number of New Cases seen	...	...	...	...	38
Number of re-examinations	...	...	...	...	40

15 cases referred for operation.
 6 cases referred to School Clinic.
 14 cases discharged.

(d) Eye Clinic.

Surgeon : Mr. Dunlop Hamilton.

Total number of sessions 11

Total attendances 162

Number of new cases seen 50

Number of re-examinations 112

11 cases referred for spectacles.

18 cases referred to school for clinic treatment.

(e) Orthopaedic Clinic.

Surgeon : Mr. J. A. Gillett.

Total Sessions 19

Total Attendances 485

Number of new cases seen 130

36 cases referred to Physiotherapist for treatment.

Massage and Remedial Exercise Treatments :

					Under School Age.	Of School Age.
Total Sessions	...	...	...	93	...	...
Total Treatments	...	...	...	738	105	633
Patients treated	...	...	...	109	25	84
New Cases	...	...	...	36	8	28
Cases—treatments terminated	21	...	...	3	...	11

The following table shows all cases on the Register grouped into disease and age categories, together with the discharges.

Disease.	Under treatment 1.1.46		Admitted in 1946		Discharged in 1946 cured or ceased to attend.		Remaining under treatment 31.12.46.
	0-5	5-15	0-5	5-15	0-5	5-15	
Congenital defects, etc.	33	28	4	6	25	11	35
Acquired defects, etc.	129	75	53	55	91	75	146
Tuberculous infection	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Non-tuberc. Infection	2	4	—	—	—	2	4
Unspecified	5	2	8	4	10	3	6
Totals ...	169	113	65	65	126	91	195

(2) HEALTH VISITING.

Changes in the Health Visiting staff were the replacement by Miss Roberts of Miss Whittaker who resigned in February to take up work for the County, and the replacement by Miss Chambers of Miss Fawcett who resigned in October to take up work with the Gloucester City Corporation.

During measles and chicken-pox epidemics the services of Mrs. Davies were employed for temporary health visiting.

Visits Paid.

To expectant mothers (first visits)	751
To infants under 1 year	1297
To children between 1-5 years	2101
To children under the Child Life Protection Acts	24
To measles cases	128
To whooping cough cases	124
To diphtheria immunisation cases	482
To whooping cough immunisation cases	414
To expectant mothers	116
To medical defect cases (orthopædic, ear, nose and throat, eye, dentist)	139
To post-natal cases	636
To chicken pox cases	99
To smallpox contacts	146
To ophthalmia neonatorum cases	3
To adoption of children visits	54
Special visits	362
No access visits	866
Attendances at Clinics... ..	1053
Lectures to Nursery Students (Day Nurseries)	5
Supervisory visits (Senior Health Visitor)	751
To Day Nurseries	4
To Plymyard re medical examinations	18
Total Visits	9575

(3) ANALYSIS OF BOROUGH BIRTHS.

The total number of notified births for the Borough after deducting the 664 transferable births was 893. Of these 23 were still-born. The Borough births belonged in the Borough Wards as below :—

Park	73
New Ferry... ..	151
Port Sunlight	115
Bebington	79
Higher Bebington	80
Woodhey	95
Poulton	66
North Bromborough	72
South Bromborough	76
Eastham	86
<hr/>	
Males (Stillborn 11)	461
Females (Stillborn 12)	432
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Where Births occurred :—

At Home attended by Midwives and Doctors ...	259
In Clatterbridge Maternity Hospital	301
In Hospital or Homes in Birkenhead	98
Heswall and West Kirby Nursing Homes, etc. ...	28
Heathfield Maternity Home	207
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	893
<hr/>	

70.9 % of Borough Births took place in Maternity Homes or Hospitals.

(4) PREMATURE INFANTS.

The notified numbered 47, 5 being born at home and 42 in hospitals or nursing homes. One of the babies born at home died and nine died of those born in institutions. On the direction of the Ministry of Health special visiting is done, and assistance given where necessary.

(5) ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The notified numbered 29. Of these six were adopted and four died. The remaining children are well cared for and several of them attend the Council's Day Nurseries while their mothers are at work.

(6) GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF VITAMINS.

(Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices).

Distribution of the above during 1946 to children under five years and to 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	1897	...	10385	...	515
	Free	9	...	41	...	—
Bromborough	Paid	1119	...	5970	...	173
	Free	12	...	52	...	—
Hr. Bebington	Paid	874	...	4684	...	107
	Free	21	...	192	...	—
Eastham	Paid	162	...	1009	...	27
	Free	—	...	—	...	—
Thornton Hough	Paid	74	...	496	...	3
	Free	—	...	—	...	—

(7) HOME HELP SERVICES.

During 1946 two full-time Home Helps were employed, and 20 cases were attended for confinement, having booked in advance; 11 cases were attended owing to general sickness and sickness following confinements.

(8) SPECIAL CASES SENT INTO HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

One child was sent to Leasowe Hospital in October 1944; he remained throughout 1945 and until he was transferred to the Education Authority on reaching the age of five in May 1946. He was said to be progressing favourably.

(9) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1946, 25, 8 and 47 children up to the age of nine years were respectively under the care of (1) a Preparatory school; (2) a Children's Home; and (3) an Orphanage in the Borough, and were visited at intervals by the Senior Health Visitor as Infant Life Protection Officer.

In addition five children were placed in private dwelling houses with foster mothers, and during the year were found to be well-placed and very happy.

(In December, 1946, all Health Visitors at the suggestion of an Inspector of the Ministry of Health were appointed Infant Life Protection Visitors).

(10) IMMUNISATION.

- (a) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION of children from one year of age was undertaken on clinic days at all the Centres by the Medical Officer of Health.

Children under 5 years completed immunisation in 1946	...	444
" " " " partly immunised in 1946	... ..	76
Children over 5 years completed immunisation in 1946	... ..	6
" " " " reinforcing done	... ..	21
		<hr/>
		450

Attendances under 5 years	...	771
" over 5 years	... ..	29
		<hr/>
		800

- (b) WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION of children was undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and began at the Clinics in October, 1945.

Children under 5 years completed immunisation in 1946	...	330
" " " " partly immunised 1946	... ..	108
Attendances of children under 5 years	... ..	890

(11) ADOPTED CHILDREN.

During 1946 thirty-nine Bebington residents made application to adopt children, and there were 24 legal adoptions. One child was returned to its own parents, and at the time of going to press eight legal adoptions are in process.

(12) DENTAL TREATMENT.

Under the scheme arranged by the Council, 5 children received treatment during 1946.

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				Total for 1946	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellinghouses Inspected	...	...	...	766	683	—	504	179	—
Do. Re-inspected	...	...	...	2949	—	350	230	120	12
Overcrowding	...	...	...	406	1	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	122	5	5	5	—	—
Courts, Passages	...	...	...	117	5	—	5	—	—
House Drainage	...	...	...	1161	237	86	30	56	—
Privy Middens	...	...	...	813	206	90	43	47	—
Cesspools	...	...	...	35	8	3	3	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses	...	...	...	41	4	2	2	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	116	19	3	3	—	—
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	37	3	1	1	—	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	579	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	184	7	—	7	—	—
Grocers	...	...	...	140	5	—	5	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	84	12	—	2	10	—
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	204	11	—	9	2	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	12	5	2	—	2	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	16	3	—	3	—	—
Dairies	...	...	...	196	9	—	8	1	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	130	11	—	11	—	—
Sediment Tests	...	...	...	80	7	—	7	—	—
Factories, Mechanical Power	...	...	...	14	7	—	7	—	—
Do Without Power	...	...	...	7	2	—	2	—	—
Workplaces...	...	...	...	31	3	—	3	—	—
Bakehouses...	...	...	...	42	16	—	14	2	—
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Public Schools	...	...	...	49	17	5	—	—	—
Private Schools	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	10	1	—	1	—	—
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	40	5	—	5	—	—
Licensed Premises...	...	...	...	71	29	2	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Inquiries	...	...	...	1352	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Revisits	...	...	...	935	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	299	—	—	—	—	—
Exchange of Tenancies	...	...	...	33	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning Investigations	...	...	...	29	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	318	—	—	—	—	—
Appointments outside Office	...	...	...	272	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	11694	1321	549	910	419	12

Housing Act, 1936.

The following figures relate to work carried out during 1946 :—

- 189 Visits have been paid to inspect rent books, to enquire into cases of overcrowding, etc.
- 16 " Review " visits have been made.
- 157 Newly erected houses have been measured.
- 6 Existing houses have been measured.
- 37 Applications for " permitted numbers " have been received.
- 4 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books the " permitted number," etc.
 - 4 Warning letters sent.
- 4 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books the name and address of the M.O.H.
 - 4 Warning letters sent.
- 4 Offences were committed by the failure to insert in rent books information relating to persons responsible for keeping houses in a reasonable state of repair.
 - 4 Warning letters sent.
- 7 Offences were committed by failure to insert in rent books statements showing standard rent and permitted increase.
 - 7 Warning letters sent.
- 5 Cases of overcrowding abated.
- 26 New cases of overcrowding.

With reference to the 5 overcrowded families abated, and involving 33 people, the overcrowding ceased by the following means :—

Reduction by death	1
Rehoused by Corporation	4
	<hr/>
Total	5
	<hr/>

Housing Repairs.

Difficulties were experienced in remedying defects in houses and nuisances, owing to labour shortage and shortage of materials. I should point out, as I did last year, that as a lower standard has had to be accepted for a period of several years, many houses are deteriorating and a continuance of the present position is bound to lead to the ultimate condemnation of property that might be saved by proper maintenance. The increase of minor defects, the development of minor defects into major nuisances and the consequent in-

crease in the number of insanitary houses lead to a position where housing inspections will tend to crowd out other important work.

Prosecutions against owners were necessary on twelve occasions and it is significant that those who defended their failure to comply with notices by lack of labour and the difficulties of obtaining materials, were those who have always given trouble to the Council.

Standard of Cleanliness.

The general standard of cleanliness in homes has improved, but there are still too many parents who through their utter disregard of the elementary principles of hygiene are causing unnecessary suffering and misery to their children. It would be difficult for those whose duties do not take them into these houses to appreciate the loathsomeness of the conditions existing. These houses are usually difficult to enter and inspections are frequently only made after notice of intention to inspect has been served. The present necessity to serve notices for the abominable nuisances that exist prevents any real progress being made with this type of person, who fortunately constitutes only a small percentage of the population; the only action should be, after reasonable warning, legal proceedings, when such conditions are found. Since writing this report five of your residents have been sent to prison, but by the time this action was taken the fourteen children concerned had received a damaging blow to their physical and mental outlook.

Overcrowding.

At the end of December 1946 there were 88 cases of overcrowding on the register, involving 570 persons.

It should be pointed out that the overcrowding standard is necessarily a low one being a penal standard. There are many more people living under conditions that would be overcrowded on a bedroom standard. An inspection of one area of 61 houses showed 10 cases of legal overcrowding—or 16%, but on a bedroom standard there were 34 out of the 61 houses overcrowded—or 55%.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No licences have been issued in regard to camping grounds.

Courts and Passages.

These are inspected regularly and any defects or lack of cleansing referred to the Borough Engineer.

Privvy Middins.

There are still

- 33 privvies,
- 57 pail closets,
- 51 earth closets,
- 8 chemical closets,

in addition to chemical closets issued to squatters. These are regularly visited.

One ashpit was demolished during the year and sanitary dust-bin substituted.

Certificates of Disrepair.

One certificate of disrepair was issued to tenants under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act. At the end of the year the necessary work was carried out to put these premises into a reasonable state of repair.

Work Carried Out in Default.

- 42 Sanitary dust bins were supplied in default.

House Drainage.

- 200 Smoke tests were applied to house drains.
- 106 of these were to new buildings.
- 94 of these were to existing buildings.

During the year the responsibility for the initial tests of new buildings was transferred from this department to the Borough Engineer's Department, but this department still applies the final test and examines the sanitary fittings.

108 house drains were cleared by plunging or rodding and charges were made for this work upon the owners or occupiers. Several agents have an agreement whereby this department clears drains without waiting for authority. This has worked well and prevents undue delay.

Disinfection.

- 461 Beds disinfected after Infectious Disease.
- 13,413 Other articles disinfected after Infectious Disease.
- 226 Library books disinfected after Infectious Disease.
- 46 Rooms disinfected after Infectious Disease.
- 75 Beds destroyed after Infectious Disease.
- 40 Other articles destroyed after Infectious Disease.

(The above includes bedding, etc., from Ellesmere Port and Hoylake).

Disinfestation.

Rooms treated for vermin	...	...	...	...	69
Beds treated for vermin	...	...	...	...	78
Other articles disinfested	...	...	...	...	161
Verminous beds destroyed	...	...	...	...	2
Pools, ditches, etc., sprayed	...	...	...	...	29

(In addition to the above the Council's Tip was regularly sprayed from April to the end of September at the end of each day).

- 15 premises were found to be infested with bed bugs.
- 26 premises were found to be infested with cockroaches.
- 4 premises were found to be infested with ants.
- 6 premises were found to be infested with other pests.

Cesspools.

There are 287 houses drained to cesspools and septic tanks. 35 visits have been made during the year to these installations.

Public Schools.

A routine visit was made to all the schools during the year and a detailed inspection made in every instance. Some of these premises had deteriorated in regard to their structural conditions and sanitation following the war years. The owners were notified and the necessary improvements considered. At the end of the year work was either in progress or licences to execute the necessary work had been applied for.

Licensed Premises.

There are 26 licensed public houses and 9 clubs on the department register. 71 visits were made during the year.

Notices were served during the year for the following matters :
Insufficient or defective sanitary accommodation, 26 instances.

Insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	4	„
Redecorating	...	...	...	...	...	12	„
Defective or foul drip sinks	...	...	...	...	...	7	„
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	6	„
Dirty cellars	...	...	...	...	...	7	„
Cockroach or ant infestations...	...	...	...	...	...	3	„
Defective or insufficient refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	14	„
General Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	2	„

Beer pipes are constructed as follows:—

14 lead with tin lining.

2 rubber.

14 monel metal.

In 4 instances beer is drawn straight from barrel.

Cleaning of beer pipes is carried out in the following manner:—

In 22 cases, soda water, then salt and clean water drawn through.

In 1 case cold water drawn through.

In 1 case warm water and brush used and warm water pumped through.

In 6 cases cold water and special crystal preparation drawn through.

Glasses are said to be cleaned in most instances by dipping them in hot water and drying them, except during busy periods when they are only swilled and drained.

Waste beer is collected through drip sinks to enamel buckets in the cellar and filtered and returned into circulation. One wonders whether this return of waste beer is in the interest of public health. When it is realised that some of this beer has been in contact with customers' mouths (sometimes with women's lipstick), that a lot of it has been lying on trays and some of it for long periods in smoke-filled rooms, and that some of it has been left by customers who were not feeling well enough to consume it, one feels that it should be dealt with like most other foods as salvage or it should be destroyed. Financially the loss must be negligible because most waste beer has been paid for.

Refuse Tips, etc.

Regular supervision of refuse tips was exercised during the year, and it is pleasing to record a sustained improvement in the condition of all tips.

The following information was supplied to the Ministry of Food at the end of the year in reply to a questionnaire sent out to all local authorities by the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry.

Location.	Ownership.	Approx. Area.	Buildings on site.	Controlled or Uncontrolled tip i.e. whether complying entirely with M. of H. recommendations.	Type of Rodent infestation.	Date of last treatment.	Method of Control.	By whom is treatment done.
South of Salisbury Dr. New Ferry.	Price's Patent Candle Co. Ltd., Brom-borough Pool.	2 acres.	None.	Controlled.	Minor.	At present under treatment.	Pre-baiting and poisoning.	Local Authority.
Mayfields, New Ferry.	Borough of Bebington.	8 acres.	Paper baling and rag sorting building.	Controlled except for tipping of tins, bottles, etc., without being flattened.	Minor.	At present under treatment.	Pre-baiting and poisoning.	Local Authority.
British Leather Co.'s Tip, Beaconsfield Road, New Ferry.	British Leather Co., Birkenhead.	1 acre.	None.	Controlled.	None.	This tip is in close proximity to above but has not shown evidence of any separate infestation.	—	—
Banks of creek, Lever Bros. Factory Site, Port Sunlight.	Lever Bros. Limited.	3-4 acres.	None on site of tip but factory buildings in close proximity.	Controlled.	Minor.	At present under treatment.	Pre-baiting and poisoning.	Local Authority.

Slaughter Houses.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	3273	1323	2424	26213	99	33332
Ante-mortem inspection in- cluding supervision of humane slaughter	3273	1323	2424	26213	99	33332
Notice of slaughter received.	3273	1323	2424	26213	99	33332
Emergency notifications ...	3	60	9	30	7	109
Post-mortem inspection ...	3273	1323	2424	26213	99	33332
All Diseases except T.B.						
Whole carcases condemned .	2	7	9	21	2	41
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	1041	222	—	1944	4	3211
Percentage of the number inspected affected	31.87	17.35	.37	7.41	6.	9.76
T.B. Only.						
Whole carcases condemned..	9	59	2	—	1	71
Carcases of which same part or organ was condemned...	255	452	—	25	3	735
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B.	8.01	37.8	.08	.09	4.04	2.42

The high percentage of tuberculosis continues and your Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector still feel that the place of origin of all tubercular animals found at the slaughter house should be investigated.

Food Inspection.

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

331 tins of Milk.	21 lbs. of Sugar.
200 tins of Vegetables.	28 ozs. of Butter.
19621 tins of Soup.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Tea.
32 tins of Meat.	25 lbs. of Prunes.
100 tins of Fish.	64 lbs. of Cereal.
5 tins of Fruit.	180 lbs. of Dates.
12 tins of Jam.	50 lbs. of Oranges.
15 tins of Malted	327 lbs. of Pears.
Powdered Food.	8 tins of Beans.
17 tins of Beef.	5 Bottles of Pickles.
25 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of Sausage.	25 lbs. of Raisins.
4 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.	160 lbs. of Apples.
15 cwts. of Potatoes.	1 lb. of Biscuits.
15 tins of Chopped Ham.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Chocolate Nuts.
16 lbs. of Ham.	2 pkts. Synthetic Cream
26 stone of Fish.	Extendor.
7 lbs. of Cheese.	

The undermentioned food was seized and condemned by a Magistrate :—

1 bottle of milk.

Butchers.

An attempt is being made to inspect every butcher's shop at least twice per year. During the past year these premises were kept in a satisfactory condition and very few matters had to be dealt with by way of notices.

Grocers.

Grocers shops are scheduled for visits twice per year but other duties have prevented this aim being reached. As in the case of Butchers, I feel a quarterly visit should be the minimum.

Bakehouses.

These are visited at least twice every year, and during the past year this aim was reached. There is one underground bakehouse in the area and this is kept in a satisfactory state of cleanliness provided with an electric fan for ventilation and adequately lighted.

Confectioners, Caterers, etc.

Here again visits are paid twice yearly, but I consider this far too infrequent. The production of food under hygienic conditions is of paramount importance, and during the year there were 17 cases of food poisoning which were traced to infections at a confectioner's shop. Bacteriological examinations failed to confirm field investigations, but there was presumptive evidence of staphylococcal infection from handling of the food in question.

Ice Cream Premises.

At present there is no legal standard, bacteriological or otherwise, for ice cream, but it is important that this food should be manufactured and stored under hygienic conditions.

Fried Fish Shops.

These premises are no longer classed as Offensive Trades, but are controlled by the existing law in regard to food premises generally. The standard of these premises is, on the whole, good. One fish frier has installed an electric range, and there is a decided improvement both in cleanliness and appearance.

Wet Fish Shops, Greengrocers, etc.

Scrupulous cleanliness is required in these premises to prevent offensive odours and accumulations of trade refuse. A visit is made twice a year to these premises. Difficulty was experienced during the year in regard to removal of fish offal.

Milk Producers.

Every effort was made during the year to supervise the whole milking process at every farm at least once. In some instances many such visits were necessary to investigate unsatisfactory milk samples. Samples were taken from every producer at least twice during the year.

Sediment testing once again proved useful in demonstrating to the producer on the spot whether his methods of milking were satisfactory or otherwise. 118 tests were made and a cleanliness percentage of 63 resulted. The figures for the last few years are as follows :—

1937 ...	No. of tests	254	Cleanliness Percentage	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%
1945 ...	„	102	„	60.7%
1946 ...	„	118	„	63%

The standard is based on a maximum of 5 points for a perfectly clean sediment test, and your Chief Sanitary Inspector assesses the percentage of every test so that a uniform standardised result is obtained.

During 1946, the following producers obtained 100% cleanliness results :—

Kettlewell Bros., Bromborough.

G. Leech, Raby.

R. Leech, Raby.

H. McCaig, Thornton Hough.

C. Shakeshaft, Brimstage.

Souring of milk continued to be a source of complaint and much of your Inspectors' time was taken in investigating individual complaints rather than in having the time available for a systematic

check on the milk supply. Complaints cannot be ignored, but many housewives were not entirely free from blame by allowing milk bottles to remain on doorsteps in the sun and placing such bottles in scullery windows and other unsuitable quick-souring-producing places in the house.

The pooling of milk is still a factor in souring; particularly where this milk is kept in churns waiting in country lanes in the glare of the sun for the carriers and where morning's milk is mixed with evening's milk.

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

		Bacteriological.			Phosphatase.			
		Number.	Passed.	Failed.	Number.	Passed.	Failed.	
From Schools	...	16	15	1	...	16	14	2
From Canteens	...	2	2	0	...	2	2	0
From Hospitals	...	6	6	0	...	6	6	0
Others	14	12	2	...	14	12	2

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the result of milk sampling so far as the presence of tuberculosis is concerned:—

Produced in Bebington.

					No. of Samples.	No. T.B.
Commercial Milk	...	...	...	...	30	1
Accredited Milk	...	...	...	...	79	6
T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	1	—
T.T. Certified	...	...	...	...	8	—
					<hr/> 118	<hr/> 7

This equals a percentage of 5.8 tuberculous milk samples.

Produced outside Bebington.

					No. of Samples.	No. T.B.
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	1	0
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	38	0
					<hr/> 39	<hr/> 0

The obvious reason for 100% of samples coming into Bebington being free from tuberculosis is the fact that nearly all milk coming into the Borough is pasteurised. The continued percentage of accredited milk found to contain tubercle bacilli is disturbing.

The following figures show the number and result of examinations for tuberculosis during the past 16 years:—

		No.		T.B.		%T.B.	
Raw Milk	Commercial Milk	...	1100	...	55	...	5
	Accredited Milk	...	1318	...	95	...	7.2
	T.T. Milk	...	87	...	—	...	—
	T.T. (Certified) Milk	...	85	...	1	...	1.1
	Pasteurised Milk	...	369	...	—	...	—
	Sterilised Milk	...	21	...	—	...	—
	Goats Milk	...	1	...	—	...	—
			2,981		151		—

Dairies.

Lack of sterilisation of milk utensils has been the chief cause for concern during the year, and many special visits early in the morning and during the evening have had to be made to check the procedure adopted. There are still a few dairies without steam sterilisation.

Three dairymen were prosecuted during the year for failing to sterilise milk bottles. One was fined £5 and ordered to pay costs, and one was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Acts, and the third was fined £3.

One dairyman was fined £2 for carrying on the trade as dairyman on unregistered premises.

Mortuary Accommodation.

The Council's two mortuaries are cleansed by workmen of the sanitary department. They are always maintained in a condition fit for immediate use either for the reception of bodies or holding post-mortem examinations.

Legal Proceedings.

The following prosecutions were dealt with during the year:—

1. Against an owner for failing to insert necessary information in rent book.
Fined 20s.
- 2 and 3. Against Dairymen for failing to sterilize milk bottles.
One Dismissed under the probation of Offenders Act.
One fined £5.
4. Against a Dairyman for carrying out the trade of dairyman in premises not registered, and failing to sterilize milk bottles and utensils.
Fined £2 for not registering.
Fined £3 for failing to sterilize milk bottles and utensils.

5 to 23. 19 Summonses against owners of property for failing to comply with Sanitary Notices.

One dismissed.

One Fined £3. Court Order for 21 days and 9s. costs.

Two Fined £1. Court Order for 21 days.

Two Court Orders for 21 days and 9s. costs.

Thirteen withdrawn as work was carried out between date of summons and the hearing of the cases.

Shops Acts and Young Persons (Employment) Act 1938.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector as Inspector under the Shops Acts reports as follows:—

The administration of the Shops Acts may be divided as follows:—

1. Health and comfort of shop assistants. This is the responsibility of the local sanitary authority so far as sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperatures are concerned, and your authority as the Shops Act Authority so far as washing facilities and light are concerned.
2. Hours of Employment and Facilities for meals.
3. Hours of Closing, weekly half-day closing.
4. Sunday Trading, etc.

During the year the following notices were served:—

Failing to provide facilities for meals	1
Failing to provide sufficient ventilation & temperature.	14
Insufficient washing facilities	9
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	7

Warnings were given in regard to the following offences:—

Failure to exhibit required notices	37
Failure to keep records regarding holidays, etc. ...	32
Seats for female assistants not provided... ..	1
Excessive hours of employment of young persons ...	1
Correct interval for meals not allowed	1

Rodent Control.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector as Rodent Officer reports as follows:—

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

Upon being aware of rat or mouse infestation, informal notices are served upon occupiers informing them that they are under an obligation to rid their premises of rats or mice, but that the local Authority will carry out the necessary work if they wish 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.

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.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out :—

Inspections.

	Reservoir.	Major Primary.	Minor Secondary.	Supervisory Visits by S.I's.
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	4	23	—
By Rat Catchers ...	—	10	919	—
Revisits.				
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	4	15	50	—
By Rat Catchers ...	72	505	4199	—
Supervisory Visits by Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	—	—	79
	<hr/> 76 <hr/>	<hr/> 534 <hr/>	<hr/> 5191 <hr/>	<hr/> 79 <hr/>

Number of complaints received	85
Number of complaints investigated	85

Type of Visits Made.

Dwellinghouses	3851
Factories and Workplaces	1012
Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes	32
Offices	39
Shops	154
Schools	26
Refuse Tips	154
Sewers and Drains	180
Non-agricultural Land	290
Places of Entertainment	25
Camps	37
Churches	1
Total	5801

Referred to County Council re agricultural land	10
Number of advice notices served	31
Number of estimates provided	69
Number of contracts signed	59
Estimated number of rats found during 1946	2722
Estimated number of rats killed during 1946	2360

Estimates in Hand.

59 Contracts for £422 17s. 6d.

Conclusive Comments.

I feel that the time has arrived when further consideration should be given to the adequacy of the inspectorial staff. There is sufficient work in this busy Borough for one Special Inspector to deal with the 400 odd food premises that exist, and our aim should be to at least double the routine visits to these premises by making a quarterly visit to every premises where food is manufactured, stored or from where it is sold.



