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Contributors

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Medical Officer's Annual Report for the year 1944

The Minister of Health has directed that the Report for 1944 shall again be abbreviated and confined to essential matters and exceptional occurrences. He desires it to include information on the steps taken to combat infection and on the state of water supplies. Statistics are to be preserved but not included in this interim report.

The health of the population was good and no unusual epidemic occurred during the year.

Infection against diphtheria proceeds satisfactorily. On Dec 31st, 1944 it was estimated that 75% of the child population aged 5 to 15 were immunised and 60% of those aged under 5. One case of diphtheria occurred in a child aged 3 who had not been immunised.

Investigation of the venereal conditions has been fully carried out. Venereal disease is still prevalent.

The town has been fortunate in having the Rural District Council's old Isolation Hospital close by to act as a clearing station. In addition to the Minor Allment Clinic established at the First Aid Post. Both the hospital and the First Aid Post will be closed down at or soon after the end of 1944. The County Council has arranged to carry on the Clinic for a time in another form, but the hospital will have a serious loss. Venereal disease has been worse off in this district than elsewhere. It is a serious problem. The venereal section, with its staff of 12, is in urgent need of reinforcement to serve the group of districts at this end of the County which at present have no means of fighting the disease and dealing with them by these sections of the Public Health Act 1936 which deal with venereal conditions, and by the Sexes Order 1941.

Water supply. The whole town has a piped supply from the Bradford Waterworks Co., which is excellent both in quality and quantity. A deep chalk well gives a pure water at the source and regular chlorination affords additional security.

Though every house in the town has water within easy reach a large proportion of them depend on external standpipes.

12 samples from the water going out supply were bacteriologically analysed and chemically. All gave highly satisfactory results.

(Signed) L. R. SCOTT, M.D. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, April, 1945.