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**BOLSOVER**

(DERBYSHIRE)



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

ON

**HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITION**

OF THE

**URBAN DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER**

FOR THE YEAR

**1946**





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FOR THE YEAR

**1946**



# Bolsover Urban District Council

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## **Public Health Staff, 1946**

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### **Medical Officer of Health.**

DR. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.H.Y.,  
Dale Close, 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.  
(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

### **Deputy Medical Officer** (Part-time).

DR. JOHN BENJAMIN MCKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

### **Sanitary Inspector** (Full-time)

### **And Cleansing Superintendent.**

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector  
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

JAMES HOLDEN SMELLIE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

From 15th February, 1943.

Tel. No. 5 Bolsover.

(Council Offices).

## PREFACE

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOLSOVER  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MRS. THOMAS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your district for the year 1946.

Housing is the greatest problem we have to face and large numbers of families are still living under intolerable conditions. During the year 25 Prefabricated and 26 Permanent houses were completed, also 6 houses built by private enterprise.

The unsatisfactory position at the Carr Vale Sewage Works still continues, but steps are being taken to instal a pumping station whereby the sewerage from the Carr Vale area will be pumped into the main Bolsover Sewage Works for treatment.

The health of the district has been satisfactory, and the incidence of diphtheria remains low.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

" Dale Close,"  
100, Chesterfield Road South,  
Mansfield.



## Statistics of the Area

|  |         |          |
|--|---------|----------|
| Area (acres)                                 | .. .. . | 4,526    |
| Population (Census, 1931)                    | .. .. . | 11,811   |
| Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1946 | ..      | 10,390   |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946)     | .. ..   | 2,761    |
| Rateable Value, 1946                         | .. .. . | £47,208  |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1946        | ..      | £174/2/2 |

## Social Conditions

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. Fruit is grown in the district in large quantities, and there is a Fruit Preserving Works. The British Diesel Oil and Petroleum Co. have large works in the area where "Coalite," which is a smokeless fuel, is produced. There is no doubt that Bolsover is gradually developing into an industrial area.

### Chief causes of Invalidity in the District.

Scabies continues to be one of the most common cases of invalidity in the area. 183 persons received 643 treatments at the Bolsover Baths, compared with 203 persons and 622 treatments during the last year.

### Nutrition.

The health and well-being of the school children is much the same. The number of "sub-normal" nutrition cases still remain small.

Free milk and the school meals have been a great help, but there are many more who will benefit when the mid-day meal becomes free.

With regard to the rest of the community there is no doubt that the present diet is spartan and inadequate for those people who are unable to take their mid-day meal out. If more butter, eggs and meat were available the outlook would be much brighter.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been more fruit in the shops during the year.



## Vital Statistics

### BIRTHS.

#### LIVE BIRTHS.

|                | Total Males |     | Females |   |
|----------------|-------------|-----|---------|---|
| Legitimate     | 198         | 102 | 96      | Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 28.9. |
| Illegitimate.. | 13          | 3   | 10      |   |
| STILL BIRTHS   | 6           | 3   | 3       | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 27.6.             |

|           | Total Males |    | Females |  |
|-----------|-------------|----|---------|--|
| DEATHS .. | 97          | 42 | 55      | Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.3. |

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General Short List) :—

|                               | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births. |
|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis      | —       | —   |
| No. 30 Other puerperal causes | —       | —   |
| Total                         | —       | —   |

### DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

|   |         |    |
|---|---------|----|
| All infants per 1,000 live births                       | .. .. . | 75 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | .. .. . | 71 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | .. .. . | 76 |



## DEATHS FROM :—

|                                    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Measles (all ages)                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —  |
| Whooping Cough (all ages)          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —  |
| Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | .. | .. |    |    |    | 1  |
| Cancer (all ages)                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Influenza                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —  |
| Tuberculosis                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2  |
| Heart Disease                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32 |
| Pneumonia                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4  |
| Premature Birth                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3  |
| Congenital Malformations           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7  |
| Violent Injuries                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4  |
| Road Traffic Accidents             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2  |

The Infantile death rate of 75 is high. It will be noted that seven babies died of congenital malformation and three from prematurity.

# Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1946.

|   | Birth-rate<br>per 1,000<br>Total<br>Population |                 | ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION |               |           |         |               |                |            |           | RATE PER<br>1,000<br>BIRTHS.                 |                              |
|---|--|-----------------|--|---------------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------------|------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|
|   | Live<br>Births                                 | Still<br>Births | All causes                             | Enteric Fever | Small-pox | Measles | Scarlet Fever | Whooping-cough | Diphtheria | Influenza | Diarrhoea and<br>Enteritis,<br>under 2 years | Total Deaths<br>under 1 year |
| England and Wales .. ..   | 19.1   | 0.53            | 11.5                                   | 0.00          | 0.00      | 0.00    | 0.00          | 0.02           | 0.01       | 0.15      | 4.4  | 43                           |
| 126 County Boroughs and Great<br>Towns, including London ..       | 22.2   | 0.67            | 12.7                                   | 0.00          | 0.00      | 0.01    | 0.00          | 0.02           | 0.01       | 0.13      | 6.1  | 46                           |
| 148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted)<br>Populations 25,000—50,000 .. | 21.3   | 0.59            | 11.7                                   | 0.00          | 0.00      | 0.00    | 0.00          | 0.02           | 0.01       | 0.14      | 2.8  | 37                           |
| London .. ..  | 21.5   | 0.54            | 12.7                                   | 0.00          | 0.00      | 0.01    | 0.00          | 0.02           | 0.01       | 0.12      | 4.2  | 41                           |
| BOLSOVER U.D. .. ..   | 20.3   | 0.58            | 9.3                                    | 0.00          | 0.00      | 0.00    | 0.09          | 0.00           | 0.00       | 0.00      | 4.7  | 75                           |



### **Ambulance Facilities in the Area.**

The following are available :—

(a) For Infectious Cases.

Ambulance is provided by the North-East Derbyshire Isolation Hospital Board.

(b) For Non-infectious Cases.

Our own ambulance is available for these cases—day or night. Telephone No. Bolsover 5.

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### **Maternity and Child Welfare, and School Clinics.**

All these clinics are under the control of the County Council. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every week on a Wednesday afternoon in Bolsover.

A School Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments is held fortnightly on a Saturday at the same place.

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### **Tuberculosis Clinic.**

This is held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, on Tuesday and Friday, from 10 to 12-30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

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### **Venereal Clinics.**

These are at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Males.   | Mondays from 6 until 8 p.m.    |
|          | Wednesdays from 6 until 8 p.m. |
|          | Saturdays at 2-30 p.m.         |
| Females. | Mondays at 3 p.m.              |
|          | Thursdays from 2 until 4 p.m.  |



## General Provisions of Health Services in the Area

### Laboratory Facilities.

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

Enterica—

|   | Positive | Negative | Total |
|---|----------|----------|-------|
| Typhoid, Para-Typhoid                                     |          |          |       |
| A & B .. ..   | —        | —        | —     |
| Gaertner, Dysentry, etc.                                  | —        | —        | —     |
| Diphtheria .. ..  | —        | 7        | 7     |
| Vincent's Angina .. ..                                    | —        | 7        | 7     |
| Phthisis .. ..  | —        | 6        | 6     |
| Water .. ..   | 2        | 5        | 7     |
| Milk :  |          |          |       |
| T.B. Inoculation sent by Ministry<br>of Agriculture .. .. | 2        | 4        | 6     |
| T.B. Inoculation, Routine Samples                         | —        | 36       | 36    |
| Methylene Blue Test, Routine<br>Samples .. ..             | 6        | 60       | 66    |
| Bacterial Count, Routine Samples                          | —        | —        | —     |
| Bacillus Coli., Routine Samples                           | 11       | 55       | 66    |
| Miscellaneous .. ..                                       | —        | 4        | 4     |
|   | —        | —        | —     |
| Totals ..   | 21       | 184      | 205   |
|   | —        | —        | —     |

In addition to the above, 15 urgents swabs were examined at the Mansfield Laboratory. 3 of which proved to be positive.



## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board and is satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Eight samples of the water after chlorination were taken, seven were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. No definite cause could be found for the unsatisfactory sample, but it was probably due to a dirty tap. No examination has been made of the raw water.

The whole of the district, apart from three cottages, is supplied from the water mains. The three cottages obtain their water from wells, and work to connect two of these cottages to the water mains is in hand.

The Ferro-concrete water tower at Hillstown gives a storage capacity of 850,000 gallons; and the storage capacity of the old Hillstown tank is 64,000 gallons. The Kennecott Base Exchange Water Softening Plant is used at the water tower, effectively softening the water, and is capable of bringing the hardness down to zero. It is kept at 12% and .15 parts per million of chlorine is added. The chlorinating plant is installed at the Hillstown water tower.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

The following is a bacteriological analysis taken after chlorination.

|   |      |           |    |       |
|---|------|-----------|----|-------|
| Temperature on arrival                              | ..   | ..        | .. | 12°c. |
| No. of colonies per millilitre developing on agar : |      |           |    |       |
| In 3 days at 22°C.                                  | ..   | ..        | .. | 3     |
| In 48 hours at 37°C.                                | ..   | ..        | .. | 2     |
| Probable number of bacteria.                        | Coli | Aerogenes |    |       |
| good in 100 millilitre                              | ..   | ..        | .. | 0     |
| Free albums P.P. rullian                            | ..   | ..        | .. | none  |

### Closet Accommodation.

There are 2,761 houses in the district, and apart from the numbers outlined below all are on the water carriage system of drainage.

|                                |    |    |     |
|--------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Pail closets and Elsan closets | .. | .. | 121 |
| Privies                        | .. | .. | 14  |
| Cesspools                      | .. | .. | 86  |



Where no sewer is available it is the intention of the Council to ask the owners to replace privy-middens by pail-closets. This has been done in 12 cases during the last twelve months.

## **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

Tenders have been obtained and submitted to the Ministry of Health to carry out the necessary works to remedy the damage done to sewers in the Carr Vale area caused by mining subsidence.

During the year no additions or extensions to the sewage system were made except on the Moorfield Lane Housing scheme where new sewers were laid to 102 houses.

### **Urgent Sanitary Requirements.**

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The closing and demolition of unfit houses.

## **Housing**

The Council are building 50 permanent houses and the intention is to construct another 102 before the end of next year.

25 temporary bungalows have been erected and occupied and 26 of the permanent houses have also been occupied, leaving 25 partially completed.



There is no doubt that the greatest public health need in Bolsover is the provision of more houses. It is estimated that there are 200 unfit houses in the town. The first persons who should be re-housed are those living in overcrowded conditions or in rooms, especially ex-service men and their families. Many people are living under the worst possible conditions, and few of the younger married couples have known a home of their own. In Bolsover alone there are over 300 families living in rooms.

With regard to repair of houses, the Sanitary Inspector states that an increasing number of repairs have been carried out, and that labour difficulties are slightly improved.

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#### **Factories Act.**

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the district and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

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## **Inspection and Supervision of Food**

### **Milk, Meat and Other Foods.**

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.



### Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1946.

[illegible]



## **Prevalence and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases**

### **Diphtheria.**

3 cases of this disease occurred and all were removed to hospital. 2 were of school age and had been immunised. In an immunised child the attack is invariably mild and there is no danger of it proving fatal.

Every effort has been made to secure the immunisation of infants and to maintain the high level of immunisation in the school children.

214 under 5 years of age and 7 between 5 and 15 years were immunised during the year.

The following table gives the number of diphtheria cases notified in this district during the last seven years.

| Year.      | No. of Cases. |
|------------|---------------|
| 1940 .. .. | 11            |
| 1941 .. .. | 7             |
| 1942 .. .. | 2             |
| 1943 .. .. | 3             |
| 1944 .. .. | 3             |
| 1945 .. .. | 1             |
| 1946 .. .. | 3             |

### **Scarlet Fever.**

16 cases were notified as compared with 22 in 1945. The source of infection was by direct contact either in school or cinema. The disease was mild in character. Many of the cases occurred in overcrowded houses, and in some there was influenza in the home.

### **Smallpox.**

No cases of this disease occurred, but a number of contacts from infected ships had to be kept under observation.

### **Whooping Cough and Measles.**

26 cases of whooping cough and 4 of Measles were notified. No deaths occurred.

### **Cerebral Spinal Meningitis.**

One case of this disease was notified. The patient was a boy aged 18 years, living in Carr Vale. He was removed to Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield.

**Tuberculosis.**

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year.

| Age<br>Periods<br>in years. | NEW CASES. |    |               |    | DEATHS.   |    |               |    |
|-----------------------------|------------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
|                             | Pulmonary  |    | Non-Pulmonary |    | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |    |
|                             | M.         | F. | M.            | F. | M.        | F. | M.            | F. |
| 0 .. ..                     | —          | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 1 .. ..                     | —          | —  | 1             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 5 .. ..                     | —          | 1  | —             | 1  | —         | —  | —             | 1  |
| 10 .. ..                    | —          | —  | 1             | —  | —         | —  | 1             | —  |
| 15 .. ..                    | —          | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 20 .. ..                    | —          | 1  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 25 .. ..                    | —          | 2  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 35 .. ..                    | 2          | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 45 .. ..                    | —          | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 55 .. ..                    | —          | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 65 and upwards              | —          | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| TOTALS ..                   | 2          | 4  | 2             | 1  | —         | —  | 1             | 1  |



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SANITARY INSPECTOR and**  
**CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT**  
**For the Year Ending 31st December, 1946**

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. THOMAS AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report of the year 1946, for your consideration. The details are given under the various headings relating to all matters connected with the Public Health and Cleansing Services of the Urban area. The activities of the Department have been carried out with the same progressive spirit as in the previous year, and several enterprising schemes have been given consideration in Committee, and carried through to a successful issue.

It has proved an unusual year in many respects. Early in February the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to our neighbouring district, Clowne R.D.C., died suddenly and an appeal for assistance was granted. I took over entire supervision of Meat Inspection at the Midland Bacon Factory and acted as Technical Advisor on other matters. It was May before their new Inspector could take up his duties and a total of 80 working hours had been given in assisting. 2,074 pigs were examined and a total of 1 ton 5cwts. 3 qrs. 26½ lbs. of pork was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Unfortunately, the whole month of July, I was absent from work having undergone an operation, and during October and November a further appeal for assistance came from Dronfield U.D.C., who had been without a Sanitary Inspector since February. 21 working hours were spent in this direction in an Advisory capacity. I do not suggest that my district suffered in consequence, but certain works had to be held in abeyance while my duties were confined to neighbouring authorities.



THE DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS :—

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

During the year, 2,777 visits were made re complaints received and in the general inspection of the district.

## NUISANCES.

270 nuisances were reported to the Public Health Committee. The following table gives particulars of such nuisances, respecting which Preliminary Notices were issued or owners interviewed.

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Defective Roofs            | 33 |
| „ Ceiling Plaster          | 20 |
| „ Wall Plaster             | 23 |
| „ Floors.....              | 16 |
| „ Fire-range               | 1  |
| „ Grate to Washing Copper  | 1  |
| „ Washing Copper           | 1  |
| „ Ovens                    | 5  |
| „ Fire-backs               | 6  |
| „ Fire-bars                | 3  |
| „ Boilers                  | 9  |
| „ Boiler Lid               | 1  |
| „ Sinks                    | 7  |
| „ Sink Waste Pipes         | 11 |
| „ W.C. Pedestals           | 7  |
| „ W.C. Cisterns            | 13 |
| „ W.C. Drains              | 7  |
| „ W.C. Cones               | 7  |
| „ W.C. Seats               | 4  |
| „ W.C. Pipes               | 3  |
| „ Ball Taps to W.C.'s      | 5  |
| „ Sanitary Pail            | 1  |
| Damp walls                 | 12 |
| Defective Brickwork Joints | 2  |
| „ „ to Coal Store          | 2  |
| „ Passage Between Houses   | 1  |
| „ Yard surfaces            | 7  |
| „ „ wall                   | 1  |
| „ Doors                    | 4  |
| „ door frames              | 6  |
| „ „ hinges                 | 1  |



|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Alleged Dirty Houses .....            | 2   |
| Burst Pipes .....                     | 7   |
| Defective Ball Taps to Cisterns ..... | 3   |
| „ Ball Washer to Cistern .....        | 1   |
| „ Circulating Pipes .....             | 1   |
| „ Waste water gullies .....           | 2   |
| „ Grates to Waste Water Gullies ..... | 4   |
| „ Drains .....                        | 15  |
| „ Weatherboards and Threshers .....   | 3   |
| „ Window Frames .....                 | 10  |
| „ Window Cords .....                  | 7   |
| „ „ Beading .....                     | 1   |
| „ Eaves Gutters .....                 | 10  |
| „ Rain Water Pipes .....              | 2   |
| „ Chimney Pots .....                  | 3   |
| „ Chimney Stacks .....                | 4   |
| „ Skirting Boards .....               | 1   |
| „ Inspection Chambers .....           | 3   |
| „ Manhole Frames .....                | 3   |
| „ Manhole Covers .....                | 6   |
| „ Window Fasteners .....              | 1   |
| „ Staircase Treads .....              | 2   |
| „ Flues .....                         | 3   |
| „ Ash Bins .....                      | 107 |
| „ Fire-ranges .....                   | 16  |
| „ Brickwork Arch .....                | 1   |
| „ Slate on Eaves .....                | 1   |
| „ and Dangerous Structures .....      | 3   |
| „ Fire-Grates .....                   | 2   |
| „ Handrail to Stairs .....            | 4   |
| „ Tap .....                           | 1   |
| „ Clothes Post .....                  | 1   |
| „ Lead Flashing .....                 | 1   |
| „ Pointing .....                      | 1   |
| „ Overmantel .....                    | 1   |
| Offensive Smells .....                | 3   |
| <hr/>                                 |     |
| TOTAL                                 | 455 |
| <hr/>                                 |     |

### Notices.

198 Preliminary or Informal Letters and Notices were served upon owners or occupiers to abate the above-mentioned nuisances, found in connection with dwelling houses, etc.

It was found necessary to issue 87 Statutory Notices during the year to secure the abatement of nuisances.



In 49 cases work done in default was carried out and the costs recovered informally. In all other instances the notices were complied with.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year to secure the abatement of nuisances, the case being dismissed.

### **Factories Act.**

78 visits of inspection have been paid to factories in the District which were found to be in a satisfactory condition generally.

No contraventions were observed and no notifications were received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

### **Workplaces.**

15 visits of inspection were paid to workplaces in the district during the year. No contraventions were observed.

### **Bakehouses.**

Number on register, December 1946 ..... 2

These premises have been regularly visited and inspected. No contraventions were observed.

### **Fried Fish Shops.**

There were 9 fried fish shops on the register at the end of the year. During the year one has been discontinued and another established. These premises have been regularly visited and inspected.

### **Food Preparing Premises.**

There were 12 Food Preparing premises being used as such during the year. 42 visits of inspection have been made to these premises.

### **Butchers' Shops.**

38 visits of inspection have been paid to Butchers' Shops within the District. There were 12 on the register at the end of the year.

### **Meat Regulations.**

52 visits of inspection were paid to Market Stalls. There were no contraventions of the Regulations during the year.



### Unsound Food.

The following amount of diseased or unsound food was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

| Weight           | Amount     | weight            | Amount        |
|------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Cereals ..       | 6 packets  | Gravy Browning    | 1 packet      |
| Xmas Puddings    | 4          | Fish Paste        | 1 jar         |
| Pickles ..       | 22 Jars    | Bovril ..         | 1 jar         |
| Flavouring       |            | Bacon ..          | 5½ lbs.       |
| essences         | 6 bottles  | Cod Fish          | 6 stones      |
| Coffee essence   | 1 bottle   | Haddock           | 6 stones      |
| Sauce ..         | 22 bottles | Tea ..            | 12½ lbs.      |
| Preserves..      | 54 lbs.    | Flour ..          | 6 lbs.        |
| Beans ..         | 23 tins    | Meat & Vegetables | 4 tins        |
| Peas ..          | 2 tins     | Brisket           |               |
| Syrup ..         | 8 lbs.     | Beef ..           | ¼ lb.         |
| Dried Egg        | 3 packets  | Butter ..         | 5½ lbs.       |
| Sausages         | 181 lbs.   | Sugar ..          | 2½ lbs.       |
| "                | 1 tin      | Tomatoes          | 87 lbs        |
| Irish Stew       | 1 tin      | Fruit ..          | 8 tins        |
| Rolled oats      | 5 lbs.     | Tongue ..         | ½ lb.         |
| Cheese ..        | 2 lbs.     | Soup ..           | 3 tins        |
| Pilchards        | 12 tins    | Stewed Steak      | 1 tin.        |
| Salmon G.        | ½ lb.      | Veal loaf         | 1 tin.        |
| " "              | 3          | Kam               | 2½ lb. 3 tins |
| Evaporated Milk  | 61 tins    | Corned Beef       | 12 lbs.       |
| Sweetened Milk   | 12 tins    | Prem              | ¾ lb.         |
| Beetroot ..      | 2 tins     | Brisket Beef      | ¾ lb.         |
| Soup ..          | 1 tin      | Lamb              | 11 lbs.       |
| Dried Milk       | 3 tins     | Beef              | 40 lbs.       |
| Total Weight     |            | 5 cwts.           | 3sts. 2¾ lbs. |
| Plus No. of tins |            | 140               |               |

All the above were surrendered at the time of inspection prior to being exposed for sale.

### Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yard.

There are four licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District and in all four cases the licences were renewed. None of these are in use at the present time.

There is one Knackers Yard on the register. 38 visits of inspection have been paid to these premises during the year.



Business was found to be carried out in as satisfactory a manner as the nature permits, and records were kept up-to-date as required.

### **Meat Inspection.**

The numbers of private pigs killed in the district continue to show an increase, but no requests were received during the year for any to be inspected.

Tuberculous pork is probably being eaten on a large scale, and the Government's policy of encouraging the back-yard pig keeper to kill his pig anywhere, leaving the matter of meat inspection obligatory, is creating a grave menace to Public Health.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

The general standard is rapidly improving and I venture to suggest that we shall have no producers of raw milk in the very near future. The tendency is for Accredited Milk and Tuberculin tested.

30 visits of inspection were made to dairies within the Urban Districts.

89 visits of inspection were made to farms and cow sheds within the District.

There are two producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the Area.

Total number of Accredited Producers in the District is 5 out of a possible 20.

Several farm premises are being made to comply with the Milk and Dairies Orders with a view to applying for an Accredited Producer's Licence.



**Milk Samples.**

88 samples of milk were taken during the year.

88 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and 66 were submitted to the B. Coli Test.

| No. of Samples | Test<br>Methylene Blue. |              |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
|                | Good                    | Bad          |
| 88             | 79 or<br>90%            | 9 or<br>10%  |
| No. of Samples | Test for<br>B. Coli.    |              |
|                | Good                    | Bad          |
| 66             | 56 or<br>85%            | 10 or<br>15% |

47 samples of milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for Biological Test. Tuberculosis was not produced in a guinea pig 28 days after inoculation in any of the 41 samples.

With 6 samples the guinea pigs died too soon for a definite result to be obtained.

22 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test. 21 samples re-acted as having been adequately pasteurised. One failed to pass the test.

**Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

The registrations up to the 31st December, were as follows :—

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Cowkeepers in the Urban District      |    |
| retailing milk within the District    | 15 |
| Wholesale Producers within the        |    |
| District                              | 7  |
| Shopkeepers within the District       |    |
| retailing milk                        | 11 |
| Purveyors of milk within the District | 37 |



### Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases and the number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital.

|                                  | Notified | Removed to Hospital |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Scarlet Fever .....              | 16       | 12                  |
| Diphtheria .....                 | 3        | 3                   |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .....  | 1        | 1                   |
| Measles .....                    | 4        | —                   |
| Whooping Cough .....             | 26       | —                   |
| Erysipelas .....                 | 1        | —                   |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....     | 6        | —                   |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..... | 3        | —                   |
| Pneumonia .....                  | 4        | —                   |
| Peurperal Pyrexia .....          | 1        | —                   |
|                                  | 65       | 16                  |

11 rooms were disinfected by means of spraying with formalin or fumigating with formic aldehyde gas. 13 books have been disinfected. Several beds and articles of clothing were steam disinfected at the disinfecting station, Council Yard. In some cases a charge was made.

21 visits were made arranging Scabies Treatments. There were no Verminous Head Treatments given during the year which shows a marked improvement in the care of school children.

### Water Supply.

During 1945, an effort was made to get rid of all unsatisfactory private water supplies within the district. The extent to which this was successful can be seen from the fact that by Dec. 31st, of this year only three houses are supplied by private wells, all the rest being connected to the town's mains. In the case of two of the remaining three cottages, work is now in hand to instal the town's mains. During the year 1 spring was found unsatisfactory and water was laid on to six cottages, after it was closed.

4 samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths, New Station Road. 4 were found to be satisfactory. 2 samples of tap water were taken during the year and one was found to be unsatisfactory.



### **Petroleum (Consolidated) Act.**

29 visits of inspection were paid to premises where petroleum spirit is stored. All licences were renewed during the year. No contraventions were observed.

### **Schools.**

37 visits of inspection were carried out during the year for various purposes: W.C. accommodation, defects, Immunisation, Health and Education Propaganda, Verminous Heads, Scabies etc.

### **Public Buildings, Inns, etc.**

15 visits of inspection were paid to the above premises re W.C. accommodation.

|                     |       |       |       |   |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Complaints received | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| Defects found       | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Defects remedied    | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |

### **Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.**

### **Rats and Mice Infestation Order, 1943.**

The full time rat catcher employed by the Council made 245 visits of inspection to premises infested with rats.

805 rats were caught during the year.

### **Shops Acts.**

In connection with the above there were no complaints received during the year. 85 visits were paid to various premises where mixed staffs were employed.

### **Moveable Dwellings.**

Routine inspections were carried out of the caravans renting Kitchen Croft for the winter. The dwellings were kept in a satisfactory manner and no nuisances were found.

### **Vermin.**

11 houses were found to be infested with vermin i.e., bugs, fleas, etc. 49 rooms were sprayed with insecticides and great improvements were reported in all cases. Advice was given to owners and occupiers concerned. The new insecticide D.D.T. and Gammexane Dust have been used and found to be satisfactory in every way. No further infestations having been reported.



## Conversions.

Progress is being made with a view to the abolition of Privy Middens and subsequent installation of pails and ash-bins in areas where no sewers are available. 12 privy middens have been replaced by 15 pails and ash bins, and in several instances the work of alteration is in hand. Wherever the sewer is available all dwellings are supplied with a Fresh Water Closet, except in one or two cases of property to be dealt with some time in the future as Clearance Areas. In these cases it would not be reasonable to ask the owners to convert.

## Housing.

25 Prefabricated Houses have been built and occupied.

30 Permanent House have been built and occupied.

6 Private enterprise houses have been built and occupied.

No premises have been converted into dwellings.

Informal Notices served—21.

Housing Statutory Notices Served Section 9—19.

The defects under Housing Acts are as follows :—

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Defective handrails to stairs .. .. . | 10 |
| „ window frames .. .. .               | 34 |
| „ window cords .. .. .                | 37 |
| „ window fasteners .. .. .            | 5  |
| „ doors .. .. .                       | 22 |
| „ door casings .. .. .                | 35 |
| „ beadings .. .. .                    | 22 |
| „ fire-ranges .. .. .                 | 18 |
| „ fire-bricks .. .. .                 | 6  |
| „ fire-bars .. .. .                   | 2  |
| „ fire-back brickwork .. .. .         | 5  |
| „ fire-place surround .. .. .         | 1  |
| „ flues .. .. .                       | 7  |
| „ fire-places .. .. .                 | 2  |
| „ washing coppers .. .. .             | 3  |
| „ grates to washing coppers .. .. .   | 5  |
| „ ovens .. .. .                       | 6  |
| „ boiler lid .. .. .                  | 1  |
| „ boilers .. .. .                     | 6  |
| „ chimney stacks .. .. .              | 15 |
| „ roofs .. .. .                       | 16 |
| „ ceilings .. .. .                    | 9  |
| „ ceiling plaster .. .. .             | 34 |
| „ wall plaster .. .. .                | 59 |
| „ Eaves, Gutters .. .. .              | 39 |
| „ Rain Water pipes .. .. .            | 42 |



|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Damp Walls .. .. .                        | 44  |
| Defective weather boards and threshers .. | 26  |
| „ grates to yard gullies .. ..            | 3   |
| „ yard pavings .. .. .                    | 15  |
| „ tiled floors .. .. .                    | 3   |
| „ floors .. .. .                          | 19  |
| „ concrete floors .. .. .                 | 2   |
| „ sinks .. .. .                           | 7   |
| „ sink waste pipes .. .. .                | 3   |
| „ W.C. pedestals .. .. .                  | 3   |
| „ soil pipe .. .. .                       | 1   |
| „ W.C. pipes .. .. .                      | 2   |
| „ W.C. seats .. .. .                      | 6   |
| „ W.C. cone .. .. .                       | 1   |
| „ W.C. cistern .. .. .                    | 1   |
| „ passages to front doors .. ..           | 10  |
| „ ridge tiles .. .. .                     | 16  |
| „ ridge tile joints .. .. .               | 3   |
| „ joints .. .. .                          | 21  |
| „ flashing .. .. .                        | 11  |
| „ door locks .. .. .                      | 4   |
| „ taps .. .. .                            | 2   |
| „ Gable End walls .. .. .                 | 4   |
| „ walls .. .. .                           | 4   |
| Insufficient ventilation .. .. .          | 1   |
| Defective wall ventilation .. .. .        | 2   |
| Dampness caused by windows .. ..          | 3   |
| Defective slate roofs .. .. .             | 16  |
| „ inspection chamber cover .. ..          | 1   |
| „ pointing around chimney breast ..       | 2   |
| „ floor boards .. .. .                    | 11  |
| „ joists .. .. .                          | 6   |
| „ wall brickwork .. .. .                  | 7   |
| „ ash bins .. .. .                        | 2   |
| „ hinges .. .. .                          | 1   |
| „ doors .. .. .                           | 4   |
| „ fasteners .. .. .                       | 3   |
| „ Quarry floors .. .. .                   | 6   |
| „ pathway surround .. .. .                | 1   |
| „ passage through house .. .. .           | 1   |
| „ garden wall .. .. .                     | 1   |
| „ yard steps .. .. .                      | 1   |
| Damp external wall .. .. .                | 1   |
| Total .. ..                               | 722 |



Two demolition Orders were made during the year on Individual Unfit Houses. In one instance the owner caused a breach of undertaking and let the premises after having observed the undertaking for two years. In the other instance the premises were totally unfit for habitation and in a very dangerous condition. In the first instance the tenants left of their own accord, and in the second instance the Council are considering re-housing the occupiers.

Housing conditions generally have deteriorated further during the past twelve months, but a reasonable amount of repair work has been carried out. In some instances the Council have taken steps to do the work done in default, but it hasn't as yet been completed. Labour difficulties are slightly improved and the Essential Works Certificates and Building Licences enable us to utilize labour in the right channels. Regarding repair and maintenance, our future Slum Clearance Areas present a real problem to which there is no solution at the present time. We have at least 250 houses to be dealt with, houses which should have been demolished before the war. Deterioration is most marked, exposing the tenants to discomfort, and insanitary conditions which to say the least are very unhealthy. These tenants regard the letting of new council houses to people living in rooms as an injustice, and resentment as to lettings is very strong at times. We look forward to the day when the housing shortage is relieved to such an extent that some direction of effort may be made towards the demolition of these Areas, to enable us to afford these long suffering occupiers the chance of a new start in clean and healthy surroundings. With the completion of new houses now being occupied by persons living in rooms, overcrowding is alleviated to some extent and conditions in this respect have definitely improved.

### **Public Cleansing Service.**

This is probably the most costly item in the Council's commitments, and every effort is made to keep the cost down to a minimum consistent with the maintenance of the high standard of efficiency in collection and disposal which our ratepayers now accept as a matter of course.

Salvage returns show a steady increase and there is every hope that our income in the next few months will be higher than ever before. Realising the need for greater conservancy in raw materials every effort will be made in the future to recover from house refuse everything recoverable.



### **Refuse Collection.**

During the year a weekly collection of refuse and salvage has been maintained, serving all houses and business premises in the area.

### **Staff.**

The outdoor staff consists of the following :—

- 1 motor driver.
- 4 bin men.
- 2 Men, cesspools and pails (part-time).

Disposal and Salvage.

- 1 bottle washer.
- 4 men, screeners.
- 1 man, paper bailer (part-time).

Occasional Labour.

- 1 motor driver.
- 4 bin men.

Motors.

- 1 Karrier Refuse vehicle.
- 1 horse and water cart.
- 1 Bedford Lorry (part-time).

### **Refuse Disposal.**

All refuse collected by the Council is disposed of by controlled tipping at :—

New Byron Brickworks,  
Limekiln Fields,  
Shuttlewood,  
Stanfree.

### **Collection of Kitchen Waste.**

A bi-weekly collection of kitchen waste is made, but the public response is far from satisfactory due to the number of private pig and poultry keepers in the district. Swill is sold direct to a local farmer and there is a ready demand for this material.

### **Screened Ashes.**

Nearly all refuse from two tips is being screened, and ashes sold to local gardeners, centrally heated establishments, etc. Owing to the labour shortage the demand exceeds output.



**Details of Work done.**

| 1946                   | No. of loads | Approx. weight domestic refuse |       | Ashpits emptied | Pails emptied Loads | Cesspools emptied |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                        |              | Tons                           | Cwts. |                 |                     |                   |
| January ..             | 192          | 473                            | 2     | 35              | 10                  | 115               |
| February ..            | 165          | 397                            | 12    | 5               | 6                   | 124               |
| March & April ..       | 338          | 809                            | 2     | 14              | 12                  | 239               |
| May ..                 | 175          | 423                            | 1     | 14              | 10                  | 129               |
| June, July & August .. | 475          | 1130                           | 17    | 46              | 28                  | 367               |
| September ..           | 153          | 201                            | 3     | —               | 12                  | 115               |
| October ..             | 121          | 418                            | 4     | 22              | 12                  | 129               |
| November ..            | 185          | 428                            | 8     | 3               | 15                  | 138               |
| December ..            | 184          | 428                            | 12    | 3               | 14                  | 95                |
| Totals                 | 1988         | 4710                           | 1     | 142             | 119                 | 1444              |

**Salvage.**

The following quantities of salvage materials were sold during the year 1st April, 1945, to 31st March, 1946.

|                     |    |    | T.  | C. | Q. | L. | £    | s. | d. |
|---------------------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|------|----|----|
| Paper .. ..         | .. | .. | 47  | 17 | 3  | —  | 305  | 15 | 11 |
| Bones .. ..         | .. | .. | 2   | 10 | 0  | 14 | 13   | 3  | 2  |
| Kitchen Waste ..    | .. | .. | 21  | 16 | —  | —  | 27   | 4  | 9  |
| Screened Ashes ..   | .. | .. | 350 | 10 | —  | —  | 378  | 2  | 9  |
| Rags and Sacks ..   | .. | .. | 1   | 6  | 1  | —  | 14   | 1  | 0  |
| Bottles and Jars .. | .. | .. | 4   | —  | —  | —  | 17   | 0  | 6  |
| Brass .. ..         | .. | .. | —   | 6  | 3  | 14 | 5    | 16 | 11 |
| Copper .. ..        | .. | .. | —   | —  | —  | 14 |      | 3  | 6  |
| Iron .. ..          | .. | .. | 1   | 5  | —  | —  | 3    | 2  | 6  |
| Rubber .. ..        | .. | .. | ..  | .. | .. | .. | 1    | 17 | 6  |
| Total               | .. | .. | 429 | 12 | —  | 14 | £766 | 8  | 6  |

Totals for the Year ending March 31st, 1945.

|          | Tons. | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. | £   | s. | d. |
|----------|-------|-------|------|------|-----|----|----|
| Total .. | 329   | 1     | 2    | —    | 744 | 13 | 4  |



**Summary of work done in Sanitary Department.**

|   |                                       |      |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| Inspection for nuisances and Miscellaneous visits | ..                                    | 2777 |
| No. of nuisances found                            | .. .. .                               | 270  |
| No. of preliminary Notices served                 | .. .. .                               | 219  |
| No. of Statutory Notices Served                   | .. .. .                               | 106  |
| Visits to Factories                               | .. .. .                               | 78   |
| „ Workplaces                                      | .. .. .                               | 15   |
| „ Bakehouses                                      | .. .. .                               | 8    |
| „ Butcher's Shops                                 | .. .. .                               | 38   |
| „ Market Stalls                                   | .. .. .                               | 52   |
| „ Dairies   | .. .. .                               | 30   |
| „ Farms and Cowsheds                              | .. .. .                               | 89   |
| „ Knackers Yards                                  | .. .. .                               | 38   |
| „ Re Rat Infestation                              | .. .. .                               | 245  |
| „ Re Scabies                                      | .. .. .                               | 21   |
| „ Fried Fish Shops                                | .. .. .                               | 27   |
| „ Food Preparing Premises                         | .. .. .                               | 42   |
| „ Schools   | .. .. .                               | 37   |
| „ Public Buildings, Inns, etc.                    | .. .. .                               | 15   |
| Milk Samples taken                                | .. .. .                               | 88   |
| Water samples taken                               | .. .. .                               | 6    |
| Rats caught                                       | .. .. .                               | 805  |
| Pigs Inspected                                    | .. .. .                               | —    |
| Food Condemned (140 tins)                         | 5 cwts. 3 stones 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |      |
| Library Books disinfected                         | .. .. .                               | 13   |
| Rooms disinfected                                 | .. .. .                               | 11   |
| Verminous houses                                  | .. .. .                               | 11   |
| Conversions                                       | .. .. .                               | —    |

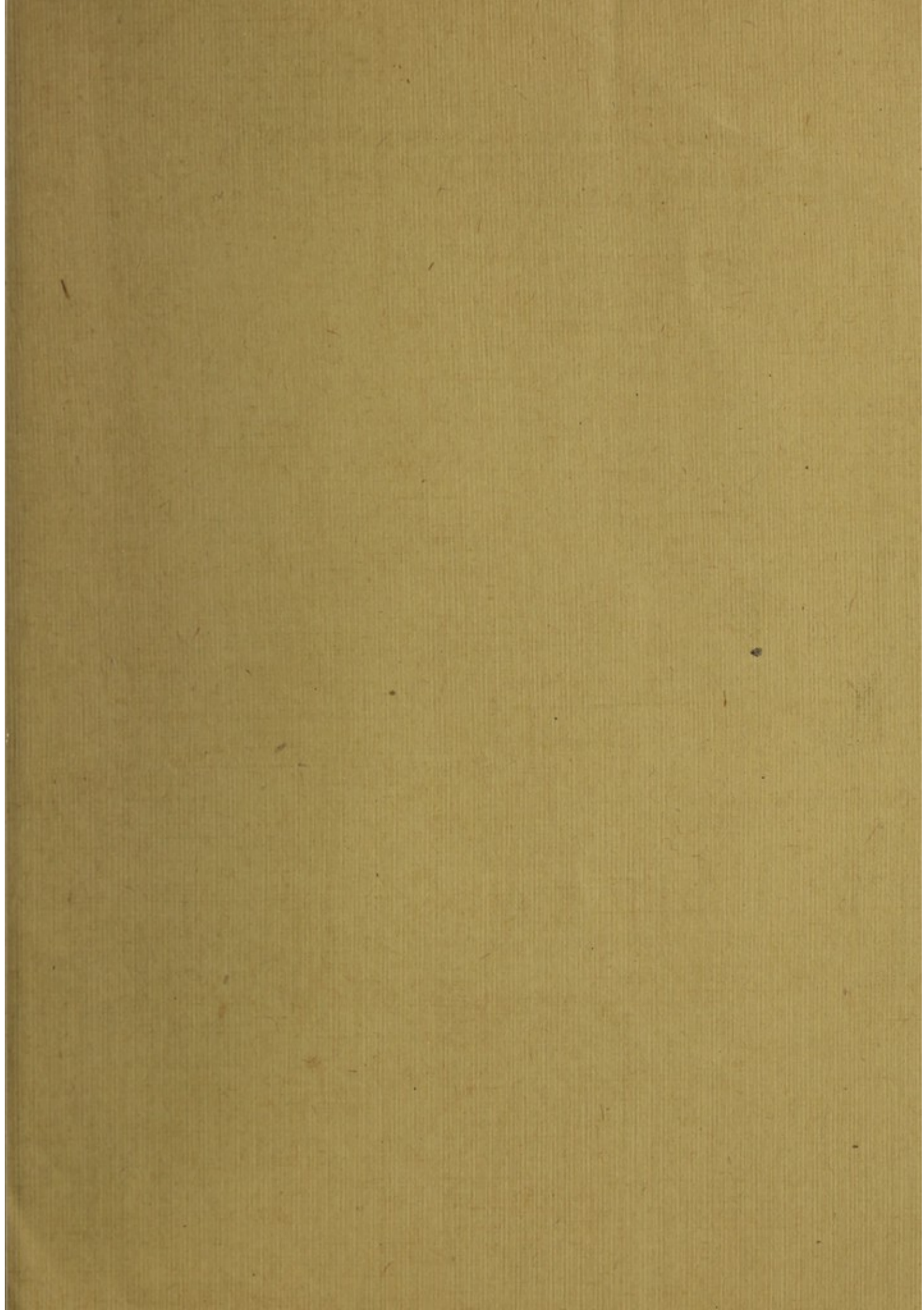
I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Thomas and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. H. SMELLIE.







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