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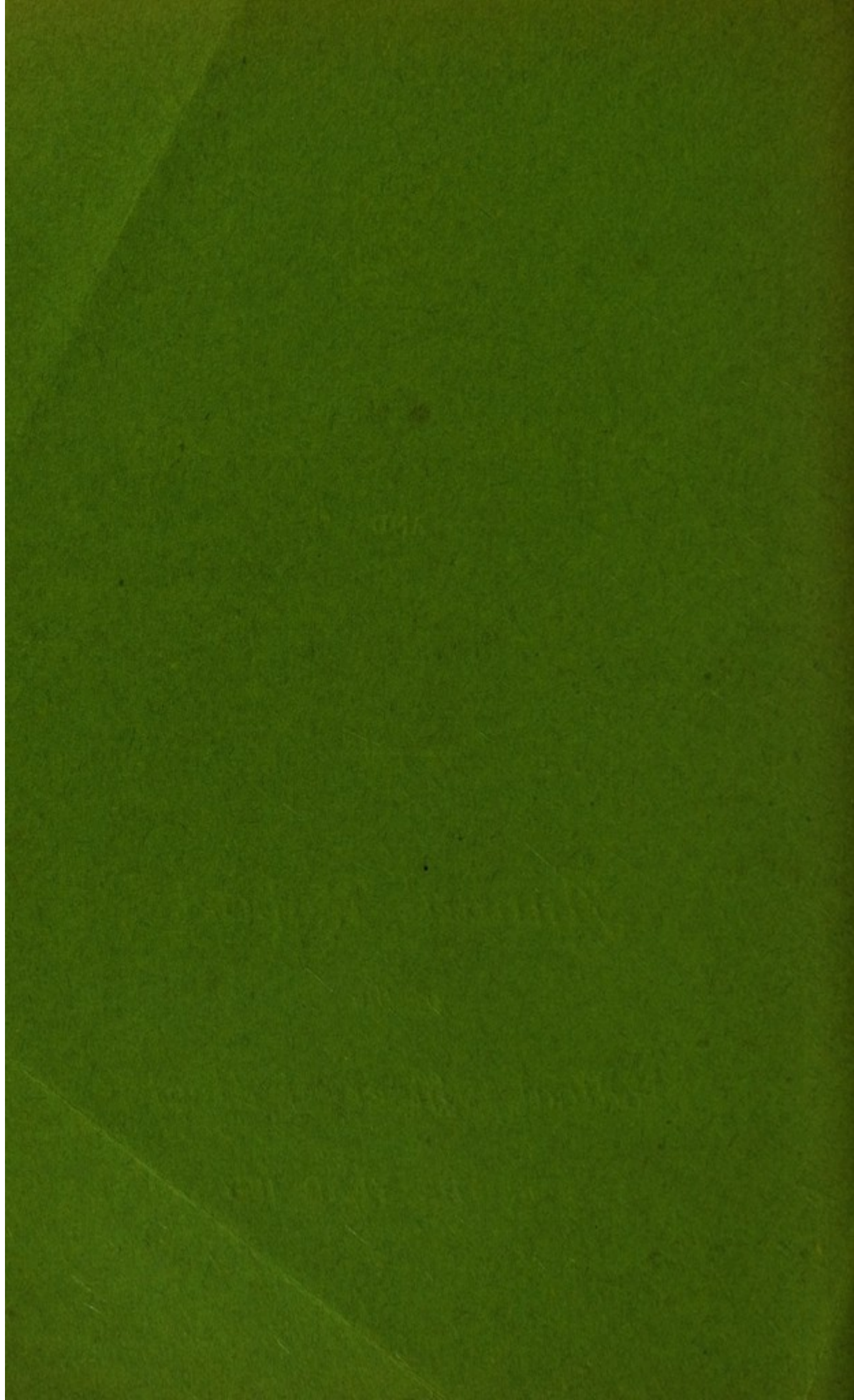
BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1947



STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

D. C. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

E. McTAYLOR, M.S.I.A., Resigned April, 1947.

S. DAVEY, M.S.I.A., Appointed October, 1947.

Health Visitors :

Miss D. ARCHER, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.).

Miss M. L. BIRKIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Cert., H.V. Cert.
(R.S.I.).

Matron, Boston Day Nursery :

Miss M. E. LAWRENCE, S.R.N.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon (Part-time) :

A. H. BRIGGS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Ante-Natal Consultant (Part-time) :

A. ECKFORD, M.A., M.D. (Cantab), M.R.C.S.

Consultant Aural Specialist (Part-time) :

M. SPENCER HARRISON, F.R.C.S.

Chief Clerk :

A. A. EDWARDS (Resigned June, 1947).

H. E. COWAN (Appointed July 1947).

BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

**To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Boston.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1947. The Health Services continue to prosper and the year has shown a record of continuous progress.

The number of births, 555, is I think the largest ever registered in the Borough whilst the number of deaths is virtually no more than in previous years. The infant mortality rate has risen somewhat, but is on the whole satisfactory. I should like to see it continually decreasing.

Apart from measles and chicken pox, the incidence of notified infectious diseases has been low. There were no cases of diphtheria notified, and this has largely resulted from the fact that immunisation has intensively been carried out. Personal persuasion by Health Visitors I find to be the best propaganda and I have started a special Immunisation Clinic which has been extremely well attended and shows every sign of increasing. During the year I was successful in arranging the showing of a special film on immunisation at one of the local cinemas and I consider this to have had a beneficial effect.

In common with most other areas of the country, during the summer months a few cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified but Boston escaped a serious epidemic.

The incidence of scabies has fallen considerably due largely to the fact that all inhabitants of infected dwellings are treated where possible and not only a notified case. The number of cases notified has fallen from 199 in 1946, to 63 in 1947.

All the various services under the heading of Maternity and Child Welfare have functioned successfully and they have all been carried out with the one and only idea of improving the health of the young and thus raising a healthy generation. It will be noted that the number of attendances at the Day Nursery is the highest ever recorded, and it is hoped that a Training School for students will be started in the near future.

The Sanitary Services under the able direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector have progressed in spite of the fact that from April until October he worked single handed, Mr. Davey having been appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector on the 6th October.

The housing question is still a matter of great concern. The living conditions under which large numbers of people exist are, to say the least, wholly unsatisfactory, and it is to be hoped that more and more houses, both municipal and private, will be built to relieve the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in some parts of the town.

The various items reported herein show continued progress and are well worth a close perusal. By the time another Annual Report comes to be compiled, the Maternity and Child Welfare services will have been handed over to the Holland County Council and I only hope that the work carried out in the past will continue to be as successfully carried out in the future.

I have therefore, every reason to believe that the various Health Services have prospered, thanks very largely to the co-operation and assistance of members of the Corporation, Officials and Staff of the Department.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. ROBERTSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
Boston, Lincs.

June, 1948.

Part I.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

GENERAL STATISTICS :

Area (in acres)	3,255
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate for 1947)	23,120
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1947 (according to the Rate Books)	6,952
Rateable Value	£135,651
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£533
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House	3.3
Estimated average number of Persons per Acre	7.1
Average number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	2.2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS ETC. :

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS :

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	24.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	29.7
Death Rate (all causes) per 1,000 of the resident population	13.2
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	Nil.

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	39.6
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	42.5
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	58.8

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19	31	50
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	1	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) —	—	1	1

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population, 23,120 shows a slight increase over the figure for 1946, which was 22,760. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 250.

BIRTHS :

A total of 555 live births (300 males, 255 females) were registered during 1947. The live birth rate of 24.0 per 1,000 compares very favourably with the figure for last year, which was 22.1, and that for the whole of England and Wales in 1947, which was 20.5.

The number of illegitimate live births was 34 (20 males, 14 females), which is 6.1% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1946 was 46.

STILLBIRTHS :

There were 17 stillbirths registered (9 males, 8 females), giving a stillbirth rate of 29.7 per 1,000 total live and still births, as compared with 30.9 in 1946.

Taken as a rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure of 0.73 per 1,000 is arrived at, which is slightly higher than the figure given by the Registrar-General for the whole of England and Wales, namely 0.50.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :

It is satisfactory to note that there were again no deaths from puerperal causes assigned to the Borough in 1947.

INFANT MORTALITY :

There were 22 deaths of infants under one year of age (12 males 10 females). This figure includes two illegitimate children (1 male, 1 female). The death rate of 39.6 per 1,000 live births shows an increase on the figure for 1946 (namely 27.9), but compares favourably with the figure for the whole of England and Wales, which was 41.0.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHŒA (children under 2 years of age) :

There was one death (female) under this heading in 1947. The resulting death rate per 1,000 live births is 1.8, as compared with 5.8 for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough, is 305. This figure gives a crude death rate of 13.2 per 1,000 of the resident population, slightly higher than for 1946, which was 12.4.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1947 is 12.0.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following particulars regarding weather conditions during 1947, as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston :—

January : The first 10 days were cold with frost every night and maximum day temperatures rather low. From the 21st real wintry weather set in with frost every night and much snow. Mean maximum temperature for month 39.7° was below the average (43.3°) and mean minimum at 30.5° against average 34.7° . Rainfall, including snow, 2.04" against average 1.62".

February : A month which will long be remembered for its severity. There was only one night when air frost was not registered. There were snow-falls on 20 days, and snow lay on the ground every day of the month. Among many outstanding phenomena was the long continuous frost of $343\frac{3}{4}$ hours. Mean maximum temperature at 31.9° against average of 44° , mean minimum at 26.1° against average of 33.6° . Rainfall, including snow, at 1.79" against average of 1.46".

March : The month opened cold and remained so until the 15th when temperatures rose sharply, and remained high until the end of the month. Snow had laid on the ground continuously for 45 days. From the 12th, when the thaw at last set in, rain fell on almost every day. The result of all this rainfall and thawing snow was widespread flooding and bursting of river banks. Boston itself escaped but serious flooding ensued in the surrounding districts. Total rainfall for month at 4.41" against average of 1.56". Mean maximum temperature at 44.2° against average of 49.0° .

April : After a rainy start the month continued fine with temperatures about average. Rainfall at 1.76" against average of 1.35".

May : A fine and very warm month, particularly the last days when very high temperatures were recorded. Rainfall was very low, .29" against average of 1.76". Two thunderstorms were recorded. Mean maximum temperature was very high, 68.3° against average of 61.4° .

June : A brilliant month, very warm with temperatures for the first few days many degrees above normal. Rainfall was above normal on account of a sharp, severe thunderstorm which occurred on the 27th, when 1.25" of rain fell in 25 mins. This is at the rate of nearly 3" per hour, an intensity rarely experienced in England. Total rainfall, 3.01" against normal of 1.82".

July : The severe thunderstorm of the 27th June caused a break in the fine spell and rain fell for the first 10 days. The remainder of the month was fine and warm. Thunderstorms occurred on 6 days. Total rainfall at 1.46" against average of 2.20".

August : Another record month both for sunshine and lack of rain. Except for a short shower on two days which only produced .02" of rain, the month was dry and no further rain fell. The maximum temperature recorded was 85°. Two waterspouts were observed on the last day of the month.

September : Weather continued fine and warm with very little rain. Mean maximum temperature at 69.5°, well above the average of 65.3°. Measurable rain fell on 9 days only, the total being 1.19" against average of 1.76".

October : Normally the wettest month of the year, average rainfall being 2.74", the extraordinary low amount of .16" only was recorded. Mean maximum temperature was 60.5° against average of 56.70°. There were, however, three ground frosts.

November : Mild conditions prevailed until the 23rd, after which date temperatures dropped quickly. Rainfall again well below normal, 1.09" against average of 2.00".

December : The cold weather which was prevalent at the end of November continued into December, severe frosts being recorded on the first three nights. Subsequently mild conditions prevailed from the 4th until almost the end of the month. Rainfall at 2.03" against average of 2.15".

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

There has been no change in the Laboratory facilities during 1947.

The Holland County Council Public Health Laboratory has continued to render a useful service to the Public Health Service and to medical practitioners in the Borough. The following table gives particulars of specimens examined on behalf of the Public Health Department during the year :—

Throat Swabs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	76
Fæces	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Blood	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Urine	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples submitted for examination have been mainly in connection with the inspection and supervision of food, and details will be found in Section E.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICES :

The Boston and District Motor Ambulance Service, a voluntary organisation, continued to provide an excellent service during the year. Two motor ambulances are maintained, and one full-time day driver and one part-time night driver are employed. In addition to journeys in the locality of Boston, 53 long distance journeys were made for patients residing in the Boston area. Below is given a statement shewing work carried out during the past five years :—

Year.	Patients conveyed.	No. of road accidents attended.	Mileage covered.
1943	688	21	9,648
1944	815	21	12,054
1945	814	13	15,276
1946	686	16	12,962
1947	690	13	14,763

For the conveyance of infectious cases, the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital Board maintain a motor ambulance at that hospital.

The Holland County Council Transport Department also maintains ambulances and sitting cars for use in connection with that Council's Public Health Services.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

The Boston and District Nursing Association continued to undertake home nursing in the Borough during the year, and it is estimated that 2,000 visits were paid to sick cases in 1947.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS :

The Hospital facilities remained unchanged during the year. The Boston General Hospital was again unable to bring more than 75 of its 95 beds into use during the year owing to continued staff difficulties. 1,596 in-patients were dealt with, and 6,161 out-patients made 18,926 attendances.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

These arrangements remained unchanged in 1947. The Tuberculosis Dispensary, Venereal Diseases Clinic and Orthopædic Clinic are held at the Holland County Emergency Hospital. The Clinics operated in connection with the School Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Services for Ophthalmic, Dental and minor defects, are held at the Health Centre, London Road.

The Cleansing Station also continues to function at the Health Centre, and details as to the number of cases of scabies dealt with will be found in Section F of this Report.

SUPPLY OF INSULIN TO DIABETICS :

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Circular 2734 (1943) of the Ministry of Health, the Corporation has since 1943 provided supplies of Insulin free of charge to poor persons in the Borough suffering from Diabetes. Cases are dealt with on the recommendation of the private doctor, who refers them to the Public Health Department. Details as to the number of cases provided with regular supplies of Insulin since the inception of the Scheme are as follows :—

1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 cases.
1944	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 cases.
1945	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 cases.
1946	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 cases.
1947	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 cases.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES :

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

BOROUGH MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Corporation of Boston is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Borough. After the 5th July, 1948, these Services will be administered by the Holland County Council in accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the said Council being the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act.

A very satisfactory degree of co-operation continues to exist between the Public Health Departments of both Authorities. The

Maternity and Child Welfare Services, details of which are given under the following sub-headings, have been greatly appreciated and continued to run smoothly. Dental treatment for expectant mothers is again the only service of which full advantage has not been taken.

1. ANTE-NATAL CARE :

(a) The Borough Ante-Natal Clinic.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre weekly on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Borough Ante-Natal Consultant is in attendance to carry out examinations, and another great advantage of the Scheme is that the Midwives are also in attendance (see "Midwifery Services," below) to meet their future cases and to learn at first-hand the findings of the Consultant.

No charge is made for the service. Cases in which any defects or abnormalities are found are given appropriate advice and referred either through the Boston Schemes or to their own private doctors for treatment. Where necessary, X-Ray examination is also arranged, and details as to the number of cases so dealt with in 1947 are set forth in the appropriate section of this Report. The following statistics have been tabulated of the work of the Clinic since its inauguration :—

Year.	Sessions held.	Total No. of women who attended.	Examinations carried out.
1944	48	246	304
1945	49	238	373
1946	48	259	337
1947	48	244	307

(b) Other Arrangements.

Expectant mothers who have booked maternity beds at the Boston General Hospital or at the Holland County Council Wyberton West Hospital are called to the Ante-Natal Clinics organised by the respective Hospitals.

2. HEALTH VISITING :

The Health Visiting work of the Borough is ably carried out by the two Health Visitors.

Details of Visits paid during the Year 1947.

Nature of Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.
To expectant mothers	108	165
To children under 1 year of age	521	2,966
To children between 1 and 5 years of age	—	4,317

The steady increase in the volume of this work will be apparent from the following records of the total home visits which have been paid during the past five years :—

1943	.....	6,767
1944	.....	6,909
1945	.....	7,182
1946	.....	7,407
1947	.....	7,448

3. MIDWIFERY SERVICES :

As stated earlier in this Report, the Holland County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts. Four midwives are employed by that Authority for work in the Borough.

The midwives attend at the Borough Ante-Natal Clinic weekly, and all bookings of midwives are effected there. This arrangement is a most useful one, enabling mothers to see the Midwife and the Ante-Natal Consultant in the course of the same visit.

4. MATERNITY HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION :

(a) **The Boston General Hospital.**—A voluntary hospital—incorporates a Maternity Unit with 12 maternity beds. The following are the statistics of the Unit for 1947 :

Number of beds in the Unit reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment	Nil.
(These are treated in the General Wards as necessary.)	
Number of maternity cases admitted during the year	270
Average duration of stay of cases in the lying-in wards	12 days
Number of cases delivered by :—	
(a) Midwives	222
(b) Doctors	43
Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	17
Number of cases admitted after delivery	5
Number of cases notified as puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia	2
Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum	Nil.
Number of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complementary feed whilst in the Unit (excluding those given in the first three or four days whilst breast feeding is being established)	35

Number of infants wholly breast-fed on leaving the Unit	245
Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil.
Number of maternal deaths	Nil.
Number of stillbirths	12
Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth	9
The infant deaths were due to :—	
Atelectasis	2
Prematurity (twins, 1 set)	2
Prematurity	3
Convulsions	2

(b) **The Holland County Council Wyberton West Hospital.**

This Hospital, situated in the Borough, has a Maternity Unit which is, however, mainly for County Cases, except as mentioned under the next heading.

(c) **The Borough Materity Beds Scheme.**

This Scheme, which was inaugurated in 1937, has continued to operate successfully during the year. Reservations are made by the Corporation for the admission of 8 cases per month to the Boston General Hospital Maternity Unit at a cost of 10 guineas per case, the patients making a contribution towards the cost according to their financial circumstances. Emergency cases have been accommodated within this Scheme during the year.

In April, 1947, a further Scheme was put into operation enabling cases of abnormalities of pregnancy to be admitted to the General Wards of the Hospital, the patients again paying a proportion of the cost according to their financial circumstances. 4 such cases were admitted during the year.

By arrangement with the Holland County Council, bookings have been allocated to the Borough to enable a small number of cases to be admitted to the Maternity Unit at Wyberton West Hospital. The cost to the Corporation amounts to 5 guineas weekly for each case, patients again contributing according to income.

Admissions to Maternity Units under the Borough Scheme.

Year.	Boston General Hospital.	Wyberton West Hospital.
1943	82	—
1944	99	—
1945	92	21
1946	105	21
1947	113	34

5. HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS :

A Home Help Scheme was brought into operation early in the year to provide home and domestic help to deserving cases, priority to be given to confinements at home. However, in spite of widespread publicity, the Scheme has not progressed as well as was hoped owing to the difficulty of building up a suitable panel of Home Helps, due to the part-time nature of the work. Only one case was provided with a Home Help during the year.

6. CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS :

Twenty-nine premature babies were notified to me during 1947 as being born to mothers in the Borough. Of these 13 were born at home and were nursed entirely at home, 10 surviving at the end of one month. 16 were born in hospital, of which 12 survived at the end of one month. There were, therefore, 7 deaths of premature infants.

Information as to prematurity is received by the Public Health Department when births are notified. On the printed cards issued to midwives, etc., for this purpose, space is provided for details of weight at birth when this is 5½lbs. or less.

Each case is visited and carefully investigated by the Health Visitors, who give appropriate advice and also submit to me a special report. During the period when hot water bottles have been in short supply, these have been issued on loan from the Public Health Department as required.

Institutional treatment is available when necessary at the Boston General Hospital.

7. CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS :

In the course of their duties, the Health Visitors pay special attention to the care of illegitimate children.

Close liason is maintained with local moral welfare organisations and I am satisfied that the problem receives adequate attention.

8. THE BOSTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE :

The work of the Infant Welfare Centre has continued to grow steadily during 1947. Sessions have continued to be held at the Health Centre on three afternoons weekly, namely Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 2 to 4 p.m., when I attend together with the Health Visitors. The assistance provided by the team of voluntary lady workers is of great value to the smooth-running of Welfare Sessions.

Attendances have again increased considerably and the approximate percentage of children born in the year who attended the Welfare Centre has increased to 85%. Total attendances over the past 5 years are as follows :—

1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,474
1944	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,166
1945	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,941
1946	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,766
1947	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,383

Children seen at the Welfare Centre requiring treatment for dental or opthalmic defects, orthopædic conditions, diseases of the ear, nose and throat, etc., are referred as necessary to the Treatment Schemes provided by the Corporation (details of which are tabulated later in this Section) or referred to their private doctors.

The co-operation of the N.S.P.C.C. has continued to prove of immense value in several instances in dealing with the class of parents who endanger the health of their children by failing to bring them to clinics, etc.

Owing to the increasing numbers of parents requiring their children to be immunised against Diphtheria, it was found necessary towards the end of the year to institute special immunisation clinics instead of carrying out this work as required at normal welfare sessions. These clinics proved to be a great advantage and are continuing to be held at the Health Centre each Thursday afternoon with a Health Visitor and myself in attendance.

Infant Feeding, Supply of Foods, etc.

Careful advice is given at the Centre on problems of infant diet. Natural feeding is strongly advocated, and I am pleased to report that the increase in the proportion of infants being breast-fed has been maintained during 1947.

Stocks of most brands of infant foods are held at the Welfare Centre for sale to mothers at cost price. The Centre is also used for the distribution of Ministry of Food vitamin concentrates, cod liver oil and fruit juices.

Statistics of the Infant Welfare Centre for 1947.

Number of attendances :

(a) By infants under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,560
(b) By children aged 1 to 5 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,823

Number of children who first attended during 1947 :

(a) Infants under 1 year of age	474
(b) Children aged 1 to 5 years	86

Number of Sessions held	153
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Average attendance per session	61.3
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Total number of children attending during 1947, who at the end of the year were :—

(a) Infants under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	433
(b) Children aged 1 to 5 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	823

9. BOROUGH TREATMENT SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5, EXPECTANT MOTHERS, ETC. :

(a) **X-Ray Examination of Expectant Mothers.**

Cases in which such examination is desirable are referred by the Ante-Natal Consultant from the Clinic. By arrangement with the Holland County Council, the examination can be carried out at the County Emergency Hospital by appointment. No charge is made by the Corporation to the patient.

Nineteen cases were examined under this Scheme in 1947 compared with seven in 1946.

(b) **Dental Treatment—Expectant Mothers.**

Cases requiring dental treatment are referred to me by the Ante-Natal Consultant, Health Visitors or Midwives.

Minor treatment (necessitating only one or two extractions or fillings) is carried out by the County Dentist by arrangement with the Holland County Council. No charge is made to the patient.

Treatment necessitating multiple extractions and provision of dentures is carried out by arrangement with the private dentist of the patient's choice. Patients are required to pay contributions according to their means.

Cases undergoing minor treatment by the County Dentist during 1947	14
Cases treated by private dentists and fitted with dentures under the Scheme	8
Cases referred, but who did not accept the facilities offered	23

(c) **Dental Treatment—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from dental defects are referred from the Infant Welfare Centre or Day Nursery, or by the Health Visitors. By arrangement with the Holland County Council, treatment is carried out by the County Dentist, and no charge is made by the Corporation to the parents. Where necessary, teeth are extracted under gas anæsthetic.

Children treated by County Dentist in 1947	18
Children referred, but who failed to accept the facilities offered	4

(d) **Treatment for Ear, Nose and Throat Defects—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre. Operative treatment is carried out at the Boston General Hospital. Parents are required to pay a contribution according to their

means, except in cases covered by the Hospital Contributory Scheme, in which a modified charge is made by the Hospital and no parental contribution is sought.

Children with other defects or complications of this nature are referred to the Consultant Aural Specialist for examination and report. Thereafter, arrangements are made for any treatment indicated.

Children who received operative treatment for Tonsils and/or Adenoids in 1947	15
Children referred to the Aural Specialist in con- sultation	2

The number of children receiving operative treatment during the year is considerably less than in previous years due mainly to the fact that operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids was suspended during the summer months owing to the outbreak of acute poliomyelitis.

(e) **Ophthalmic Treatment—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from defects of vision are referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre to the weekly County Ophthalmic Clinic, where they are dealt with by arrangement with the Holland County Council.

Difficult cases, such as those requiring operative treatment for squint, etc., are referred to the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, who attends weekly at the Boston General Hospital.

No charge is made to parents for this service, but cost price is charged for any spectacles provided.

Number of children referred to the County Oph- thalmic Clinic during 1947	32
Attendances made by the above	115
Number of children referred to the Consultant Surgeon	19
Number of children provided with spectacles under the Scheme in 1946	16

(f) **Orthopædic Treatment—Children under 5.**

By arrangement with the Holland County Council, children referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre as suffering from orthopædic defects are dealt with under that Authority's comprehensive Scheme.

Cases are called to attend at the Orthopædic Surgeon's monthly Clinic. Thereafter, treatment is provided as follows :—

For in-patients : At the Orthopædic Block, Holland County Emergency Hospital. The Corporation has, by arrangement, one bed permanently reserved for Borough cases.

For out-patients : At the special Department of the County Emergency Hospital, the Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, or in the homes of patients.

No charge is made to parents for any treatment under the Scheme.

Details of Borough Orthopædic Cases, 1947.

Register of Cases :

Orthopædic cases on register at commencement of year	27
Cases added during 1947	29
Cases removed (attained school age, left area, etc.)	17
Cases remaining on Register at end of 1947	39

In-patient Treatment :

Number of children receiving in-patient treatment 1947	15
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Total number of days patients were in hospital	385
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Children. Attendances.

Orthopædic Surgeon's Clinic :

Children in attendance in 1947	44	79
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Out-patient Treatment :

At Out-patient Dept., County Emergency Hospital	18	41
At Physiotherapy Centre	22	349
Home visits by the Orthopædic Nurse	13	30

(g) Ultra-Violet Light Treatment—Children under 5.

Children suffering from general debility and similar conditions are referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre to the Ultra-Violet Light Clinic of a Masseuse in private practice in Boston. This Scheme has been in operation for several years, and has proved of great benefit in these cases treated. No charge is made to parents for the service.

Eight such cases made a total of 98 attendances during 1947.

10. THE BOSTON DAY NURSERY :

The Nursery Staff is residential, and comprises the Matron, Deputy Matron, Staff Nurse and six Nursery Assistants. All have been selected from a point of view of suitability to have the care of young children, and all candidates for appointment to the staff are medically examined by me.

Children are taken daily, from 7.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (excepting Saturdays and Sundays). They are provided with a light lunch, dinner and tea, and close attention is paid to diet. An inclusive charge of 1/6 per day is made for each child.

The Day Nursery has continued to be a great boon to working mothers, enabling them to leave their babies and toddlers in competent and careful hands, and with myself in regular attendance to supervise the diet and handling of the children.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the Staff at full strength, but in spite of this, the following statistics indicate a considerable increase in attendances when compared with previous years :—

Number of approved places at the Day Nursery :

(a) For children aged 0—2 years	25
(b) For children aged 2—5 years	25

Number of children on the Register at end of 1947 :

(a) Children aged 0—2 years	16
(b) Children aged 2—5 years	37

Total attendances registered in 1947 9,425

11. CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The Health Visitors undertake the duties of Child Life Protection Visitors under the Public Health Act, 1936.

One child under the age of nine years was on the Register and under their supervision and protection at the end of the year 1947, being received by a foster-mother for reward.

Frequent routine visits are made to such cases, and special reports submitted to me on every occasion. It was not found necessary during 1947 to take any action under the Act.

12. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939 :

No notice was received by the Welfare Authority during the year 1947, and no action taken by the Authority under Section 7 of the above Act.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH. WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :—

1. STATISTICS, ETC. :

- (a) **Rainfall** : At Revesby Waterworks for 1947—19.40 inches, a decrease of 8.31 inches on 1946, and 6 inches below average.
- (b) **Evaporation** : At Revesby Waterworks for 1947—16.52 inches, an increase of 4.77 inches on 1946.
- (c) **Volume of Water Supplied** from Revesby and Fordington during 1947—430,172,000 gallons, an increase of 20,594,000 gallons on 1946, despite the restrictions imposed on the supply during the second half of the year arising from drought conditions.
Average gallons per Day : 1,179,000 (Revesby—534,000, Fordington—645,000) an increase of 67,000 gallons per day on 1946.
- (d) **Domestic and Trade Consumption** in the Borough are estimated at 32 and 11 gallons per head per day respectively. Waste inspection and detection measures have been systematically undertaken both day and night with beneficial results. Cold water taps rewashed (free of charge) during 1947—1,116.
- (e) **New Services Connected during 1947**—239.

2. (a) QUALITY OF WATER.

Based on the analysis made by the Royal Institute of Public Health on samples drawn from the mains in various parts of the Borough at frequent intervals, the water has throughout the year been of satisfactory quality.

Samples have also been taken by the Water Engineer during each month of the year at Revesby and Fordington, of the raw water at each source and the treated water passing to supply. The Public Analyst (Mr. W. W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Nottingham) has on all occasions reported the water passing to supply to be of satisfactory chemical and bacteriological quality for domestic use and dairy purposes and adequately chlorinated.

- (b) The Ph values of the Revesby and Fordington waters are 7.0—8.0 and therefore not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
- (c) There was no form of contamination in the public water supply during 1947.

- (d) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small, whilst in the rural portion of the Corporation's Statutory area of supply 9 standpipe supplies serve a population of approximately 200. It is to be hoped that the Ministry of Health will permit a start on the Rural Water Scheme during 1948 as the need for piped water supplies for domestic and agricultural purposes in many of the parishes north of Boston is extremely urgent.

3. QUANTITY OF WATER AVAILABLE :

As indicated in 1(c) above the second half of the year presented considerable anxiety and whilst it was necessary to prohibit the use of water for non-essential purposes, reduce pressures in the mains and cut-off at specified times supplies to bulk consumers, complete failure was averted, although it has to be admitted that a relatively small percentage of the water population of 25,000 suffered a certain amount of inconvenience during the day-time, week-ends excluded.

Works in hand :—

- (a) New Borehole at Fordington.
- (b) Installation of three additional pressure filters and chemical plant at Revesby.
- (c) Improvements to Reservoir and gathering grounds at Revesby.
- (d) Installation of Booster Plant—Horncastle Road—Boston.

4. PARTICULARS AS TO LENGTHS OF NEW MAINS LAID DURING YEAR.

Borough.				Dia.	Length (Yards)
1. Maud Street	.....	.....	.....	4"	70
2. Edwin Street	.....	.....	.....	3"	140
3. Wide Bargate	.....	.....	.....	6"	35
4. Granville Street	.....	.....	.....	4"	300
5. Church Road Housing Site	.....	.....	.....	6"	120
Ditto	.....	.....	.....	4"	260
6. Skirbeck Road	.....	.....	.....	6"	500
7. West Street and West Row	.....	.....	.....	6"	300
					— 1725
Spilsby Rural District.					
Fishtoft Drove—Frithville	.....	.....	.....	3"	3000
					— 3000
					—
					Total yds. 4725
					—
or 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles (approx.)					

(Signed) D. H. BALL,
M.I.Mun.E., A.I.W.E.,
Borough Water Engineer.

1st July, 1948.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

The only new sewers laid were those on Council Housing Sites. Normal repairs and cleansings were carried out. Work on the new West Side Sewerage Scheme continues.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :

House refuse is collected at fortnightly intervals. The Salvage Collections continue to be very satisfactory and waste paper collections increased from 295 tons in 1946/47 to 368 tons in 1947/48.

SWIMMING BATHS :

Due no doubt to the prolonged fine weather the swimming baths situated on the east bank of the Haven was very popular both with adults and school children and attendances were above the average. Samples of the water were submitted for analysis at intervals throughout the season and although none of them was described as completely unsatisfactory, they were of a fairly uniform low standard. The chlorination plant was maintained in good condition but having regard to the source of the water it is very doubtful whether chlorination alone would produce a water of a high standard of purity.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :

(a) **Rodent Control.**

- (1) Sewer treatments.—Two maintenance treatments were carried out during the year the first one commencing January 20th and the second one November 17th. Following previous practice, the first of these treatments was carried out by the Pests Officer, assisted by two labourers engaged specifically for this operation. Owing to the severe weather the work extended over a period of nearly three months but in spite of all the difficulties encountered operations were at no time completely suspended.

For the second treatment two experienced men were hired from the Rodent Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, together with a van. With the assistance of the Pests Officer they completed their work in 6 days. This represented a great saving in time and money besides releasing the Pests Officer for other work.

- (2) Surface Infestations.—110 cases of minor infestations were dealt with and were found mainly to be associated with back garden poultry houses and pig styes. The majority of persons responsible were appreciative of advice but many objected to paying for service. In no case however, was it found necessary to issue a statutory notice to enforce our requirements.

(b) **Verminous Houses.**

The number of houses found to be verminous was as follows :—

Bed bugs	16
Fleas	1
Miscellaneous	49

The miscellaneous item consisted largely of black beetle or cricket infestations. Ants also were fairly prevalent although in nothing like the numbers that appeared last year.

Greater use was made of D.D.T. smoke, particularly against bed bugs and satisfactory results were obtained, even in old buildings where complete sealing was impossible.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :

The report of the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of this report.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :

On the 1st April, 1947, when the Borough Police Force was merged with the Lincolnshire County Constabulary, the duties of Inspector of Common Lodging Houses were transferred to the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Conditions in the lodging houses were maintained at a fairly satisfactory level although constant supervision is necessary. Accommodation was provided for men only and the number of beds occupied remained fairly constant as the majority of occupants are more or less permanent residents. There was the usual seasonal influx of agricultural workers at harvest times but no serious overcrowding resulted.

FACTORIES :

The following tables give particulars of the visits made to factories during 1947. The number of defects found was small and in no case was it necessary to resort to statutory action to remedy the defects.

Inspections.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	37	4	Nil.
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	23	Nil.
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	Nil.	Nil.
Total	141	27	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	12	13	Nil.	1	Nil.
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) insufficient	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) Unsuitable or defective	21	26	Nil.	8	Nil.
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	35	41	Nil.	9	Nil.

OUTWORKERS PREMISES :

The number of these in the Borough is very small and they have been regularly inspected and generally found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected in the Borough during the year :—

- (a) By private enterprise 56
 - (b) By the Council 12
- (86 Council Houses were under construction at the end of 1947).

INSPECTIONS :

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 557
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1320
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 9
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 26

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	548
2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	81
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.	
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	21
(b) By local authority in default of owners	9
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	72
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	42
(b) By local authority in default of owners	4
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
Nil.	
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
Nil.	

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Owing to the impossibility during the war years of keeping the records up to date, no accurate figures can be given.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The Slaughterhouse in Pipe Makers Lane continues in use with little or no alteration. The number of carcasses killed and inspected shows a decrease on last year's figures, the decrease being particularly

noticeable in relation to pigs. It is also interesting to note that while the number of cattle killed decreased from 2,369 to 1,903, the number of cows included in that total increased from 460 to 622. A further point of interest is that the percentage of diseased animals has risen except in the case of calves, sheep and lambs. The following tables give details of the numbers of carcasses inspected and of meat condemned.

Carcasses examined during the year :—

Beef	2336
Mutton	4928
Pork	712

Meat Destroyed.

	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Total.
Carcasses whole with offal	63	6	13	82
Forequarters	7	—	3	10
Hindquarters	1	—	—	1
Plucks	—	21	57	78
Heads and Tongues	196	21	18	235
Livers	339	9	—	348
Lungs	106	—	—	106
Intestines	87	14	63	164
Miscellaneous	216	87	8	311
Meat	33st 12lb.	—	27st. 10lbs.	61st. 8lbs.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned 22 tons, 17 cwts, 3qrs, 14 lbs.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1903	622	433	4928	712
Number inspected	1903	622	433	4928	712
All diseases except tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	26	10	4	6	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	251	5	5	100	95
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	14.5	2.4	2.0	2.1	14.2
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	33	23	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	248	9	—	—	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	14.7	5.1	—	—	4.6

MILK SUPPLY.

The position remains substantially the same as last year and there are no radical changes to report. Minor improvements have however been achieved such as the delivery of bulk milk in the cool early hours of the morning instead of during the heat of the day. There has also been a slight increase in the amount of heat treated milk with a corresponding decrease in the quantity of ungraded milk that is being sold in the Borough.

Samples of both pasteurised and ungraded milk have been taken regularly with generally satisfactory results. The results of samples taken from individual producers confirms the view that good milk production is dependant on a good water supply on the farm.

The dairies and cowsheds have been regularly inspected and are well kept even if not completely up to date in equipment.

Good use has been made of the facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln where all milk and ice cream samples have been analysed. The number of samples submitted for analysis is as follows :—

Ungraded milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Pasteurised milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Ice Cream	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table 1 shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Scarlet Fever : There has been a considerable decrease in the number notified during the year, only 21 notifications received compared with 72 received in 1946. There were again no deaths resulting from this disease.

Diphtheria : For the first year on record, there have been no cases of diphtheria notified as occurring in the Borough. This excellent state of affairs is mainly due to the fact that the great majority of children are now immunised at a very early age.

Scabies : 63 cases of scabies were notified during the year, this figure being a great reduction on that for 1946 when 199 cases were notified. 64 persons received treatment for this disease at the Cleansing Centre, 25 of whom were children of school age. Since 1942 in-patient treatment for scabies has been made available by the Holland County Council, the cost being met as a general County Charge.

Measles : The incidence in the rate of notification of this disease for the year shows a great increase due mainly to an epidemic of measles during the last quarter of the year. 254 notifications were received against 14 for 1946.

Acute Poliomyelitis : Although this disease was fairly widespread throughout the country, only 7 confirmed cases occurred in the Borough during the year. These cases occurred at fairly regular intervals over a period of 6 months, and there were no deaths resulting.

Table 1.

All the figures included refer to civilians only, and are corrected figures :—

Notifiable Disease during the Year 1947.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Confirmed. Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	21	21	10	Nil.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	2	Nil.
Pneumonia	28	28	4	10
Erysipelas	4	4	1	Nil.
Measles	254	254	1	Nil.
Whooping Cough	71	71	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	Nil.	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	Nil.	Nil.
Scabies	68	68	Nil.	Nil.
Food Poisoning	9	9	2	Nil.
Chicken Pox	157	157	Nil.	Nil.
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	7	8	Nil.
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	1	Nil.	Nil.
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of the Holland County Council and all examinations are carried out under their authority.

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Table 2.
TUBERCULOSIS.
Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—
5—15	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
15—25	5	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	5	1	1	1	4	1	—	—
35—45	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	1
45—55	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	14	9	5	4	8	5	2	1

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :

During 1947, 398 children completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria.

Children under 5 years of age :—

Of 2,004 children in this age group 1,164 (i.e. 58.1%) have now been immunised. —

Children between 5 and 15 years of age :—

Of 3,547 children in this age group, 3,287 (i.e. 92.7%) have now been immunised.

Totals, all children under 15 years of age :—

4,451 children out of a total of 5,551 under the age of 15 years (i.e. 80.2%) have received the benefit of this service.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

INSPECTIONS :

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1936 391

Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936 631

—1022

Reinspections :

Under the Housing Act, 1936	664
Under the Public Health Act	163
	<hr/> 827
Living Vans	73
Butchers' Shops	47
Other Shops	148
Bakehouses	67
Factories and Workshops	135
Cowsheds and Milkshops	14
Infectious Diseases	33
Market Stalls	94
Smoke Observation	13
Overcrowding	17
Slaughterhouse and Meat Depot	593
Dock	6
Rat Infestation	63
Milk Samples	68
Ice Cream Samples	23
Water Samples	21
Miscellaneous	147
	<hr/>
Total	3311

OFFICE WORK :

Informal Notices.	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936	140	77
Public Health Act, 1936	49	41
Dustbin	262	151
Statutory Notices.	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	25	30
Public Health Act, 1936	27	17
Dutbin	45	27
Conversions	5	—

PREMISES DISINFECTED :

Scarlet Fever	4
Diphtheria	1
Tuberculosis	11
Cancer	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2

NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED :

Total number of complaints received 385

The following are details of complaints received and remedied :—

Defective dustbins	6
General Housing Complaints	133
Defective W.C's.	12
Dirty houses	22
Bugs	3
Fleas, beetles, etc.	13
Rats and Mice	69
Choked drains	60
Choked sewers	17
Smoke nuisance	4
Defective yard paving	6
Defective water tap	2
Cesspools	5
Miscellaneous	53

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :

Stables	1
Slaughterhouses	1
Pigs	1
Workshops	4
Premises used for Offensive Trades	1
Fish Curing Premises	1

OTHER ITEMS.

WATER :

Samples of water were taken at regular intervals throughout the year, and in each case the Analyst reported that the water was satisfactory.

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

Part II.

— Boston Port Health Authority

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year ended 31st December, 1947.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Boston, being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1947. The report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

During 1947 the trade of the Port has again shown a considerable increase, the number of vessels entering the Port during the year being more than double the figure for 1946. The Health Administration however, has continued to function smoothly leaving little untoward to report, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Port Manager and Officers of H.M. Customs ; also to the Port Sanitary Officer and other Members of the Public Health Department Staff for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant ,

D. C. ROBERTSON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
Boston.

March, 1948.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

— of the —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ended 31st December, 1947.

Table A.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

		Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign	Steamers ..	74	38,356	9	20	6	6	Nil	2
	*Motor ..	197	26,183	16	27	3	3	Nil	1
	Sailing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ..		271	64,539	25	47	9	9	Nil	3
Coastwise	Steamers ..	118	24,245	8	17	4	4	Nil	Nil
	*Motor ..	346	41,550	14	39	4	4	Nil	1
	Sailing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ..	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise		465	65,809	22	56	8	8	Nil	1
Total Foreign and Coastwise		736	130,348	47	103	17	17	Nil	4

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT :

Table B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the Year.

No. of Passengers.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Trans-migrants.
Inwards	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Outwards	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :

Fertilisers	Deals	Pine Logs	Granite
Grain	Battens & Boards	Manure	Shingle
Flour	Sleepers	Binder Twine	General Contin-
Potatoes	Telegraph Poles	Steel Billets	ental goods
Feeding Stuffs	Softwood Logs	Bog Ore	

The Principal Exports are :

Grain	Seeds	Pig Iron	Fireclay
Potatoes	Sugar	Basic Slag	Sleepers
General Contin-			
ental goods			

(c) Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive.

Finland.	Holland.	Germany.	Belgium	Sweden.	Russia
Borga	Hansweert	Emden	Antwerp	Haparanda	Mesane
Kemi	Flushing	Hamburg	Ghent		
Abo	Maasluis	Leer			
Pernoviken	Rotterdam	Lubeck			
Fredriks-	Ternheusen	Wilhelm-			
hamn	Willenstad	haven			
Valkon	Zaandam	Papenburg			
Kotka	Zieriksee	Breman			
Mantylusto	Middleharnis	Wismar			
Wasa	Dordrecht				
Uleaborg	Delfzyl				
Skogby					
	France.	Spain.	Norway.		
	Rouen	Ferrol	Oslo		
	St. Marlo		Sandvik		
	Calais		Porsgrund		

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Supply.

2. Hydrants and Hosepipes—Precautions taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 AND 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms, which, after completion, are returned to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival.

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock Gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention—(wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.).

Each week, a detailed list of infected ports is extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record. This list is forwarded to the Port Manager for the information of Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, etc. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

The Medical Officer of Health is also connected by telephone with the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : " Port-health, Boston " remains registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10.

- (a) Within the Docks : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.
- (b) Outside the Docks : The Quarantine Station—" Clay Hole."

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14.

Nil.

6. Experience of working Article 16.

It has not been necessary during the year 1947 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :

- (a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination.

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the

Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

- (b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other articles :

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer. Bedding, etc., can be disinfected by steam in the steam disinfecter at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations.

Such accommodation is available at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox and other Infectious Diseases.

Isolation Hospital accommodation is provided adjacent to the main County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital, near the Borough of Boston Boundary and within convenient reach of the Port.

- (e) Ambulance Transport.

A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts.

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague.

Any such examinations would be arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations.

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned Laboratories :—

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.
(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).
- (b) The Holland County Council Public Health Laboratory, Boston (provided by the Holland County Council).

10. **Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-patient Treatment ; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen.**

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Public Heath Department of the Holland County Council.

Out-Patient Treatment is available at The Clinic, County Emergency Hospital, London Road, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the Ciniics are as follows :—

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
 Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

If necessary, special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with in the Scarthoe Road Institution, Grimsby.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspection.

11. **Arrangements for the Interment of Dead.**

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. **Other Matters, if any, requiring or receiving Attention.**

There are no items to report under this heading.

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the Year 1947.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Scabies	Nil.	5	4	1.2

N.B.—The 5 cases of scabies were successfully treated at the Borough of Boston Health Centre.

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the Voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the Year 1947.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred during the year 1947, and no plague-infected rats were discovered ; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague.

(a) in Ships in the Port.

Particular attention is paid to this matter by the Port Sanitary Officer in the course of his inspection of ships.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the Port.

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore.

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide " mushrooms " on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

3. Method of Deratisation of :

(a) Ships—

Trapping or poisoning and sulphur fumigation where necessary.

(b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays—

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer, all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Pre-baiting, poisoning, gassing, etc., are carried out as and when necessary.

4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore.

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examinations of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

5. Rat-proofing.

(a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof.

The Fruit Shed (south side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the north side of the Dock are of concrete.

(b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing.

i. In Ships : Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. On Shore : The existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Table E.

(1) on Vessels.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year.
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Brown	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	7	—	2	18
Species not recorded ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Infected with Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Table F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year.
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Brown	—	—	10	—	—	17	—	—	20	—	—	10	57
Species not recorded ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Infected with Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Table G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague " infected " or " suspected " Vessels, or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the year.

Total Number of such Vessels arriving	Nil.
(1)	
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂	Nil.
(2)	
Number of Rats killed	Nil.
(3)	
Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	Nil.
(4)	
Number of Rats killed	Nil.
(5)	
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed	Nil.
(6)	
Number of Rats killed	Nil.
(7)	
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out.	Nil.
(8)	

Table H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This Table is not applicable to the Port of Boston, which is not one of the Ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the Year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	92	Nil.	1	9
Other Nations	58	Nil.	Nil.	8

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :—

No occasion for any action under the above Regulations arose during the year 1947.

2. Shell-fish.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority, in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1947, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :

(a) Bacteriologist	Nil.
(b) Analyst	Nil.



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