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**BOROUGH OF CALNE**

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**REPORT**

OF THE

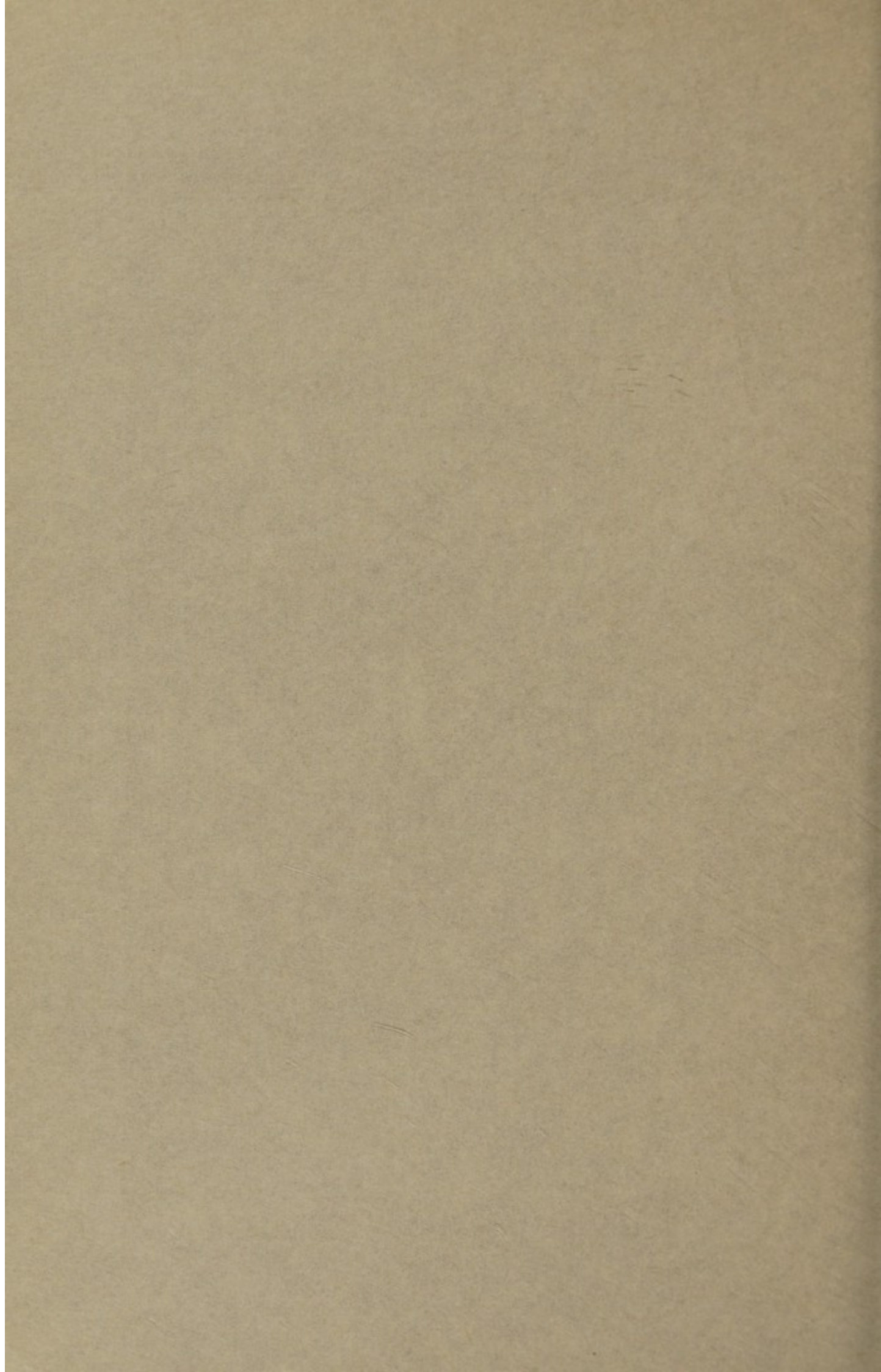
**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31st DECEMBER, 1945**

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R. S. HEATH, CALNE, WILTS.





## **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

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(a) **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

C. L. Broomhead, M.D., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., from September to December, 1945.

R. D. Gray, M.D., D.P.H., temporary Officer from January to September, 1945.

(b) **SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

T. V. Oliver, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

## **Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year Ended 31st December, 1945.**

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Calne.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December, 1945. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular, 28/46, dated 11th February, 1946 and is therefore curtailed.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	1,276
Population (1945)	5,402
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945 according to Rate Book)	1,531
Rateable Value	£29,104 0 0
Sum represented by penny rate	£116 12 5

### Vital Statistics for 1945.

	Total	M.	F.	Rate.	Cf. E & W.
Live Births	100	53	47		
Legitimate	89	46	43		
Illegitimate	11	7	4		
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				18.5	16.1
Still Births	3	1	2		
Rate (per 1,000 total births)				29.1	
Deaths	69	38	31		
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				12.9	11.4
Deaths from Puerperal causes					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other puerperal causes	0	0	0		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 yr.					
All Infants per 1,000 Live births	4	3	1	40.0	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	4	3	1	44.9	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0	0	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12	4	8		
"    "    Measles (all ages)	0	0	0		
"    "    Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	1	0		
"    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)	0	0	0		
Deaths from Influenza	0				
"    "    Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	6				
"    "    Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels (18, 19, 20)	32				

### Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring  
in the Borough during the year 1945.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	15	10
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	12	1
Measles	...	...	87	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	1
Dysentery	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	—	—



## Deaths from all Causes

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases ...	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of resp. system ...	—	1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Cancer of breast ...	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites ...	4	4	8
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	5	6	11
Heart dis. ...	11	6	17
Other dis. of circ. system ...	3	1	4
Bronchitis ...	2	—	2
Pneumonia ...	2	1	3
Other resp. dis. ...	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	—	1
Other digve. dis. ...	1	1	2
Nephritis ...	1	1	2
Prem. Birth ...	1	—	1
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	1	—	1
Road Traffic acc. ...	1	—	1
All other causes ...	2	6	8
	38	31	69

# **TUBERCULOSIS.**

## **New cases and mortality.**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15		1				1		
25	1							
35		1						
45	1	1						
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0



## Special Circumstances of the Area.

### RAINFALL.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day; from this information the following table has been compiled:—

Month	Total Rainfall Inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hrs.	Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
January ...	1.88	.51 18th	12.
February ...	2.73	.53 11th	16.
March ...	1.20	.62 19th	9.
April ...	1.17	.45 28th	8.
May ...	2.46	.59 20th	16.
June ...	3.77	.48 3rd & 5th	19.
July ...	1.32	.28 14 & 15th	12.
August ..	1.68	.37 14th	17.
September ...	2.10	.52 1st	15.
October ...	3.80	.93 23rd	9.
November ...	.63	.36 22nd	10.
December ...	3.83	.92 27th	19.
	26.57		162.

During the year there was a dry spell between 25th February and 18th March inclusive and an absolute drought between 27th September and 19th October inclusive.

In the previous year, November was the wettest month (5.32 inches) and March was the driest (0.33 inches).

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 28.24 inches.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Water undertaking is in the hands of a small private company and the question of adequately providing the district with a sufficient supply, especially in the higher parts of the Borough, is constantly before the Town Council, although the quality is happily of a very high order.

Mr. J. B. Harvey, M. Inst. C.E., Consulting Civil Engineer of the firm of Messrs. Ross Hooper and Harvey, Dallas Chambers, Chippenham, has been appointed to advise the Town Council on the question of taking over the undertaking and he met the Council at a special meeting held on the 12th November.

Mr. Harvey gave details of a scheme which was on foot to co-ordinate the whole of the water supplies in the Calne and Chippenham Urban and Rural Districts, and possibly Marlborough as well.

Under this scheme it would be possible for Calne to obtain a supply of water for the higher areas by gravitation from the existing supply. This is, however, a long term plan and would probably take some years to mature.

It was decided at this meeting that Mr. Harvey be authorised to prepare a full report on the Calne Water Works Co. Ltd., and to advise the Council as to the value of the assets.

In the meantime the Water Company are laying a 9 inch ring main from Quemerford in order, primarily, to provide a sufficient quantity of water direct to the Council's post-war housing scheme of 123 houses shortly to be commenced at Abberd.

The present supply is obtained from Lower Greensand springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the town.

It is of good quality, non-plumbo solvent, and has  $34.4^{\circ}$  of total hardness (temporary  $29.4^{\circ}$ , permanent  $5^{\circ}$ ). Samples of water are taken periodically for bacteriological examination and the analysts' report of a sample taken on the 1st October states that the water was found to be of the usual high standard of purity, no organisms of the Coliform Group were present in 100 mls. of the water. The residual chlorine in the sample was 0.05 p.p.m.

The consumption per capita per diem is now estimated at 28 gallons for all purposes.

The number of houses still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 26 or 1.7% of all the houses in the district.

There are no street standpipes.



## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always, of necessity, be a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into cesspools or are provided with earth closets.

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1945 was 89 or 5.8%.

In July a commencement was made with the lay-out of the roads, sewers and surface water drains on the Council's post-war housing site at Abberd.

Some 60 German prisoners-of-war have been engaged upon this work, which is now well in hand.

The sewage disposal works situated in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north-west of the town were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000 and continue to function satisfactorily.

The effluent which discharges into the river Marden just below Hazeland Mill, about one mile below the sewage works is normally up to the required standard. There was, however, one instance of a quantity of fish being poisoned early in October when the refrigerating plant at Messrs. C. & T. Harris' bacon factory broke down and a quantity of ammonia was discharged into the river through the disposal works.

No detrimental effects were apparent at the sewage works.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION**

House refuse is collected weekly from every house, the Contractors emptying the receptacles from the kerbside where they are placed ready by the householder. The Contractor also provides the tip, which is in the adjoining Rural District, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town in a north-easterly direction. The refuse is dealt with by the Contractor on the 'Bradford' system, and causes no nuisance.

The Town Council have again had the question under consideration of collecting and disposing of the house refuse themselves but owing to the difficulty in finding a suitable tip, the contracting system was still in force at the end of the year.

## **SALVAGE.**

The amount of salvage collected during the twelve months was 101 tons,  $14\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. valued at £405. 16. 9. compared with the previous year's figures of 159 tons  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cwt. valued at £571. 10. 2.



Waste paper brought in the largest revenue £222. 1. 7. whilst Kitchen waste brought in the heaviest tonnage (49 tons 11cwt.)

The collection of Kitchen waste has been in operation for two years. There are 50 communal bins placed at strategic points through-out the district. The waste is sold in a raw state to National By-Products Ltd. and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant at Messrs. C. & T. Harris' by-products factory in the borough and sold by them to local farmers.

### **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**

Mr. C. H. Ducksbury, M.R.V.C.S., D.V.S.M., who was the Council's Meat Inspector employed solely at Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bacon Factory, died on 23rd October, and as a temporary arrangement Mr. D. M. Hale, M.R.C.V.S., a veterinary surgeon in private practice at Chippenham was engaged part-time for a period of six months or such period until a permanent inspector was appointed.

### **MEAT.**

Since 7th May 1943, all slaughtering of animals to provide meat for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham.

During the year the following quantities of meat have been condemned, apart from what may have been condemned in the local bacon factory, viz: 23 lb of pork fat, 20½ lbs of boneless pork, 21 lbs of veal and 2 cwt 2 qr. 11 lbs of beef, the latter quantity due to bone taint.

### **FISH.**

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried fish establishments in the district, the supply has been fair through-out the year, having regard to the difficult circumstances prevailing.

1 cwt. of frozen fillet of cod, which was tainted, was condemned.

### **MILK.**

There is one producer of 'accredited' milk and six other cowkeepers in the district. One retailer is licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested and 'accredited' milk and one to sell Tuberculin Tested milk bottled in the district. In addition one retailer is licensed to sell 'accredited' milk bottled outside the district.

There are also two purveyors of ordinary milk resident in the district and two who operate from without. One retailer is licensed to sell 'Pasteurised' milk produced in a neighbouring district.



Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary School, Senior, Junior and Infant Schools in the town.

The trade is carried on satisfactorily by all concerned, with the exception that in one case, samples taken from washed milk bottles at one dairy were found to have a bacterial count much in excess of the Mattick and Joy (National Institute of Dairying) standard; this was found to be due to two main causes viz:— worn-out brushes on the bottle-washing machine and to temporary unskilled staff due to the illness of the permanent worker. This matter was soon rectified by the provision of new brushes and a return to duty of the permanent worker.

### **OTHER FOODS.**

During the year, 452 tins, bottles or jars of foodstuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit either through blown or damaged tins, etc.

13 lbs of granulated sugar contaminated by vinegar and 60 lb of Californian natural Sultanas, which were out of condition, were condemned, also 6 tons of potatoes condemned for human consumption, but passed for animal feeding.

The food shops and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported.

### **INFESTATION ORDER 1943.**

A rodent operative is employed to act jointly as between the Borough and the adjoining Calne and Chippenham Rural District in the proportion of 20% and 80%.

The district has been surveyed and all complaints investigated. Pre-baiting, poison-baiting and post-baiting are carried out where necessary, including the banks of the river running through the town.

Several large retail food-stores, as well as the bacon factory, have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operative, and there is close co-operation between all parties concerned.

The district is remarkably free from rats, having regard to all the circumstances.

### **HOUSING.**

There is still a great need for houses in spite of the Town Council's activities in the years between the two wars; some 350 applicants are still awaiting houses. The Town Council



have erected 289 houses out of a total of 1531 dwelling houses of all classes in the Borough, besides subsidising 73 under the various Housing Acts and lending money in 15 other cases under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

In addition to this they have requisitioned 16 other houses and are owners of thirteen more, making a grand total of 406 houses in which the Council are directly interested, or 26½% of all the dwelling houses in the Borough.

Another dwelling-house has recently been requisitioned and is in process of conversion into three flats.

It is hoped to make a start with the Council's post-war housing scheme of 123 houses at an early date.

Between the inception of the scheme of Control of Civil Building in August until the end of the year, 70 Licences were issued amounting to £3972 13 9, including a licence for the construction of one new dwelling house (£1140).

Also during the year eight Certificates of Essentiality totalling £1517 10 0 on work for improved housing accommodation were forwarded to the Regional Licensing Officer, Ministry of Works, Bristol, for his attention.

One large house was purchased by the Home Office during the year for conversion into an Approved School for delinquent girls.

### **SCHOOL CHILDREN.**

In addition to the usual re-inspection 353 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 55% were found to be of normal nutrition and 14% were excellent. 26% were found to be slightly sub-normal and 5% badly undernourished. It has been noted that many children show signs of fatigue. This is particularly noticeable amongst boys who, in some cases, are pale and have developed a poor posture. It is considered that, especially during the summer, many of these children do not obtain sufficient rest. Also in some cases these boys are employed either before or after school in such occupations as delivering newspapers, groceries, etc. The school curriculum with its many activities is more than sufficient for a growing child, and employment either before or after school is not considered advisable for any child, however well nourished.

### **CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.**

The Guthrie School was closed owing to an epidemic of measles from 4th to 15th June, 1945.



### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Up to the end of the year the following number of children have been successfully immunised:

Ages 1—4 ...	256 (57%)	Ages 5—14 ...	724 (98%)
Total ...		980 (90%)	

No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year under review.

### British Restaurant.

The British Restaurant continued to function satisfactory until its closure, on 31st August, 1945.

### Sanitary Inspection.

Routine sanitary inspection has again been limited during the year: complaints have been dealt with as they arose.

However the following list gives some of the details of the work executed:

Dwelling houses inspected	...	276
Re-inspections and visits	...	82
Other inspections	...	155
		<hr/>
Drains cleared	...	15
New drains constructed	...	2
New W.C.'s. constructed	...	4
W.C. pans renewed	...	12
Flushings cisterns provided	...	1
Connections to sewers	...	1
Floors repaired	...	12
Roofs repaired	...	34
Guttering repaired	...	37
Plaster repaired	...	13
Houses redecorated	...	15
Waste pipes repaired	...	25
Water fittings repaired or renewed	...	219
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	...	1
Dampness remedied	...	8
Sanitary Dustbins provided	...	56
Accumulations of manure removed	...	1
Number of existing houses connected to Town Water Supply	...	1
Houses disinfected	...	13
Nuisances re pig-keeping abated	..	1
Rats and mice nuisances abated	...	6
Polluted wells closed for domestic purposes		1

