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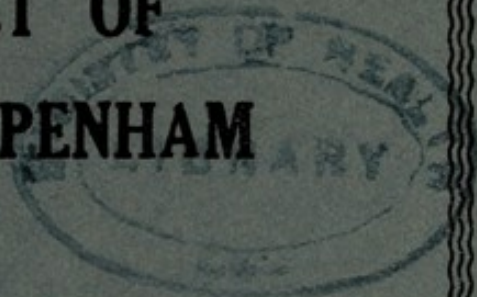
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**RURAL DISTRICT OF
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM**



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1945



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(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) Senior Sanitary Inspector—

E. W. Stevens, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I.,
A.M.Inst.S.E., who also holds the posts of
Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Water-
works Manager.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—

H. J. Taylor, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

S. J. Yelland, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st 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)	..	..	..	..	..	86034,
Population (1945)	..	..	..	..	..	24,140
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945 according to the Rate Book)	..	..	..	..	..	7,500
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£201,584
Sum represented by penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£685

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1945

	Total	M.	F.	Rate	Cf E & W
Live Births	509	261	248		
Legitimate	462	235	227		
Illegitimate	47	26	21		
Birth Rate					
(per 1,000 population)				21.1	16.1
Still Births	15	10	5		
Rate					
(per 1,000 total births)				29.5	
Deaths	259	134	125		
Death Rate					
(per 1,000 population)				10.7	11.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes					
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—		
Other puerperal causes	—	—	—		
Death Rate of Infants					
under 1 year	17	13	4		
All infants per 1,000					
live births				13.7	
Legitimate infants per					
1,000 legitimate live					
births	14	11	3	30.3	
Illegitimate infants per					
1,000 illegitimate					
live births	3	2	1	63.8	
Deaths from Cancer					
(all ages)	.. 37				
Deaths from Measles					
(all ages)	.. 0				
Deaths from Whooping					
Cough (all ages)	0				
Deaths from Diarrhoea					
(under 2 years of age)	1				
				1945	
Deaths from Influenza	.. ..			2	
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases					
(21, 22, 23)	.. ..			22	
Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels					
(18, 19, 20)	.. ..			115	

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Typhoid and parat. fevers	0	0	0
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	0	1	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
6.	Tuberculosis of resp. system ..	6	2	8
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis ..	1	3	4
8.	Syphilitic diseases	1	0	1
9.	Influenza	2	0	2
10.	Measles	0	0	0
11.	Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	0	1	1
12.	Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0	0
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (m)			
	uterus (f)	0	3	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	6
15.	Cancer of breast	0	6	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites	11	11	22
17.	Diabetes	1	3	4
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions ..	10	14	24
19.	Heart Disease	34	28	62
20.	Other disease of circ. system ..	8	11	19
21.	Bronchitis	6	3	9
22.	Pneumonia	5	2	7
23.	Other resp. dis.	3	3	6
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	3	0	3
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs.	0	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	0	0	0
27.	Other digv. dis.	2	2	4
28.	Nephritis	4	5	9
29.	Puer. and post-abort. sepsis ..	0	0	0
30.	Other maternal causes	0	2	2
31.	Prem. Birth	2	1	3
32.	Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ..	8	0	8
33.	Suicide	1	0	1
34.	Road Traffic accidents	4	2	6
35.	Other violent causes	3	1	4
36.	All other causes	15	18	33
		134	125	259

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) OCCURRING IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1945

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	36*	11*
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	47	—
Measles	618	5
Poliomyelitis	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Pneumonia	16*	3
Dysentery	7*	2*
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3*	2
Erysipelas	5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	7	1

* Includes Service cases.

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
5	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	7	5	1	2	—	—	—	—
25	7	4	2	1	1	—	1	—
35	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
upwards								
Totals	25	12	6	6	4	1	1	0

WATER SUPPLIES

BOX, CORSHAM AND COLERNE MAIN SUPPLIES.

As in the previous year, it became necessary to augment the Widdenham source, that is the supply serving the above, by incorporating the Weavern Springs and by utilising the Regional Scheme. Such augmentation was only necessary during the months in the latter part of the year.

The construction of a V-notch gauging chamber at the Widdenham station has been invaluable, and as the readings are taken daily, a continuous record can be maintained.

All the plant at Widdenham is now electrically operated, the old crude oil engines serving as auxiliary plant in the event of an emergency.

The pumping plant lifts water to :

- (a) **High Level Tank, Rudloe.** This supply gravitates to the Reservoir at Kingsdown, Box and also serves en route the district between Rudloe and Kingsdown. About 50% of Box is served therefrom.
- (b) **Low Level Tank, Rudloe.** The water gravitates to a portion of the Corsham Urban Area.
- (c) **Elevated Concrete Tower, Colerne.** This supplies by gravitation, the village, excluding the hamlet of Thickwood. The latter area is served by a private supply from Lucknam Estate, but consideration is being given to a temporary supply being afforded from the Air Ministry main and ultimately a supply from Colerne Village.
- (d) **The Two Elevated Tanks at the Colerne Aerodrome,** provided to serve the whole of this establishment, including the dispersal sites at Thickwood.
- (e) **Elevated Tank at Rudloe Manor, Box,** occupied by the Air Ministry, and provided solely to serve this establishment.

All the water at Widdenham is chlorinated before distribution, and samples are taken before and after chlorination, for bacteriological examination, at least quarterly.

CORSHAM—M.A.P. SUPPLY—MONKS LANE.

This source was utilised to augment the Corsham Waterworks Company's supply, when the Loxwell springs (the main source of the Company) had to be eliminated from distribution. This arrangement has continued since the Council acquired the Company's Undertaking early in 1944, and approximately 140,000 gallons daily are taken from this source. The water is pumped from boreholes at the Chippenham Borough Council's Waterworks and is chlorinated. In addition to serving a part of the Urban area of Corsham, it also serves the Parish of Lacock.

CORSHAM—GOODES HILL SUPPLY.

Two boreholes maintain this supply, which provides water for the Gastard district of Corsham, as well as a very small area of Lacock. A connection, however, has been made, so that the whole of the Lacock system can be augmented from this source.

An elevated reservoir exists at the top of Velley Hill, to which water is pumped from the boreholes, for gravitation to all points of supply. Samples are taken periodically for bacteriological examination and the results have been satisfactory. The water is not chlorinated.

BOX (WASHWELLS).

This is a small local supply, serving approximately half of the Parish (the lower region). It consists of a reservoir fed by springs, from which the water gravitates after chlorination. It is connected with the Rudloe-Kingsdown main, so that it can be augmented during periods of drought.

BOX (DITTERIDGE).

This subsidiary supply serving the hamlet of Ditteridge only, has been discontinued and the area is now served from the Widdenham supply, the main at Middle Hill having been extended for that purpose. The original supply was from a well, the water being raised to an elevated reservoir by means of a wind engine.

REGIONAL SCHEME.

The Parishes served by this Scheme are :

Biddestone.
 Bremhill (part of).
 Castle Combe.
 Christian Malford.
 Grittleton.
 Kington Langley.
 Kington St. Michael.
 Nettleton.
 Sutton Benger.
 Yatton Keynell.

The water is purchased from the Borough Council and it is pumped from their reservoir at Yewstock to an elevated concrete reservoir at Yatton Keynell, capacity 150,000 gallons, and also gravitates to a reservoir at Kington Langley, capacity 50,000 gallons. It can gravitate to all the areas of supply from these reservoirs. A connection has been made at Biddestone, so that the Widdenham supply can be supplemented from this source when the necessity arises, which is frequent during the summer months. The average daily quantity taken from the Borough Council's reservoir during the year under review is 250,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated at the source.

NETTLETON BOREHOLE.

This borehole, 380 ft. in depth, serves a useful purpose by augmenting the Yatton Keynell Tower (Regional Scheme), as well as supplying directly the mains in the immediate vicinity. It was put into supply on the 26th August, 1943, and at the moment pumping is continuous for 14 hours daily, which affords an average delivery of 70/80,000 gallons. The supply is chlorinated, although periodical sampling for bacteriological examination invariably shows a sterile water.

BREMHILL—FOXHILL AND EAST TYTHERTON.

In addition to the Regional Scheme, the two hamlets have each a local source of supply, both being by gravitation. Reservoirs are served by springs and at Foxham the supply is chlorinated, the East Tytherton source is not chlorinated.

CALNE WITHOUT.

This district is partially served by the main of the Calne Water Company Ltd. Apart from this, the supplies are by individual wells and springs.

CHERRHILL.

Two sources of supply serve this village, one is that of the Compton Bassett Estate Supply Company and the other of a private individual. Both supplies are very unsatisfactory, as they are derived from a local spring to which drainage has access, and it is not surprising that bacteriological examination has revealed gross contamination: as there is no provision made for chlorination.

Part of this Parish, the village of Yatesbury, has relied upon wells which become devoid of water during periods of drought. During the latter part of the year, however, a supply was afforded to a stand pipe from the main of the Air Ministry nearby, to overcome this difficulty.

CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT.

With a few exceptions, the Parish is served by the supply of the Chippenham Borough Council.

The Allington private supply within this Parish has not been satisfactory, and at the request of the Owners the Council laid a main from the Malmesbury Road (part of the Regional Scheme) to connect with the Allington system. The Council decided not to take over the whole of the system, but to supply water in bulk at a point near Heywood.

COMPTON BASSETT.

This Parish generally has relied upon individual wells, but during the present year, the Council negotiated with the Air Ministry for a supply from their main serving the local R.A.F. Station. It is anticipated that by 1946 a standpipe supply will be available for a part of the Parish, which is more seriously affected by inadequate supplies.

HEDDINGTON.

This Parish is dependent on individual wells.

HILMARTON.

The local supply was owned by the Hilmarton Water Company, but this has now been transferred to this Council.

It consists of a gathering ground, not under the ownership of the Council. Water is collected in a reservoir, which is able to serve the village (a part only) by gravitation. The supply is not chlorinated.

During the latter half of the year it was discovered that the supply was grossly polluted. It was evident that this contamination was caused by the gathering ground, hitherto grassland, having been turned into arable land. Samples taken previously to the ploughing showed the supply to be pure. Steps were taken to ensure that the ploughing order was cancelled.

The supply can be augmented by the Cricklade and Wootten Bassett Rural District Council Supply through the medium of the Air Ministry main, Lyneham R.A.F. Station. This, at the present time, can be regarded as a temporary arrangement only.

LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT.

The greater part of this Parish is served with the Chippenham Borough Council's water supply.

The Steinbrook main, privately owned, is situated in the Swindon Road, and serves properties en route to the Parish of Kington Langley. This was offered to the Council towards the end of the year, and it is anticipated that by April, 1946, this will have been acquired. It is connected to the main of the Chippenham Borough Council.

NETTLETON.

A small portion of the Parish is served by a supply from the West Gloucester Water Company. Otherwise, the Regional Scheme serves the district.

NORTH WRAXALL.

The main sources of supply are from individual wells and springs.

PEWSHAM.

A part of the Parish is supplied with water from the main of the Chippenham Borough Council, while another part is supplied

from a reservoir situated at Derry Hill on the Bowood Estate

This latter supply is unsatisfactory. It shows gross contamination and during period of drought, water has to be hauled for domestic requirements. A scheme has been prepared to extend the existing main in the London Road served by the Borough Council's main, to join the system served by the Derry Hill supply. It is hoped to proceed with this extension as soon as the approval of the Ministry of Health has been obtained.

Stanley, another area of the Parish, is not adequately served with water. During drought periods, a private reservoir was supplied with river water and as the conditions have not improved the same source of supply is still available. The Council have been hauling water weekly to this locality and this must continue until a proper piped supply is provided. The haulage is a costly item, but there is no alternative. The hope is expressed that the Ministry of Health will sanction the extension of the main from East Tytherton (parish of Bremhill) via West Tytherton to Stanley at an early date.

STANTON ST. QUINTIN.

This village is entirely dependent upon individual well supplies.

SUTTON BENDER.

The village proper and the hamlet of Draycot Cerne are supplied from the Regional Scheme. Seagry, however, another section of the Parish, has not so far been provided with a public supply. The Council Houses at Seagry Hill were dependent upon a well supply, but the Council extended the main from Sutton Benger village during the present year, to afford a more adequate supply to these houses. Ultimately it is intended to extend the main to Upper and Lower Seagry.

SUMMARY.

The proportion of dwelling houses in the Rural District which are supplied from public water mains and the corresponding figures for the population are detailed in the following table :—

	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>		<i>Population rep.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Supplied from public water mains				
(a) direct to houses	3768	54.3	13128	47.5
(b) by means of standpipes	246	3.5	842	3.0
Not supplied from public water mains *	2917	42.2	10170	49.5
	6931	100.0	24140	100.0

* Included in this Category are a small portion of dwelling houses which are served by piped water supplies provided on a private basis.

GAUGINGS OF SPRINGS AT WIDDENHAM

The average daily gaugings during each respective month were as follows :—

1945	Gallons
January	405,432
March	516,480
April	268,104
May	194,760
June	144,000
July	117,900
August	102,144
September	24,836
October	81,174
November	295,776

WATER CONSUMPTION

Average Daily Consumption—						1945
						<i>gallons per day</i>
Box (excluding supply from Washwell and Ditteridge)	..	..	..	..	..	57,727
Colerne Village	..	..	..	..	..	18,572
Yewstock Reservoir (Borough supply to Regional Scheme)						232,618
Kington Langley Reservoir	..	..	..			18,222
Monks Lane 6-in. supply from M.A.P. main						139,855
Corsham	..	....	..	..	..	37,564
Neston	..	..	..	..	..	77,395
Hullavington R.A.F.	..	..	..	..	..	57,421
Colerne R.A.F.	..	..	..	..	..	82,206
Middlewick	..	..	..	..	..	2,083

SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Location	Source of Supply	Fit	Unfit	Suspect
Box—High Level Tank	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination	2	—	1
Bremhill (E. Tytherton)	Springs at Gotshill	—	1	2
Colerne Village	Hungerford Wood springs after chlorination	3	—	—
Corsham—Low Level Tank)	Hungerford Wood springs after chlorination	3	—	—
Corsham (Goodeshill)	Borehole	1	—	—
Ditteridge (Box)	Supply disused— main supply now afforded	—	—	—
Foxham (Stockham Marsh)	Springs at Gotshill after chlorination	2	—	1
Hilmarton	Springs at Catcombe	1	—	2
Nettleton	Borehole	1	—	—
Pewsham	Springs at Old Derry Hill	—	3	—
Slaughterford	Springs	—	1	—
Washwell (Box)	Springs at Washwell after chlorination	1	—	1
Widdenham	Hungerford Wood Springs. Before chlorination	—	—	3
Number of Private Samples taken and submitted for analysis		4	12	5
		18	17	15

Chemical Analysis of Nettleton Borehole

to determine salinity 4

All samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

NEW WATER SERVICES

Connections to the Council's Mains.

<i>Parish</i>							<i>Number of Connections</i>
Biddestone .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Box .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bremhill .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Castle Combe .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Chippenham Without .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Christian Malford .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Colerne .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Corsham .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Hilmarton .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kington Langley .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kington St. Michael .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lacock .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Langley Burrell Without .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nettleton .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pewsham .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sutton Benger .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Yatton Keynell .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							—
							63
							—

RAINFALL FIGURES

The rainfall figures for several years now have been provided by Colonel M. Earle, Hilmarton Manor, to whom I am indebted for this year's figures.

1945				<i>Inches</i>
January	..	..	..	1.67
February	..	..	..	2.32
March	..	..	..	.95
April	..	..	..	.98
May	..	..	..	2.03
June	..	..	..	3.2
July	..	..	..	1.16
August	..	..	..	1.68
September	..	..	..	1.59
October	..	..	..	3.15
November	..	..	..	.71
December	..	..	..	3.13
				—
				22.57
				—

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Biddestone.

A combined sewer and surface water drain exists in this Parish, a part being laid with pipes, whilst another section comprises a stone drock. The sewer receives crude slop-water drainage and the overflow of cesspools and septic tanks. The water course running through the village receives the outfall of the sewer and during the normal flow of this water course, complaints are non-existent, but as soon as the dry weather approaches, nuisances arise. A proper sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is required.

Box (Main Sewer Outfall).

The outfall discharges into lagoons at Mill Lane, from which the effluent overflows into a system of irrigation channels before reception in the Box Brook.

The effluent is diverted periodically to allow aeration, cleansing, etc. of the channels, while others are in use. The works are obsolete and do not conform in any respect with modern practice of sanitary engineering. Samples of effluent taken in the past have shown that it does not conform with Ministry of Health standards for discharge into streams.

Only the village proper is sewered, except for two small areas, which are served with two local sewage disposal installations. These are situated at the Bassets and Middle Hill, where groups of houses drain into covered settlement tanks, with effluents discharging over filter beds of slag media. The former works were entirely reconstructed a few years ago. The Middle Hill Works deal with a weak sewage as compared with other works, owing to the large volume of storm water conveyed by the sewer.

Bremhill, Caine Without, Cherhill, Chippenham Without, Christian Malford, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton, Langley Burrell Without, Nettleton and North Wraxall.

There are no sewerage systems in these Parishes. The larger properties are dependent upon small drainage disposal installations while occupiers of the smaller dwellings have to be content with the conservancy system and disposal of waste water in the garden. In some cases, however, ditches or water courses are used for the conveyance of drainage and this often results in the production of nuisances and pollution of water supplies.

Castle Combe.

A combined sewer and surface water drain discharging into the stream comprises the sewerage system in this Parish. The major portion of the houses have slop-water drains connected thereto while the closet accommodation is of the conservancy system. A sewerage scheme is required.

Colerne.

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated in this Parish, are the property of the Air Ministry and were constructed to serve the local R.A.F. Establishment. They are maintained and managed by the Council.

A length of sewer from Church Lane to Lower Watergates and another independent sewer at Tutton Hill are connected to

these works and these connections removed insanitary conditions at the original outfalls.

At Washmere there is a surface water drain and since local residents dispose of slop-water in the road gully, insanitary conditions exist.

The prevailing closet accommodation is the pail system and it is a practice for householders to remove the pail contents to their allotments at a distance from their houses. A further method employed is to use swallow-holes or fissures in the rocks to dispose of slop water, its ultimate disposal being unknown.

It is unfortunate that the war intervened, otherwise the whole village would have been sewered several years ago. However, the Council are fully conscious of the insanitary conditions existing and the sewerage of this village will take precedence over other schemes.

Corsham.

The Sewage Disposal Works, completed in 1940, have been employed to full capacity. Six sludge drying beds were reconstructed during 1944 to facilitate drying and so allow the Dortmund Tanks to be "de-sludged" more frequently. The result was satisfactory. It is anticipated that the remaining six will be reconstructed in 1946.

Apart from this the works have functioned satisfactorily, as well as the irrigation channels which receive the sewage from the storm water tank.

The construction of these works enabled sewage disposal installations at the Potley Lane and Gastard housing scheme sites to be abandoned and demolished. This avoided considerable maintenance.

Grittleton.

There is no proper system of sewerage in this Parish, although there are lengths of drains in the main street in the village proper and Littleton Drew, which act as sewers and receive the drainage from those properties connected to them. In each case the outfalls discharge into open water courses. This is not satisfactory.

Kington Langley.

Apart from a small sewer in the centre of the village, which serves only a few properties, the Parish is not sewered. The

sewer discharges into a cesspool on private land and overflows into a channel in a field for irrigation. This seldom causes any trouble.

There are one or two ditches into which overflows from drains and cesspools discharge, and these are cleansed periodically by the Council.

Kington St. Michael.

This Parish possesses two separate sewers and each has a different outfall. One discharges into a ditch running through grazing land at the lower end of the village, whilst the other discharges into a ditch adjoining the allotments in the upper part of the village. The sewerage is received in both ditches in an untreated condition. A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is required.

Lacock.

The main Sewage Disposal Works receive the sewage from the major portion of the Parish. Part of the sewage is pumped, whilst the rest is by gravitation.

The works have always functioned satisfactorily. The Analyst reports favourably upon the effluent. The arms of the rotary sprinklers require renewing, as they are incapable of repair and this renewal will be complete in 1946.

There are subsidiary works at Bewley Lane. The outfall empties into a settlement tank, from which the effluent overflows on to an aerating stair. The effluent is then received into a system of irrigating channels which are used alternatively. These works usually function satisfactorily and the irrigation land absorbs all the effluent.

Pewsham, Stanton St. Quintin, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell.

There are no proper systems of sewers existing in these four Parishes. Each Parish has lengths of pipes and ditches serving as sewers, but these are not efficient and require constant attention.

The ditches were originally surface water channels, which, in the process of time, have slowly been converted into nothing more or less than sewers, conveying untreated sewage.

The closet accommodation in these Parishes is mainly of the conservancy system.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE

The Council engages the services of a Contractor for the collection and disposal of household refuse.

The refuse is collected in a properly designed scavenging vehicle and the periods of collection vary according to the urban or rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

The refuse is collected from all Parishes in the district, twenty-four in number. Householders have to provide their own refuse receptacles.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for the deposition of refuse. The tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new tips, when they can be found affords an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be introduced.

INFESTATION

Persons who require treatment because of verminous conditions receive it at the Public Assistance Institution. Their personal clothing and bedding is removed for treatment to the Isolation Hospital.

Houses which are infested with vermin are dealt with by spraying with Zaldecide or by the Lethane method.

INFESTATION ORDER 1943— RODENT CONTROL

Until the 4th November, 1945, the Council appointed a full time Rodent Operator. From 1st January 1945 until the time of his resignation, he was engaged in making surveys of rat infestations throughout the Parishes in the Rural District. Mr. V. G. Davis was appointed Rodent Operator on the 18th November 1945 and continued the survey.

Where infestations were discovered at private houses or business premises, the occupiers were notified of the infestations

and if they agreed, the Rodent Operator treated the premises at a nominal charge. The charges varied according to the time taken to treat the premises and the amount of poison bait used.

Certain large business premises engaged private Rodent Contractors to treat their properties on a contract basis.

During the year, most of the Council's Sewage Works, Sewers and Refuse Tips have been surveyed and initial treatments for rat infestations have been given.

Generally speaking few "reservoir" or "Major" rat infestations have been found and these have been dealt with successfully either by the Rodent Operators themselves or by private Contractors.

The regular inspection and treatment of houses, business premises, sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse tips has been instrumental in keeping rodent infestation within reasonable limits in the Council's area.

SHOP ACTS

Regular inspection of shops was not possible during the year, but periodic visits were made when complaints were received.

Purveyors of Meat Shops were frequently visited during the course of meat inspections and they were generally satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM

The only registered Ice-cream premises were at Castle Combe and these premises were inspected and certain alterations requested before a Licence was granted to produce and sell ice-cream.

BAKE-HOUSES

Periodic visits were made to bakehouses in the area of the Council and in several instances informal letters were sent to the occupiers requesting improvements.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No complaints have been received concerning offensive trades. All fish frying premises in the district have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1923

There are no premises in the district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING 1945

	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	93	10	0	529	15	7
Ferrous Metals	—	5	0		10	0
Rubber	—	7	2	1	18	11
Bones	1	2	0	4	4	0
Rags	—	4	3	2	19	6
	95	9	1	£539	8	0

SALVAGE COSTS FOR 1945

	£	s.	d.
Haulage	420	18	2
Travelling Expenses ..	18	0	5
Advertising, Printing, etc...	14	8	10
Other Expenses	4	17	10
	£458	5	3

KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTED BY FARMERS

Parishes of Chippenham Without, Corsham
and Box 63 tons

HOUSING

During 1945, the Council appointed two Housing Inspectors temporarily, to make a comprehensive survey of houses. The number completed by the end of the year was 285. These were placed provisionally in the following categories :—

Category 1.	
Satisfactory	6
Category 2.	
Minor Defects	84
Category 3.	

Extensive Repairs	159
Category 4.	
Appropriate for repair under Housing (Rural Workers) Act	13
Category 5.	
Unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost ..	23
	<hr/>
Total ..	285
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The shortage of labour, materials, increased cost of repairs and greater wear and tear due to additional number of occupants, all contribute to an acceleration of the normal deterioration of working class property.

Until labour and materials become freely available, it will be impossible to make any headway with the repair and improvement of houses.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The Council has built 236 houses, situated in the following Parishes :

Biddestone	2
Box	30
Bremhill	7
Calne Without	22
Cherhill	18
Christian Malford	10
Compton Bassett	4
Corsham	68
Heddington	6
Hilmarton	13
Kington Langley	12
Kington St. Michael	6
Lacock	23
Nettleton	2
Sutton Benger	11
Yatton Keynell	2

Total	236
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RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT 1923

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.

Parish	New Dwell'g Houses	Alterations and Additions to existing Houses	Garages	Miscell- aneous
Biddestone	—	1	—	1
Box	—	3	2	13
Bremhill	—	1	—	1
Calne Without ..	—	—	—	—
Castle Combe ..	—	2	—	—
Cherhill	—	—	—	—
Chippenham Without	—	—	1	2
Christian Malford ..	—	1	—	2
Colerne	—	1	—	4
Compton Bassett ..	—	1	—	—
Corsham	—	3	1	10
Grittleton	—	2	1	3
Heddington	—	—	—	—
Hilmarton	—	—	—	—
Kington Langley ..	—	—	—	2
Kington St. Michael	—	—	—	—
Lacock	—	—	—	1
Langley Burrell Without	—	—	1	1
Nettleton	—	1	—	4
North Wraxall ..	—	1	—	—
Pewsham	—	—	—	—
Stanton St. Quintin	—	—	—	—
Sutton Benger ..	—	3	—	—
Yatton Keynell ..	2	—	—	1
	2	20	6	45

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1945

Milk Supply

Number of Farms on Register	..	..	..	515
Number of Milk Retailers	..	..	..	81
Number of T.T. Dealers	..	..	..	3
Number of Accredited Dealers	..	..	..	—
Pasteurisation Plants	..	..	..	—
Number of Accredited Farms	..	..	..	103
Number of T.T. Farms	..	..	..	41
Pasteurised Milk Dealers	..	..	..	2

Summary of Work carried out

Total number of farms inspected during year	152
Farms requiring structural alterations, etc.	25
Farms requiring improvements in methods, etc.	34
Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed	13
Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition	80
Total number of inspections	206
Six statutory Notices were issued.	

A prosecution was instituted in one case for failure to comply with the following provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

- Section 15 Failing to keep his clothing and person in a cleanly condition.
- Section 23 (1) Failing to carry out milking in a good and proper light.
- Section 23 (2) Failing before milking was commenced to remove all dirt in and around the flanks, udders and teats of each cow and to cleanse the udders and teats with a clean damp cloth.
- Section 23 (3) Failing thoroughly to wash and dry his hands before milking and throughout milking to keep his hands clean, free from contamination and, as far as practicable, dry.

Conviction was obtained in each case and a fine imposed.

OTHER FOODS

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :

<i>Food</i>	<i>Number of Tins</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Ox Tongue	1	6	Decomposed
Chopped Ham	13	11	Blown
Corned Beef	—	6	Decomposed
„ „	13	11	Decomposed
Evaporated Milk ..	38	40	Decomposed
„ „	2	2	Rusty and dilapidated
Round Beef	—	26	Tainted
Pilchards	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	Blown and damaged
Baked Beans	12	12	Blown and damaged
Australian Butter ..	—	112	Rancid
Dates	—	70	Decomposed
Fat	—	28	Burnt

No slaughterhouses have been operating in this district since the outbreak of the war and slaughtering is now centralised in the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Chippenham. Our Inspectors occasionally carry out the inspections at the Abattoir to relieve the Inspector for the Borough of Chippenham.

SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1945

Visits to houses in connection with systematic housing inspections and Public Health Acts	151
Houses repaired	8
Council House Inspections	228
New building Inspections	288
Houses connected with water mains of Council ..	63
Water samples secured for analysis	49
Waterworks main extension etc. inspections	379
Privy vaults converted to pail closets	—
Privy vaults converted to water closets	—

New pail closets	1
Earth closets to water closets	5
New water closets	34
Inspection of new drainage systems provided to old premises	68
Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions and drainage systems	59
Inspection of refuse tips	32
Inspections of farms and dairies	206
Slaughterhouse inspections	7
Overcrowding complaints dealt with	7
Factory and workshops inspections	5
Preliminary notices served	98
Statutory Notices served	6
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	67
Nuisance inspections	127
Inspections under Petroleum Act, 1926	6
Inspection of Food Premises	32
Tents, Vans and Sheds	9
Rodent Inspections	224

SCHOOL CHILDREN

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 688 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 67% were found to be of normal nutrition and 25% were excellent. Only 6% were found to be slightly sub-normal and 2% badly under-nourished. These figures are favourable, but 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 DURING 1945

The following schools in the district were closed during the year for reasons stated :

Stanton St. Quintin	18/1/45-19/1/45	Coughs and Colds
Bremhill	30/1/45-2/2/45	Chickenpox and Influenza
Seagry	5/2/45-16/2/45	German Measles
Compton Bassett ..	22/3/45-28/3/45	Mumps
West Kington ..	9/4/45-20/4/45	Measles
Christian Malford ..	11/5/45-18/5/45	Measles
Grittleton	28/5/45-8/6/45	Measles
Cherhill	4/6/45-22/6/45	Measles
Yatton Keynell ..	4/6/45-8/6/45	Measles
Compton Bassett ..	26/6/45-13/7/45	Measles
Seagry	10/7/45-23/7/45	Whooping Cough

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Up to the end of the year 1945 the following numbers of children have been successfully immunised :

Ages 1—4 .. 730 (31.7%)

Ages 5—14 .. 2466 (67.6%)

Total 3196 (53.7%)

No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year under review.



