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Contributors

Chard (England). Rural District Council.

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COUNTY OF SOMERSET.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1947.TO: THE CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions of the Chard Rural District for the Year 1947.

During the year full employment was available for all persons capable of work in the area and in addition numbers of people from outside the district, both foreigners and members of holiday harvest camps, were required to assist on farms during the summer months.

The most noteworthy outbreak of Infectious Disease was a short epidemic of Enteritis which occurred at Wadeford in September. It was reported to me by a medical practitioner that he had a number of patients all suffering from a similar condition and that he had noted that they were all on the same milk supply. Included amongst those affected were 2 or 3 farm hands who were employed as milkers. I at once visited the Village and investigated each of the cases, and suspected that the outbreak might be milk borne. I, therefore, arranged for an alternative supply of pasteurised milk for the Village through the kind co-operation of Messrs. Horlicks, of Ilminster, and for heat treatment of the previous Village supply. All affected workers and contacts were withdrawn from milking and pathological samples and also samples of milk and specimens from cattle were taken for bacteriological examination. A Veterinary Surgeon was called in for the latter purpose. The milk samples gave no evidence of contamination but the pathological specimens from sufferers all showed the presence of a germ known as the Salmonella Dublin. The retail supply was recommenced after a few days and no further cases occurred. All the original cases who were in any way connected with dairy work or food handling were kept under observation and away from that type of work and samples continued to be taken and examined at the Public Health Laboratory until they had been found free from infection on several occasions. I consider that the outbreak was due to an accidental contamination of the milk by an affected worker, possibly on one occasion only.

There were no deaths, and no secondary cases occurred after the outbreak was first reported and taken in hand.

There was a relatively large number of cases of Measles in the area during the year, the majority being mild in character, but unfortunately one death occurred.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Measles	237	1	1
Whooping-cough	54	-	-
Malaria	1	1	-
Pneumonia	8	-	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Chickenpox	21	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 11/11/11

TO: SAC, NEW YORK

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible text follows, consisting of several paragraphs of a memorandum report.]

NO.	NAME	INITIALS	DATE	REMARKS
1	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
2	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
3	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
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8	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
9	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]
10	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]	[Illegible]

The district escaped the outbreak of Poliomyelitis or Infantile Paralysis which occurred in many parts of Britain during 1947. One case only was notified, a boy who contracted the disease while staying in another area.

Type.	<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u>	
	Total cases notified.	Total Deaths.
Respiratory ...	15	3
Non-Respiratory ...	4	-

SCABIES.

Few cases of this disease are seen in the area now. Those that do occur are treated at home and contacts are examined and afterwards followed up by the County Health Visitors.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ...	99	136
Illegitimate ...	6	4
<u>Total</u> ...	<u>105</u>	<u>140</u>

STILLBIRTHS.

Legitimate ...	4	1
Illegitimate ...	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Legitimate ...	4	2
Illegitimate ...	1	-

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	2	1
Measles ...	1	-
Cancer ...	14	17
Diabetes ...	1	-
Intercranial Vascular Lesions ...	7	14
Heart Disease ...	16	18
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	2	3
Bronchitis ...	4	3
Pneumonia ...	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	-	1
Appendicitis ...	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases ...	5	2
Nephritis ...	-	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	-	1
Premature Birth ...	4	1
Congenital Malformities or Birth injury ...	-	1
Suicide ...	2	-
Road Traffic ...	1	-
Other Violent Causes ...	1	1
All other causes ..	14	9
<u>Total</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>75</u>

WATER SUPPLIES.

The public supplies have been bacteriologically examined regularly and have been found to be satisfactory, those from the main regional supply after chlorination. The supplies have been sufficient in quantity.

EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLIES DURING THE YEAR..

- (1) Extension from Forton to Winsham by a 4" main, including an electrical boosting equipment at Forton;
- (2) Extension of supply from Crossways, Tatworth, to Chilson Common by 2" main commenced in 1947.

POST-WAR PROPOSALS.

	<u>Estimated cost.</u>
(a) Replacement of mains from Hare Lane to Stewley, Ashill, due to corrosion of existing cast-iron mains	£ 7,300
(b) Additional boreholes and reservoir at Pole Rue, Combe St. Nicholas, and trunk main to link up with existing 6" main at Ilminster, with branch mains to Wadeford and Foxden Hill, Chard Parish.	Scheme now being prepared.
(c) Reservoir (approx. 75,000 gallons) at Egwood Hill, Merriott.	Do.
(d) Proposed 2" extension to Newtown, Buckland St. Mary.	1,190
(e) Proposed new rising main from springs at Stowell Mead, Tatworth, to Two Ash Hill reservoir, including electric pumping equipment. ...	2,800
(f) Branch main to Clapton, West Crewkerne ...	Scheme now being prepared.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No new work has been carried out on Sewerage during the year.

	<u>POST-WAR PROPOSALS.</u>	<u>Estimated cost.</u>
(1) Forton	£ 3,000
(2) Donyatt	4,000

HOUSING.

The demand for houses in this as in other areas still much exceeds the supply. The conversion of Huts at Ilton Camp has helped to provide temporary accommodation and enabled a number of couples to set up housekeeping on their own account instead of living with parents or in rooms. The Council hopes to continue this work, and it is estimated that a total of 80 huts will eventually be dealt with.

	<u>Houses erected during Year.</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection at end of year.</u>		<u>Conversion of Flats or Dwellings.</u>
	<u>Permanent.</u>	<u>Temporary.</u>	<u>Permanent.</u>	<u>Temporary.</u>	
Local Authority ...	34	30	24	-	30*
Private Enterprise ...	6	-	3	-	8
<u>Totals</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38</u>

*Nissen huts at R.A.F. Station, Ilton.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) Total number of Registered Dairy Farms	...	547
(b) Number of Retailers	...	60
(c) Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b)	...	58
(d) Number of Licensed Pasteurising Plants	...	-
(e) Number of Heat Treatment Plants not included in (d)	... ..	1

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises registered for -				
(a) Manufacture	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) Sale	...	...	...	2

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Number of Licensed Slaughter-Houses	...	11)	Not now
" " Registered " "	...	5)	used and
			Licences not
			renewed
			since 1939.
Number of Slaughter-Houses where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	...	Nil.	
Number of any in use under Ministry of Food	...	Nil.	

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

Pollution of Chard Reservoir continued to cause a certain amount of trouble during the year. The condition of the River Isle is still far from satisfactory, and Notices were posted on the bank of the river calling attention to the fact that the water was unfit to be used for bathing purposes during the summer. This precaution was felt to be most necessary in view of the number of cases of Poliomyelitis then prevalent in the country, though fortunately not in this area.

HOSPITAL NURSING AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These remain as in my previous reports. Increased maternity bed accommodation was provided by the County Council re-opening the block for this purpose at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
C. C. COURT M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Chard Rural District.

8th October, 1948.

TABLE I

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TABLE II

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TABLE III

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TABLE IV

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TABLE V

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