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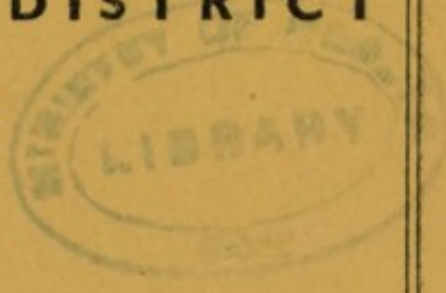


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CLACTON URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer

: of Health :

FOR 1946

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CLACTON-ON-SEA.



Clacton Urban District Council

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Capt. E. R. PENNELL, D.F.C., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. H. P. KING, C.C.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

J. RAMSBOTTOM, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. - Medical Officer of Health (TEMP.)

GEO. H. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.I.P.C. - Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer

K. C. BENHAM, CERT.S.I.B., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Additional Sanitary Inspector

N. HAWKINS, CERT.S.I.B., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Additional Sanitary Inspector

E. H. NORFOLK - - - - - Clerk

Miss A. M. KLUE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT. - - - - - Health Visitor

Miss R. M. GOODEY - - - - - Clerk

CLACTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

CLACTON-ON-SEA.

October, 1947.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report respecting the health and sanitary conditions of your District during 1946.

The Vital Statistics are based upon the Registrar General's estimated population for 1946, which is 20,080.

The outstanding features for the year are :—

1. Infantile Mortality Rate of 23.5 is exceptionally good, and compares well with that for England and Wales as a whole.
2. No Maternal deaths.
3. The absence of any case of Puerperal Pyrexia or Fever.

(These facts speak well for the efficiency of the Clacton Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme).

4. The low Infectious Disease rate has again been maintained.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified, one of which died. This child was not immunised. The case which recovered had received prophylactic treatment.

It gives me much pleasure to express my thanks for the help and assistance I have received from the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Staff of this Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. RAMSBOTTOM.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	6,470
Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1946	20,080
Number of Inhabited houses at end of 1946 (approx.)	9,200
Rateable Value	£250,255
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,012

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	178	161	339	
Illegitimate	23	21	44	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	201	182	383	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	..	19.07
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	5	3	8	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	5	3	8	
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births .. .. .	...	...	...	20.46

Deaths.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Total Deaths at all Ages	140	155	295	
Death Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	..	14.7

DEATHS FROM DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS OF PREGNANCY AND CHILD BIRTH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births.</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Actual Number of Deaths Legitimate	5	3	8	
Actual Number of Deaths Illegitimate.. ..	1	—	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	6	3	9	
Infantile Death Rate				23.5
Death Rate of Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births				23.6
Death Rate of Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births				22.7

DEATHS FROM MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH AND DIARRHOEA.

(UNDER 1 YEAR).

Whooping Cough	Nil
Diarrhoea	Nil
Measles	Nil

DEATHS FROM CANCER, TUBERCULOSIS, INFLUENZA AND HEART DISEASE.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Death Rate per</i> <i>1,000.</i>
Cancer	63	3.1
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	5	
Non-Pulmonary	—	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	0.25
Influenza	8	0.4
Heart Disease	87	4.3

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1946.

Under 1 Year	9
1 and under 2 years	1
2 and under 5 years	—
5 and under 15 years	1
15 and under 25 years	6
25 and under 35 years	6
35 and under 45 years	9
45 and under 55 years	16
55 and under 65 years	34
65 and under 75 years	92
75 and upwards	121
	<hr/>
Total	295
	<hr/>

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	3	5
Syphilis	—	1	1
Influenza	1	7	8
Cancer	34	29	63
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	15	36	51
Heart Disease	48	39	87
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	6	12
Bronchitis	6	5	11
Pneumonia	1	6	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4	1	5
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	1	2	3
Premature Birth	—	1	1
Congenital Malformation, etc.	5	1	6
Suicide	1	3	4
Other Violent Causes	—	3	3
All Other Causes	14	9	23
	<hr/> 140	<hr/> 155	<hr/> 295

INFANTILE DEATHS.

The following table shows the cause of, and the ages at death, of the 9 infantile deaths registered :—

	Under 1 day	1 day to 1 week	1 week to 1 mth	1 to 2 mths	2—4	4—6	6—12	Total
Pneumonia					1	1		2
Congenital Valv. dis- ease of heart		1						1
Prematurity	1							1
Acute Bronchitis							1	1
Atelectasis	1							1
Con. Feebleness				1				1
Con. Heart Disease				1				1
Erythroblastosis foe- talis	1							1
Total	3	1		2	1	1	1	9

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

Comparative Statistics Clacton Urban District and England and Wales as a whole, 1946 :—

Rates per 1,000 population.

	<i>C.U.D.C.</i>			<i>England and Wales.</i>	
Birth Rate	19.07			19.1	
Death Rate	14.7			11.5	
Infantile Mortality	23.5			43.0	
Maternal Deaths per 1,000 births.	Nil			1.43	
Chief Infectious Disease Notifica-					
tions per 1,000 population :					
Scarlet Fever .. ..	.94			1.38	
Diphtheria .. ..	.1			.28	
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia..	Nil			.16	(per 1,000 births).

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Medical Officer of Health (*Temporary*) : J. RAMSBOTTOM, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Also Assistant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer for Brightlingsea U.D.C., Frinton and Walton U.D.C., and Tendring R.D.C.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological work is now carried out at the Pathologist Laboratory, Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Water and Ice Cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Examination of Milk is dealt with at the Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle, Nr. Chelmsford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Urban District Service.

Two Ambulances with permanent staff are housed at the Depot, Old Fire Station, Old Road, Clacton.

There is also one St. John Ambulance which is maintained on a voluntary basis.

Infectious Disease.

All cases of Infectious Diseases are conveyed to the Colchester Borough Hospital in that Institution's Ambulance.

NURSING HOMES.

In Clacton Urban District, there are 3 Nursing Homes registered under the County Scheme.

Ellisdene Nursing Home, Clacton	.. ..	11 beds, 7 being for maternity cases.
(Private)		

Waltham Nursing Home, Holland-on-Sea	.. ..	6 beds, 4 being for maternity cases.
(Private)		

Woodboro' Nursing Home, Clacton	.. ..	5 beds.
		(See the D.N.A.'s Maternity Home below).

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Child Welfare.

The main clinic is provided at the combined Clinic premises, Skelmersdale Road, Clacton. This Clinic is centrally situated, and there are three sessions each week :—

Tuesday morning	—	9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
Thursday morning	—	9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
Thursday afternoon	—	2.00 p.m.—4 p.m.

At the latter Session, the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer is in attendance.

In addition to the central Clinic, a smaller subsidiary Clinic is held at Holland-on-Sea.

A further similar Clinic is contemplated at Jaywick.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. at the combined Clinic, Skelmersdale Road, Clacton.

Women's Welfare Clinic.

One session monthly is held at the Central Clinic between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on the fourth Monday in the month.

In addition to the above, there are special Clinics for infants under 5 years held at the Central Clinic premises as follows:—

IMMUNISATION CLINIC (Diphtheria and also Whooping Cough).

1st Monday in the month, 10 a.m.—11 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

4th Monday in the month (in conjunction with the Essex C.C.).

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC (Masseuse).

1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. (also in conjunction with the Essex C.C.).

DENTAL CLINIC.

Arrangements also exist for the Dental treatment of both Mothers and Infants.

Home Nursing.

This is carried out by the Local District Nursing Association which is subsidised by the Council, and employs 4 District Nurse Midwives.

Midwives.

Four District Nursing Association Midwives only.

Maternity Home.

The local District Nursing Association also provides a small but well equipped Maternity Home consisting of 5 beds with a suitable resident nursing staff, where the Mothers can be cared for under the best of conditions.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, 1946.

TOTAL BIRTHS	..	385	(Male 202 Female 183)
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STILLBIRTHS	..	5	(Male 2 Female 3)
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Notified by Medical Practitioners	..	209
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Notified by Midwives	..	181
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Domiciliary.

		<i>Midwives.</i>	<i>Maternity Nurses.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. District Nurses	121	48	169
2. Independant Midwives..	..	—	—	—
3. Private trained Women	..	—	3	3

Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

1. Clacton and District Hospital..	..	..	..	..	2
2. Ellisdene Nursing Home ..	..	..	..	..	114
3. Woodboro' Maternity Home ..	..	..	..	..	70
4. Waltham Nursing Home ..	..	..	..	..	32
5. St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester (Notified outside area)..	..	..	..	..	10
6. Heath Hospital, Tendring ..	(	..	..	..)	19
7. Old Mill House, Great Bentley (	..	..	..	..)	7
8. East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital (	..	..	..	..)	4

Ante-Natal Clinics.

		<i>No. on Register.</i>
1. Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics (Dr.'s Sessions)..	669	352
2. Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics (Midwives Sessions) ..	491	
3. Attendances at Post-Natal Clinics (Dr.'s Sessions)..	32	
4. No. of Visits (Ante-Natal) paid by Health Visitor ..	62	

Health Visits.

1. No. of Visits to Children under 5 years ..	1,200
2. No. of Visits to Children under 9 years as :	
Infant Life Protection Visitor ..	32
To Homes ..	3

Orthopaedics.

24 Children receiving treatment made a total of 110 Visits.

Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

Temporarily discontinued.

Dental Treatment.

Expectant Mothers ..	15
Children under 5 years ..	2

Eye Clinic.

16 Children under 5 years attended.
4 new cases were supplied with glasses.

Infant Clinics.

104 Clacton Clinics were held, attendances of children under 5 being..	6,142
23 Holland-on-Sea Clinics were held, attendances of children under 5 being ..	901

Immunisation—Diphtheria.

272 Children under 5 years were immunised (2 injections).

Food and Medicines Sold During 1946.

Cow & Gate Milk Food ..	7,412 pkts. (1lb.)
Ostermilk ..	740 tins (1lb.)
Trufood ..	1,119 tins (1lb.)
Colact ..	191 tins (1lb.)
Lactogal ..	138 tins
Maternity Outfits ..	175

Also, Oil and Malt, Virol, and Drugs were sold. In addition to the above, National Dried Milk, Vitamins, and Cod Liver Oil were distributed at the Clinics.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

WATER.

During the year 1946, the Clacton Water Department supplied 340,334,000 gallons of water, being an increase of 47,125,000 gallons over the output of the previous year. This increase is equal to 16%.

The water was obtained from:—

Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co.	..	..	217,082,000	gallons
Great Bentley Pumping Station	..	..	113,039,000	..
St. Osyth Pumping Station	..	..	10,213,000	..
			<hr/>	
			340,334,000	..
			<hr/>	

Throughout the whole of the year, the water supply of the area was satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations of the water leaving the Pumping Stations are made at least monthly. Precautionary treatment with Chlorine is made at pump suction in wells, and water examined is treated water.

In addition to examinations of water at source of supply, samples of water taken from consumers' premises in various parts of the District have been submitted each month for bacteriological examination. The reports on the samples state that the water is of a high standard of bacterial purity and the results obtained are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

There is no reason to consider the water likely to have plumbo-solvent action, and have not had to take any action in respect of any form of contamination although water receives precautionary Chlorine treatment.

Out of a resident population of 20,080, less than 100 receive main water by means of standpipes which supply 28 permanent houses.

About 1,000 summer chalets in Jaywick obtain their water by this means, but these dwellings have only a nominal population at other times of the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year 1946, two small sewerage schemes were commenced, one was for draining part of Holland-on-Sea, and the other for Bull Hill Housing Estate. In the former scheme, 250 yards of 15 inch surface water sewer, and in the latter, 400 yards of 6 inch and 9 inch foul and surface water sewers have been completed

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Infested Houses :

(a) Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Other Houses	..	..	..	..	..	7

Number of Houses disinfested :

(a) Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Other Houses	..	..	..	..	..	7

Methods Employed

Stripping of skirtings, etc. where necessary, spraying with insecticide, fumigation with sulphur and other special fumigators. Steam disinfection of bedding.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1946.

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Sanitary Department during 1946 :—

Sanitary Administration

Special Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,325
Special Visits re Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	199
Special Visits re Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	969
Re-inspections of Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,579
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	328
Piggery Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Stable Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Bakehouse (Non-Power) Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bakehouse (Power) Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Shops—Sanitary Accommodation—Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Fish Friers' Premises Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Hairdressers' Premises Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Camping Ground Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Marine Dealer's Store Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Smoke Observations—Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Cinemas Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Licensed Victualler's Sanitary Accommodation Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Laundries Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Public Convenience Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	416
Preliminary Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	353
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Letters to Owners re Nuisances..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Improvements following Preliminary Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	689
Improvements following Statutory Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Improvements without Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	292
Premises at which Nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	511

The following were the principal Improvements obtained :—

Roofs repaired	53
Chimney Pots fixed	6
Chimney brickwork repaired	2
Eaves gutters repaired or provided	9
Gutter board provided	6
R.W. downpipe provided or cleared	4
Brickwork repaired or repointed	63
Wall settlement remedied	1
Windows repaired	34
Sashcords provided	28
Panes of glass fixed	8
New doors provided	4
Doorsteps repaired or provided	6
Stairs repaired	5
Ceiling plaster repaired	19
Wall plaster repaired	47
Walls and floors cleansed	2
Floors repaired or relaid	114
Air bricks provided	65
Sleeper walls built	14
D.P.C. to sleeper walls provided	10
Skirting repaired	4
Fireplaces repaired	11
Kitchen ranges provided	9
Kitchen ranges repaired	2
Flue provided or repaired	6
Boilers provided or repaired	6
Washers provided on taps	2
Wash hand basins provided	8
Water service repaired	2
Storage tanks provided	5
Sink provided	1
Sink wastes repaired	8
Gulley dishing or benching repaired	9
Flush Cisterns repaired or provided	47
W.C. Basins provided	7
W.C. seats repaired or provided	6
New W.C. provided	2
Elsan closet abolished	1
Drains repaired	6
New drain laid	2
Drain relaid	1
Drains cleared	47
Inspection chambers repaired or provided	14
Interceptor chambers repaired	13
F.A.I. repaired or provided	4
Vent shafts repaired	10
Stoppers provided to cleansing eyes	13
Cesspools cleared	1
Cesspools overflows discontinued	12
Houses cleansed	2
Yards tidied	4
Chicken houses cleansed	10
Dustbins provided	202
Miscellaneous	25
Total improvements	1,002

Factory Act, 1937.

48 Inspections at Non-Power Factories (excluding Bakehouses).

82 Inspections at Power Factories (excluding Bakehouses).

Letters and Notices to the Occupiers respecting the following matters :—

1 No Sanitary Accommodation for female workers.

2 No intervening vent space.

1 W.C. Flush Cistern defective.

1 No Sanitary accommodation.

1 W.C. Flush pipe joint defective.

1 Proper water supply to W.C. required.

2 Water closets dirty.

1 No Water supply for drinking purposes.

1 No washing facilities.

1 Walls and ceiling require cleansing.

1 Walls require limewashing.

2 Fire Escape exits.

Notices from H.M. Factory Inspector notifying occupation, change of occupier, industry, and from non-power to power, etc., are often months out-dated, and it would be helpful if the Factory Inspector personally contacted the Local Sanitary Inspector say once every six months. Much useful information could be handed on, and records kept more up-to-date, apart from a free discussion upon various matters relating to Factories that are of interest to both Officials.

Housing Act, 1936.

Re-inspections of Repairs, etc.	51
Repairs completed	8
Visits re Permits for Timber (Flooring)	140
Visits re Permits for Flushing Tanks, etc.	418
No. of Houses inspected and recorded	1
Inspections re Permitted Number	2

Infectious Diseases.

19 cases of Scarlet Fever investigated.

2 cases of Diphtheria investigated.

1 case of Meningitis investigated.

1 case of Jaundice investigated.

1 case of Malaria investigated.

1 case of Poliomyelitis investigated.

1 case of Cerebro-spinal Fever investigated.

7 cases of Food Poisoning investigated.

35 Small-Pox Contacts investigated.

38 Visits to premises in connection with Infectious Diseases.

57 Rooms, bedding, etc., disinfected.

38 Lots Bedding steam disinfected.

34 Library Books disinfected.

Vermin, Moths, etc.

57 Rooms fumigated.

21 Lots Bedding steam disinfected.

Milk and Dairies Orders.

Cowshed Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Dairy Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	118

15 Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were submitted for examination. Of these, 3 samples failed to comply with the prescribed conditions.

7 Samples of Accredited Milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these, 1 sample proved to be unsatisfactory inasmuch as it gave a positive B. Coli result.

7 Samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted during the year. Of these, 1 sample was unsatisfactory—insufficiently heat treated.

10 Samples of Ordinary Milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination as to the general cleanliness and presence, or otherwise, of B. Coli results. Of these, 1 proved unsatisfactory.

Water Analysis and Examination.

The undermentioned samples were taken :—

- 10 from Great Bentley Pumping Station.
- 2 from St. Osyth Pumping Station.
- 18 from Town Supply.
- 2 from Wells.
- 2 from Bathing Pools.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

- 368 Visits by Inspectors.
- 1,909 Visits by Operators.

A general survey of all occupied premises was made in conjunction with the Scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Food. This resulted in much good work being carried out in domestic buildings, food stores, shops, piggeries, etc.

Various Sewers were also baited, and it was found that infestation of same was not of a serious nature.

It was found that infestation among dwelling houses was usually associated with the keeping of poultry, rabbits, etc. Encouragement to the vermin is also given by people who throw bread, etc. out in the garden for birds.

Infestation along the front Cliffs is caused by trippers throwing their waste food amongst the bushes.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The following Visits were made during the year :—

Butchers' and Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	195
Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Inspections re Permits to Open Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

The following were found to be unfit for human food :—

Tins of Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	386
.. .. Beans	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
.. .. Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
.. .. Steak	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
.. .. Peas	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
.. .. Salmon	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
.. .. Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
.. .. Pilchards	..	..	..	..	..	..	27

Tins of Soup	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" " Carrots	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" " Marmalade	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" " Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
" " Tomatoes	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Jars of Jam	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Sweets	..	..	..	..	..	..	16 lbs.
Dried Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	350 "
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 Sack.
Prunes	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 lbs.
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 "
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 "
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 dozen.
Corn Flakes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 packets.
Smoked Haddock	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 stone.
Lobsters	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Crabs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 crate.
Beef Trimmings	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 "
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 "
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 "
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	14 "
Pigs' lungs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pigs' Mesentery (T.B.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Beasts' Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chickens	..	..	..	..	..	..	48

22 carcasses of Pork for home consumption examined and found satisfactory.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Collection is made by rear-loading mechanical vehicles and a horse wagon.
Disposal is by incineration and controlled tipping.

Total net cost of Collection	..	..	..	..	..	£4,369 12s. 7d.
Total net cost of Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	£746 9s. 8d.
Income from Trade Refuse amounted to	..	..	..	..	..	£230 1s. 5d.
Income from sales of Salvaged Materials	..	..	..	..	..	£1,246 13s. 6d.
Income from sales of Waste Paper	..	..	..	..	..	£1,388 1s. 1d.
Refuse Collected by the Council	..	..	4,497	tons.		
Refuse delivered from Butlin's Camp	..	..	97	"		
Total dealt with at Disposal Works	..	..	4,594	"		

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During 1946, 9 houses were erected by private enterprise, and Nil by the Council.

Housing complaints have been dealt with as they have arisen. (*See Sanitary Inspector's Report*).

No Demolition Orders were made during the year.

THE HOUSING POSITION GENERALLY.

Housing is probably the most serious public health problem at present facing not only Clacton, but the County as a whole.

The standard of Housing, like that of living, of which it is a very appreciable part, varies with the prosperity of the Country and plays a great part in the health of the population.

During the war, this town suffered heavily from bomb damage, but most of these scars have been obliterated in a remarkable manner. Whilst this eased the housing conditions to a certain extent, there still remains the question of providing adequate housing accommodation for the town's population.

Clacton is fortunate in that it is comparatively a new town, and therefore few of the permanent houses are really in the true sense, old and irreparable.

Practically all houses may be placed in one of four classes according to their state of repair:—

CLASS I Houses fit in all respect.

CLASS II. Houses fit structurally, but requiring running repairs or renovation.

CLASS III. Houses unfit, but capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost to the Owners.

CLASS IV. Houses unfit and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost to the Owners.

Houses which have had no repairs for some years deteriorate with increasing rapidity as time goes on. Many have received no attention for 7 or 8 years, and a very large number of houses in Class III will pass into Class IV and too soon become really uninhabitable. The rapidity of this process varies with the soundness of their original construction.

There appears to be an impression abroad that to build new houses fast and well is all that is required, but it should be remembered that every slum house was at one time a desirable residence.

New houses, whether built by the local authority or private enterprise, are essential, but it is equally essential to prevent Class III houses slipping into Class IV. Whilst it seems uneconomical to waste capital on Class IV houses, they should, never-the-less, be kept wind and watertight, or, in other words, they should be allowed to act as a temporary dwelling until the present crises in housing is over and they can pass out of use having served their purpose.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that whatever policy is adopted, it is very necessary, if not essential, to repair or recondition the best of the substandard houses (Class III), and those not worth reconditioning should as far as possible, be stabilised and rendered reasonably inhabitable whilst new construction is being carried out. Otherwise, at the end of 10 years, there seems a possibility that the housing position may not be better than at present, but actually worse. It should be mentioned that temporary houses are only an emergency expedient which after 10 years or perhaps a little longer, will become not an asset, but a serious liability.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Milk Production.

The register shows there are 7 Producers (3—Accredited, 2—Tuberculin Tested and 2—Ordinary Milk), and 18 Retailers in the District.

With regard to work carried out under the Milk and Dairies Orders, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report—Section C.

Meat.

Routine slaughtering is now done outside the District. For particulars of meat and other foods inspected and condemned, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report—Section C.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Below is given in tabular form the number and particulars of Infectious Diseases notified in the Urban District during, 1946 :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	19	8	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
	1 (Posthumous)	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	7	—	—
Chicken-Pox	12	3	—
Measles	211	—	—
Jaundice	3	—	—
Food Poisoning	7	—	—
Total	266	14	1

The number of cases have again been low. Measles was prevalent during the year and was the only disease that reached epidemic form. Seventeen of the nineteen cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the second half of the year, and were uniformly distributed over the Town.

IMMUNISATION—DIPHTHERIA.

During 1946, 272 children between one and five years, and 10 between five and fifteen years received the full course of inoculations. 8 children received a secondary or reinforcing injection.

At the end of 1946, it was estimated that 36% of children under 5 years had been immunised, and according to a census taken of the children between 5 and 15 years who are attending the Elementary Schools, the percentage of these who have been immunised is 70%.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Below is given in tabular form the number of new cases and the deaths from Tuberculosis during 1938 —

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	3	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10	4	—	2	3	2	—	—

New Cases 16

Deaths 5

The following figures give the number of cases on the Register at the end of 1946 :—

Respiratory Male ..	47	Non-Respiratory Male ..	13
„ Female ..	30	„ Female ..	15
	77		28
	—		—
Total ..	105.		

