## [Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, Clevedon U.D.C.

## **Contributors**

Clevedon (England). Urban District Council.

## **Publication/Creation**

1943

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# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR 1943



Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

The following is a brief report upon the health of the town, with vital statistics for the year 1943, together with your Sanitary Inspector's report for the same period.

Public Health Staff
G. MACLEOD, M.C., M.A., M.D., D.P.H. M.O.H. (part-time)
I. J. LEACH, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.I.A.S. Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area ... 3292 acres
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population
Number of Inhabited Houses and Flats
Rateable Value ... £76,749 (actual figure)
Sum represented by a penny rate ... £320 (approx)

Live RirthsMaleFemaleTotalLegitimate7253125Illegitimate235

Birth Rate per 1000 of the population = 13.5

Still Births Mele Female Total Legitimate - 1 1

Deaths Male Female Total 180

Death Rate per 1000 = 18.7 (uncorrected) Average age at death = 67.2 years

Deaths of Indants under one year of age:-

Male Female Total

Infant Mortality Rate = 53.8

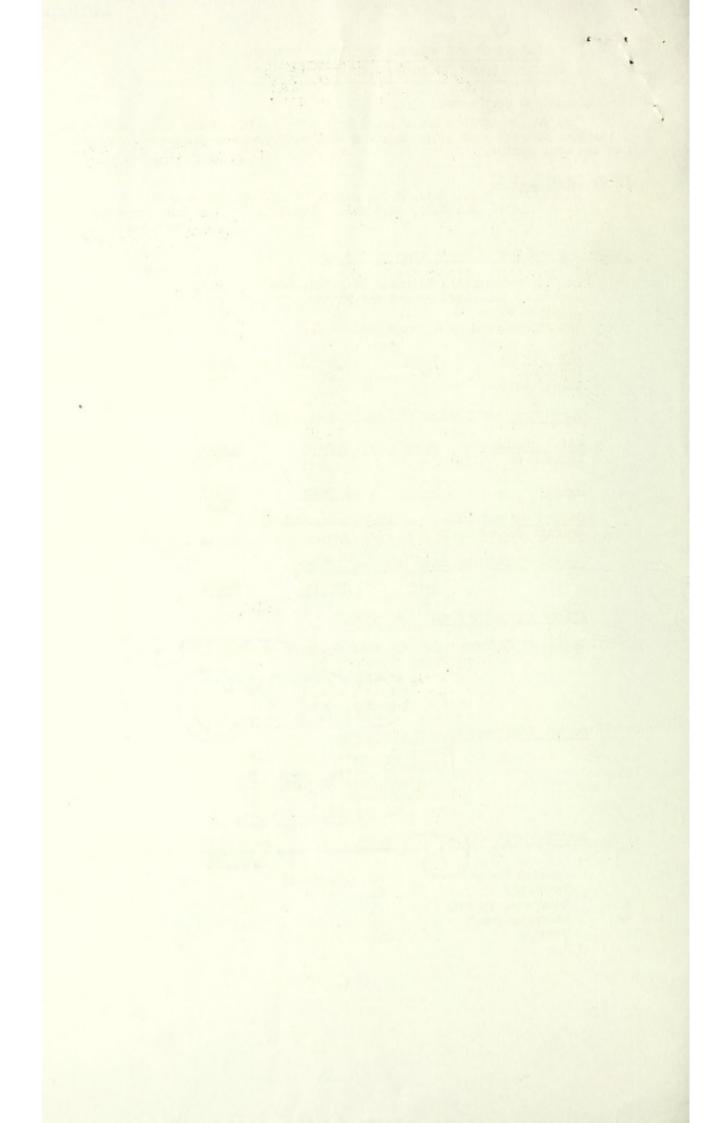
Deaths of Infants under one year occurred as under : -

Under 1 week 2 1 - 4 weeks 1 1 - 6 months 3 6 - 12 months 1

Deaths from some specified causes:

Cancer ... 33
Influenza ... 4
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs) 1
Whooping Cough
Puerperal Sepsis -

| Total | Admitted to<br>Hospital | Deaths                              |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|       | gical)                  | - 6                                 |
| ī     | 1                       | -                                   |
| 31    | all the box - old had   | -                                   |
|       | 1 (sur                  | Hospital  1 (surgical)  21  1 1  31 |



Tuberculosis

Pulmonary, 4 males, aged 42, 74, 61, 36.
3 females aged 62, 30, 41.

Non-pulmonary, 3 males, aged 26, 32, 53.

Notifications:
Pulmonary
Non-Pulmonary

| Notifications: | Pulmot | ary    | Non-Pulmonary |        |  |
|----------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--|
| Age Perdods    | Malo   | Female | Male          | Fanale |  |
| 1 - 5          | -      | -      | -             | -      |  |
| 5 - 15         | 1      | -      | 1             | 1      |  |
| 15 ~ 25        | -      | 1.     | -             | 1      |  |
| 25 - 35        | **     | 2      | -             | 1      |  |
| 35 - 45        | 1      | 1      | -             | 1      |  |
| 45 - 55        | 1      | -      | -             | -      |  |
| 55 - 65        | 3      | 3      | -             | -      |  |
|                | 6      | 7      | 1.            | 1;-    |  |
|                | -      |        |               |        |  |

## General Observations

In the first quarter, we still had a large number of cases of Measles, but a comparatively mild type. Whooping Cough was present but not so widespread, and Epidemio Jaundice was still present and accounted for the death of one infant of 14 months, and for a stillborn babe to a mother of 24 who had had a severe attack a month before her full term. Influenza of a mild type was also noticed during this quarter.

The summer months were rather unsettled in character. From mid-November to the end of the year we had a very sharp epidemic of Influenza, which quickly overron the bulk of the population and resulted in some deaths among the older people. It embraced three general types: acute pharyngeal infection, upper respiratory infection, and a general texic type. Considerable numbers showed definite signs of pulmonary involvement which rarely proceeded to bronchopneumonia, and from which recovery took place in a matter of three to five days. The epidemic subsided as rapidly as it opened, and by mid-December was practically finished.

One cannot refrain from noting the absence of a single case of Diphtheria for the second year running; and the only case of Scarlet Fever notified was one of the surgical type.

The population generally are in better general health and show much less signs of fatigue than they did two years ago.

Births. It is remarkable that of 233 births registered locally, 188 were attended to at the local Maternity Unit or Nursing Homes; and of those returned as inward transfers, many were of local cases which had to seek accommodation in one of the County Homes or Hospitals on account of the great difficulty of obtaining acmestic help to allow of their remaining at home for the confinement; while several who would normally stay at home, made some extra sacrifice to permit their entering a private Nursing Home.

Tuberculosis. It is obvious from the age incidence that many of the notifications are transfers from other areas, or the recrudescence of an earlier active disease in persons in their fourth to sixth decade of Life.

The medical and ancillary services have all continued to function satisfactorily.

I have again to acknowledge with thanks the help obtained from all members of the staff, from the County and Bristol Health Authorities and from the Royal Naval Bacteriological staff.

Your obedient servant,

(signed) G. MACLEOD.

Clevedon. 12th July, 1944.

Gentlemen,

The following is a brief report of duties carried out during the year ending the 31st. March, 1944. You will observe that there has been a curtailment of certain operations owing to the war conditions.

# MIIK & DAIRIES ACTS & ORDERS MIIK TESTS

The following samples have been taken. The number of samples collected has been limited to the number which can be dealt with at the Laboratory:-

| PASTEURISED MIIK<br>Number of Samples taken | Results   |
|---|---|
| 8   | 2 satisfy story 3 satisfactory but slight contamination after pasteurisation 1 not quite satisfactory 1 cancelledowing to delay in transit 1 undetermined being over time limit |
| ACCREDITED MILK                             |   |
| 10  | 9 satisfactory<br>1 not satisfactory (slightly)   |
| IDDOOR ON ACCOUNT                           |   |

## UNDESIGNATED MILK

3

All satisfactory

There are, in this district the following:-

| Producers only | Producer Retailers | Retailers only |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 13             | 9                  | 13             |
|                |                    |                |

## 3 Accredited Herds

#### MILK PRODUCERS

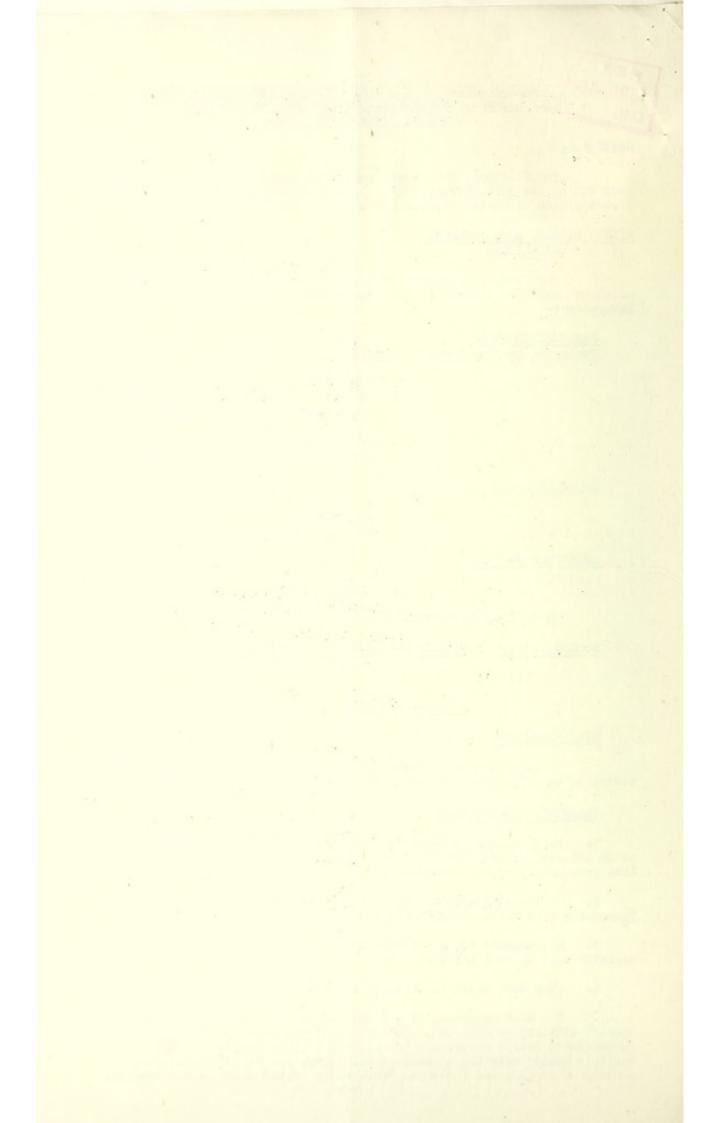
In case it is not known "the special designations" may briefly be stated to be subject to the following conditions:-

## TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK

- 1. Every animal of the herd shall be submitted to a tuberculin test at an interval of not Jess than two months or more than six months after the last preceding test of such animal.
- No animal shall be added to the herd unless it has passed the Tuberculin Test within fourteen (14) days before it is added.
- All animals to be suitably marked for identification, and a register kept of each animal.
  - 4. The herd shall be suitably isolated from all other cattle.

The Milk produced, if not bottled on the farm (in accordance with special bottling conditions), shall be consigned from the dairy in unventilated sealed containers which shall be labelled or marked in a suitable manner with the address of the dairy, the day of production, morning or evening and the words "Tuberculin Tested Milk" marked thereon.

- 1 -



The Milk shall satisfy a methylene blue reduction test, and shall be found to contain no caliform bacillus in 1/100 of a mililitre.

## ACCREDITED MILK

The same conditions apply as with T.T. Herds except the veterinary examination shall be once in every three(3) months. The containers to be marked as above except "Accredited Milk" instead of "T.T.".

## PASTEURISED MIIK

Milk shall be retained at a temperature of not less than 145° F. and not more than 150°F. for at least thirty (30) minutes, and be immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 55°F.

The Milk shall not be treated more than once, and shall not be otherwise treated by heat.

The Plant and methods for Pasteurisation to be those approved by the Ministry.

The Containers shall be scaled and labelled "Pasteurised Milk".

The Milk, after pasteurisation, and before delivery to the consumer shall contain not more than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre. If tuberculin treated Milk (Pasteurised) it must not contain more than 30,000 bacteria per millilitre.

May I draw your attention to the new "Food and Drugs (Mink and Dairies) Bill" now before parliament. This Bill makes amendments to the Food and Drugs Act 1938 primarily in order to enable certain functions of Local Authorities in relation to the conditions under which Milk is produced on the farm, to be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the granting of licences and registrations to producers of milk, will be made by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries instead of by the Hinister of Health or County Councils or Local Authorities.

I have been informed that an inspection has been made of the Producers' Cowsheds and Buildings in this district, and it is gratifying to note that only one cowshed has been reported to me not complying with the Act by the Board of Agriculture. The default, in this case, was more administrative than technical, and the matter has been dealt with.

WATER

Four samples of water have been taken at the Pumping Station

RESULT - All satisfactory

Four samples taken from taps in the district

RESULT - No evidence of contamination

#### EXAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS

The following Foodstuffs have been condemned during the year and reported to the Food Officer and copy of Certificate sent to the dealer:-

| Size Ti    | n ,                       | Number |
|------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 lb.      | Pork Sausage Meat         | 1      |
| 1be        | B. I. Blackberries        | 4      |
|            | Graves Apples             | 3      |
| 12 cz.     | Sweetened Evaporated Milk | 7      |
| 4<br>6 1b. | Sea Foam Sardines         | 7      |
|            | Luncheon Tongue           | 1      |
|            | Luncheen Meat             | 1      |
| 6 35.      | Ox Tongue                 | 1      |
| 2½ lb.     | Chopped Ham               | 8      |
| 32 02.     | Sea Foam Sardines         | 58     |
|            | 7                         |        |

| Size Tin | in a market de market              | Number                          |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 21 lb.   | Sausage Meat                       | 2                               |
| 15 0%    |                                    | 2                               |
| 215.8oz. |                                    | 2                               |
| 2½ lb.   | Luncheon Meat                      | 7                               |
| 2 lb.    |                                    | i                               |
| 1 lb.    | Steak and Carrots                  | 2<br>2<br>7<br>1<br>3<br>1<br>5 |
| 14 020   | Pilohards                          | i                               |
| 2 lb.    | Peas                               | 5                               |
| 1 lb.    | Salmon                             | 17                              |
| 2 1b     | Spinach                            | 2                               |
|          | Sausage Meat                       | 2                               |
| 1/16 Ib. | Sardines                           | 17                              |
| 15 12.   | Machine Skimmed Milk               |                                 |
| 1 1b.    | Pork Sausage Meat                  | 1                               |
| 15 1b.   | Pork Sausage Meat<br>Luncheon Meat |                                 |
| down in  | Courses to Mont                    | 1                               |
| 13 pt.   | Tip Top Milk                       | 6                               |
| 14 lb.   | Tongue                             | . 1                             |
|          | Cheese                             | 754 lbs.                        |
|          | Beef                               | 70 lbs.                         |
| 12 oz.   | Luncheon Meat                      | 4                               |
|          | Sausage Meat                       | 1                               |
| 16 000   | Stewed Steak                       | 2                               |
|          | Evaporated Milk                    | 32                              |
| 1 lb.    | Fillchards                         | 7                               |
|          | Eraporated Milk                    | 33                              |
| 1 lb.    | Salmon                             | 4                               |
| 1 lb.    | Oray Fish                          | 4                               |
| 19 lb.   | Jani                               | 1                               |
|          | Orelwood Pork Juncheon Heas        | 1                               |
|          | Batchelors Peas                    | 4                               |
|          | Poulton & Noel's Beans             | 1                               |
|          | Nestle's Milk                      | - 1                             |
|          | Bulk Jam                           | 1<br>3<br>1 crate               |
|          | Maine Maid Sardines                | 3                               |
|          | Oranges                            |                                 |
|          | Pressed Meat                       | 1                               |
| 4 10.    | Brisket Beef                       | 1                               |
| Madium   | Heins Baked Beans                  | 1                               |
| 1출<br>1출 | Diploma F. C. S.Milk               | 1                               |
| 1출       | Fussell's M.S. S.Milk              | 1                               |
| 1章 pt。   | Nestle's Condensed Milk            | 7                               |
|          | Van Kamp Pilchards                 | 1                               |

## RIVERS & STREAMS

The portions of Rivers for which the Urban District Council are responsible for cleaning under the Rivers Catchment Board etc. have been attended to at the appointed times, and no complaints have been received.

#### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The difficulties encountered in order to maintain this service without undue inconvenience to householders and others, have been considerable, mainly due to war conditions which have necessitated:-

- 1. Using the service for collecting separately "household and other salvage".
- Having to use men unfit, through physical defects, and old age, because fit men are not available.
  - 3. Continual sickness of the men on this service.
- 4. The additional collection from shops which was collected previously by a private firm.
- 5. The your response given by many householders to the appeal made to temporarily assist where possible" by placing the refuse bins inside or near the entrance gates. I am grateful, however, to tose who have assisted. May I say that the carrying on of this service at all on many

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occasions has been due, to some extent, to the effective help given by some of the elderly men, some of the tradesmen (council employees), the foreman and deputy foreman who have constantly come to the rescue.

The estimated amount collected this year is as follows:-

## 1750 - TONS

The amount is based on the average weight of light and heavy loads, and the journeys made to the tip.

## SALVAGE

The following is a summary of Salvage collected, working cost and financial return:-

|  | Tons                           | owt                            | qrs.        |   | Workin | g Cos | <u>st</u> | Selling      | Pric       | 9        |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|--------|-------|-----------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Paper<br>Metals<br>Rags<br>Bones<br>Tins<br>Rubber | 141<br>17<br>10<br>8<br>8<br>3 | 15<br>4<br>13<br>10<br>18<br>6 | 2 1 3 - 1 2 |   |        |       |           |              |            |          |
|  | 190                            | 8                              | 1           |   | £717   | 19    | 9a        | £1214        | <b>-</b> s | -d       |
| KITCHEN WASTE                                      | 240                            | 11                             | -           | _ | £210   | 14    | 4d        | 466          | -s         | -d       |
|  |                                |                                |             |   | £928   | 14    | 1d        | £1680<br>928 | -s<br>14   | -d<br>1d |
|  |                                |                                |             |   |        | GROS  | S SURPLUS | £751         | :5:        | 11d      |

# GAS DECONTAMINATION (Foodstuffs) and Road Vehicles etc. DECONTAMINATION SERVICES

As these services are being administered by me, and concern the Sanitary Authority, I give herewith the establishment, purpose and preparations, for dealing with, and protecting EMERGENCY FOODSTUFFS stored in the district, FOOD IN THE HOME and elsewhere, against POISON GAS, and of dealing with areas and property by the DECONTAMIDNATION SQUADS.

The direction of the Gas Decontamination (Food) Services comes from the Ministry of Food. More attention has been given by the M.O.F. this year "to the danger of Gas", than in past years.

The M.O.F. has instructed Gas Officers of Local Authorities to increase their effective strength one hundred per cent (100%) over the previously accepted strength. In this district the effective strength of my squad was ten previously, and I have, during the year, increased it to twenty-four (24), effective strength twenty (20) and four (4) supplementary. All members are volunteers, three of its members are women, and all are exceptionally keen. Several members of the service have been drawn from the Food and Provision Trades, and will be veryhelpful in the sorting and distribution of Foodstuffs after treatment.

All members have been given the full course of Lectures,
Demonstrations and Exercises and each member has been trained in all the
duties in operational work so that each can be exchanged if required.
The Lectures, Demonstrations and Exercises during the year amounted to
forty-eight (48), and included Exercises with Mustard Gas in use, and all
types of Foodstuffs were dealt with, without a casualty. A scheme has
been prepared for co-ordination with Portishead and Long Ashton. Members of
the Portishead Service received their training with the Clevedon Service.

The GAS PECONTANINATION DEPOT (FOOD) has been fitted out (the cost reimbursed by the M.O.F.) with Decontamination Plant, Tools and General

"Cita · Conte or a state of the first first and distribution the state of the same of the

Equipment including a fixed Hot Water System, Portable Hot Water Heaters. Decontamination Room, Airing areas, Neutral Room, Changing Rooms, Cleansing Cubicles (hot and cold water sprays for personnel), Clothes and Changing Room etc., etc.

Every shop keeper in the district has received a letter from me drawing attention to the importance of making provision for the protection of Foodstuff's against Poison Gas.

Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Transport for the earmarking of certain lorries and vans for the use of this service in case of Emergency.

The Decontamination Squad, Roads, Vehicles etc. consist of six (6) men volunteers (four Council employees) who have been fully trained in the methods of Decontamination, and who have co-operated with the Food Decontamination Service in the demonstrations and exercises. The Decontamination Depot is at Hangstone Yard.

The old Dennis Lorry has been put into running order, and fitted out with additional sprays, on sides and rear, with automatic device for mixing spraying solution and using the Dennis Engine as motive power. This work has been carriedout by our own men and has worked satisfactorily.

## EMERGENCY SANITATION

Provision has been made for Emergency Sanitation in case the sewers or any drains are destroyed.

## EMERGENCY WATER

In co-operation with the Water Company, a system of Emergency Water Supply has been arranged if water supply should be cut off by enemy action.

## DISINFECTION & FUMIGATION

The Mechanical Fumigator in Strode Road has been in considerable use during the year due, notso much to any large or unusual increase in infection or infestation, but to the Fumigation of bedding used by the war-time services as a precautionary measure.

The following is a list of articles, rooms, houses etc. which have been dealt with:-

| Blankets            | 343    | Houses                  | 8   |
|---------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|
| Mattresses          | 102    | Flats                   | 1   |
| Bundles of Clothing | 10     | Infested Houses (fleas) | 3   |
| Pillows             | 63     | " (bugs)                | 3   |
| Rooms               | 32     | Sundry Articles         | 171 |
| Sheets              | 56     | Overlays                | 2   |
|                     | Quilts | etc. 2                  |     |

The Public Sanitary Conveniences have been cleaned and disinfected or deodorised approximately daily. During the summer season the bathing boxes were periodically disinfected.

#### HOUSING

Numerous repairs of varying kinds have been carried out to Council Houses. To avoid emmeration of so many details I append the particulars of expenditure:-

| Housing Act | Mages     | £165 | 13 | 4d    |
|-------------|-----------|------|----|-------|
|             | Materials | 99   | 10 | 7d    |
|             | Haulage   | 3    | 17 | -d    |
|             |           | £269 | -  | :11d. |

,

| Rate Fund Houses | Wages<br>Materials<br>Haulage | £16<br>21 |     | 5<br>8<br>3 | 10d<br>2d<br>6d |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------------|-----------------|
|                  |                               | £37       | : 1 | 7 :         | 6d              |

### HOUSES FOR WARWORKERS

Plans and Specifications have been prepared and Tenders invited and approval obtained from the Ministry of Health for the conversion of Requisitioned Houses for Warworkers as follows:-

1 House converted into 3 Flats
1 " " 1 Flat
1 " " 2 Flats
1 " from Offices into Private by melling

## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSES

One temporary dwelling has been approved and erected for an Agricultural Worker.

Improvements have been carried out to the Sanitary arrangements of twenty-eight (28) private houses.

STATUTORY NUISANCES Twenty-four (24) nuisances have been abated.

## FACTORIES ACT Etc.

Factories and Workshops have been periodically visited and notifications from the Factory Act Inspector have been carried out. The following is a list of cases dealt with:-

| Action taken | 1 | Factory | new | Fire Escape completed         |
|--------------|---|---------|-----|-------------------------------|
|              | 1 | "       |     | Larder completed              |
|              | 1 | 11      | 11  | Staff Conveniences completed  |
|              | 1 | "       | 11  | Entrance and Exit completed   |
|              | 1 | 11      | 11  | Conveniences completed        |
|              | 1 |         | 11  | Boiler House completed (Milk) |

### THE WHITE HOUSE

Plans and Specifications have been prepared for the conversion of The White House into Offices for the Billeting and Ministry of Food Depriments.

#### MORTUARY

Plans and Specifications have been prepared for the adaptation of the Cemetery Chapel for use as a Mortuary and an improvement to the existing Mortuary in case of Emergency. Mortuary Attendants have been detailed, equipment of clothing obtained, including Gas Clothing, Helmets and Gas Masks. Materials are stored for stretchers and covering for casualties in case of energy action.

#### RATS & MICE INFESTATION

A systematic effort has been made to bring under control the infestation of Rats and Mice, and good results have been obtained.

It must be understood, however, that the extermination and satisfactory control of infestation and infiltration of Rats and Mice cannot be attained until there is an efficient co-operative national scheme in operation so that all efforts are co-ordinated, in all districts, and by occupiers of premises within those districts.

The Miristry of Food are preparing a comprehensive scheme, and are in consultation with all Local Authorities for that purpose.

- 6 -

A Direction and Order dated 1943 has been issued and which is to be read in conjunction with the Rats and Mice Act 1919. Under the Act and Order, the responsibility of the operation of the Act for the destruction of Rats and Mice is placed upon Local Authorities. It should be noted also that occupiers of premises are to take proper steps for the destruction of Rats upon their premises, and an Authority may serve a notice, and send an Inspector to inspect, and on proof that proper steps have not been taken. may do the work themselves, and recover a reasonable cost. In view of the habits of Rats, and their constant infiltration from one premises to another, it is doubtful if one case in twenty could be proved. This view is exercising the minds of officers of the Ministry of Food, and will do so unless sufficient staff is provided to make constant and consistent investigation and to follow up. During the year, a survey has been made of "Reservoir, Hajor and Minor Infestations" in this district, and a report and map prepared for the Ministry of Food. Many Meetings have been held in Bristol for the working out of the new scheme in the area of Bristol (which includes Clevedon). Workable sub-areas have been set up, courses arranged for instruction to Rodent Officers, and operatives appointed by Local Authorities. It should be noted that Farms will be dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Meanwhile, propaganda, advertisement and instructions are being published pointing out the menace of Rats and Mice, and giving instructions as to the approved means of destruction. In this district all known major infestations have been dealt with, and minor infestations are in hand, but while control will eventually be reached, a modified Rodent Service must be continued to keep the infestations under control, and to deal with re-infestation which will probably occur owing to the prolific breeding capacities of the Rat. It is possible for the progeny from one pair of rats to reach 600 in one year. This district will be well advanced in the extermination of Rats before the new scheme comes into operation owing to the wise decision of the Council to engage a "Rat Catcher". It is impossible to give anything like an accurate figure of the Rats and Mice destroyed as so many die underground, but the following will give some idea of the work done:-Premises Visited - 193 In some cases as many as 100 to 290 dead rats have been counted. The above premises include Shops, Factories, Private Houses, Public Gardens, Sewers, Rivers, Piggeries, Refuse Dumps, Coastal Rocks etc. In most cases there has been a repeat visit. Calculating from the method supplied by the Ministry of Food for estimating number of Rats, including the counted dead rats, one may estimate the total number of rats destroyed to be 3000 to 4000. SEWERS AND DRAINS The main sewers of the town have been periodically inspected. Tidal surcharge has caused very little inconvenience, and in spite of the shortage of labour necessitating less attention than in normal times, the existing sewers have fulfilled their function quite reasonably, in spite of the fact that the load on some sewers has been increased during the war period. There has been occasional difficulty, but no serious trouble, and the difficulties have been satisfactorily dealt with. - 7 -

 A new Tidal Flap Valve has been installed at the outfall.

The Outfall Sewer at Walton burst during the year, this has been repaired.

A new length of sewer has been laid in Noor Lane replacing an old defective 12" sewer with an 18" sewer. Eight (8) new Road Gullies have been fixed in various parts of the town. Gullies have been cleaned out and disinfected as often as there has been men available, a number of Council house drains have been attended to.

STREET CLEANING

Owing to the depletion of staff some of the street cleansing men have been withdrawn for other more essential services, and consequently I regret to say that the cleansing of the streets has not been carried out to the usual standard, unfortunately, this also reacts on the gulley cleansing duties, as more grit and waste goes into the gullies, but I do not think that there has been any undue inconvenience in view of conditions imposed by the War.

SHOPS ACT

Inspections have been made of various shops and notification made in regard to various matters under this Act.

## HOUSING - Postwar

Lay-out Development Plans have been prepared for five sites for processed Council Houses and Plans checked and reports made of proposed development by Private Enterprise.

GAS EXAMINATION The Gas supplied by the Clevedon and Natton Gas Co. has, at no time, been below the declared average calorific value of been deficient in water pressure, and has not shown any sign of the presence of Sulphurretted Hydrogen.

| Tests | taken | for | calorific value | 26 |
|-------|-------|-----|-----------------|----|
| 11    | u     | 11  | purity          | 26 |
| 11    | 11    | 11  | water pressure  | 26 |

Inon Sheach

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

IJL/MES Wednesday 14th. June, 1944.

