REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

CLEVEDON Urban District, for the year 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report upon the health and sanitary conditions of the urban district for the year 1945, together with the Vital Statistics and including your Sanitary Inspector's Report for the same period.

General Health

Though the general health is good it cannot be denied that the middle aged and elderly show signs of the strain undergone during six years of war; but the resistance of children and the young has been wonderfully sustained during these years, and it is hoped that their resiliency is such that no latent defect will be manifest as the years go on.

But the advent of peace has not lessened the burdens and worries of the housewife, and the lack of domestic assistance continues to tell against the elderly in their daily struggle to keep their homes going. When illness or advancing infirmity supervenes under such conditions, it is frequently impossible to cope with the situation in the home. The District Nurses and the few practising nurses in the district have frequently been able to render invaluable assistance in looking after such cases; the Cottage Hospital has, in spite of difficulties, been able to accommodate most of the acute cases; the local Maternity Homes have relieved many of the expectant mothers of the anxiety of having their babies at home; but in too many cases of chronic illness or infirmity we have been compelled to invoke the assistance of the County Institutions for the provision of accommodation for those who could no longer be cared for in their homes. This entails their transfer to Institutions far removed from their friends and relations, a situation which brings into prominence the need for local accommodation for those who are chronically sick or infirm.

Contagious Diseases

It is significant to be able to report again that no case of diphtheria has been notified during the year. Parents are increasingly alive to the importance of having their children immunised against this disease, and the total absence of any case during all the war years, when overcrowding and the presence of many evacuee children led one to fear the introduction of infection, is sufficient evidence of the efficacy of this preventive measure.

There was a considerable epidemic of measles throughout the first half of the year, but the type was not severe and recovery without serious incident was the rule in these cases. Whooping cough, though less widespread, ran concurrently with measles. It was more troublesome, but fortunately the end results were equally good.

Out of seventeen notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis six were from the Services and seven others were transfers from other districts. There have been six deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year - three males aged 25, 41 and 54 and three females ages 24, 45 and 64.

Food Supplies

Shortage of labour and transport services have made things difficult, but these are being improved. The handling of milk in bulk and its treatment and distribution still remains a major national problem whose solution calls for more advanced methods than are yet employed. Refrigeration in some form during transport over long distances would suggest itself as a means of preserving some of its freshness, after production under the best hygienic conditions from tubercle free herds.

Housing

Provision of homes for those returning from the Services or war work is a major problem. Adaptation into flats of some larger houses has helped in solving some acute problems; but we look forward to the provision of individual homes for those who are starting life, and the relief of overcrowding and the occupation of houses that are no longer fit for habitation.

And here too the old must not be forgotten, and the provision of suitable accommodation for them in housing estates should be incorporated in municipal schemes.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) G. Macleod.

24th.June, 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

G. MACLEOD, M.C., M.A., M.D., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health (part time)

I. J. LEACH, M.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H., M.I.H., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA

Total area of Clevedon urban district	3292 acres
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population	9193
Number of Inhabited Houses and Flats	2643
Rateable Value at present time	£76,011
Sum represented by a penny rate	£304 (estimated)

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	54	59	113
Illegitimate	4	4	8

Birth Rate per 1000 of the population - 13. 1

(The Birth Rate for England & Wales is 16. 1)

(278 Births registered locally, 42 at their own homes, 236 at Maternity Homes, including 114 at County Home)

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 of population = .21

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	67	101	168

Death Rate per 1000 = 18. 2 (uncorrected)
Average Age at Death = 71 years
(The Death Rate for England & Wales is 11.4)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : -

Male	Female	Total
1	1	2

Infant Mortality Rate = 16. 5
(Figure for England & Wales is 46)

Deaths of Infants under one year occurred as under : -

Under 1 week ...	1
1 - 4 weeks ...	-
1 - 6 months ...	1

One infant died within one day, the second within 4 months of birth. There has been no death from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.

Deaths from some specified causes : -

Cancer	28
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	70
Nephritis	15
Respiratory Diseases	6

Notifiable Diseases	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Measles	219	-	-
Whooping Cough	50	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	2	-
Dysentery	1	1	-
Pneumonia	14	-	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-

Tuberculosis

Deaths : - Pulmonary (3 males aged 25, 41, 54
(3 females aged 24, 45, 64
Other Tuberculosis N I L

Notifications : -

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	2	2
15 - 25	-	2	-	1
25 - 35	4	-	-	-
35 - 45	5	2	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	11	6	2	3

The ANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR Inon J. Leach
M.R. San.Inst., M.R.I.P.H., M.I.Hygiene for the year ended 31st.Decr.1945.

Gentlemen,

The following is a brief report of duties carried out during the year ended the 31st.December,1945.

FOOD and DRUGS ACT.

The following Foodstuffs have been condemned from among the goods examined. Each item of goods has been reported to the Ministry of Food and to the Retailer concerned : -

SUGAR		224 lbs and 1 - 2lb. packet
EVAPORATED MILK		124 tins
FISH -	Mackerel	1 "
	Sardines	3 "
	Pilchards	63 "
	Herrings	1 "
	Salmon	5 "
MEAT -	Luncheon	10 "
	Chopped Ham	10 "
	Irish Stew	43 "
	Sausage	4 "
	Ox Tongue	2 "
	American	1 "
	Stewed Steak	1 "
	Liver	10 lbs.
BACON -	Streaky	9½lbs
	Smoked Gammon	5 lbs
	Gammon	11 lbs 9ozs
BAKED BEANS -	Heinz	20 tins
	Pork and Beans	1 "
	Van Camp	1 "
	in gravy	4 "
VEGETABLES-	A.2	1 "
	Mixed	1 "
	Beetroot	1 "
PLAIN CHOCOLATE -	Windsor	6 - ½lbs.
MISCELLANEOUS -	Damson Syrup	5 - 2½lbs
	Honey	1 - 2lb
	Quaker Oats	1 - 2lb
	DriSauce	23 - 2oz
	Pudding Mixture	80 - 8oz
	Household Milk	319 - 4pt.tins

M I L K

There has been an advance generally in the methods of producing and handling of Milk. Most Producers have, in spite of shortage of labour, maintained their premises in a reasonable state of cleanliness. Representation has been made in two cases and improvements were observed at a later inspection. Modifications and improvements have been carried out to cowsheds at two farms. There have been numerous Acts and Regulations introduced during the last twenty years which, although bristling with difficulties in application, has enabled a higher standard of condition to be enforced in the production, but legislation has not been so rigid in enforcing hygienic standards of milk after production and consumers of milk have suffered much in the past from milk which has soured before tea time on the day of delivery. It is little consolation to the consumer to have disease free milk, only to find it unfit for consumption by reason of early decomposition.

It is not surprising that recently new standards of hygiene have been imposed in regard to milk in specified areas. By a new Regulation, the sale of raw milk, other than from tuberculin tested herds is to be prohibited in

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specified areas. Once an area is specified all milk which is not sold under a grade designation of Tuberculin tested will be processed either by sterilization, pasteurisation or Heat Treatment. It is hoped that the time will soon come when all areas will be included.

There is a very useful addition under the Milk and Dairies Order in Article 21 which requires Dairymen to cleanse thoroughly all utensils and subsequently to scald them with boiling water or steam but my experience shows that the use in a dairy of boiling water for scalding purposes is largely impracticable. In my opinion, where water is laid on the dairy (by the new Legislation incorporated in the Water Act, water undertakings may now be expected to extend supplies to Dairies and Farms) scalding by steam should be enforcible.

A requirement of the Milk and Dairies Order which is and has been frequently contravened is Article 32 which relates to the unnecessary exposure of milk to heat, yet it is a common sight to see churns of milk awaiting collection on platforms exposed to the heat of the sun. Representations have been made not only from this district but from many districts but the Powers that Be still ignore the contravention or cannot find an alternative.

MILK and DAIRIES ACTS and ORDERS
Milk 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 Milk

Number of Samples Taken	Result
5	Satisfactory
2	Not quite satisfactory

Tuberculin Tested Milk

15	Satisfactory

Heat Treated Milk

6	Satisfactory
1	Not satisfactory

Accredited Milk

9	Satisfactory

Pasteurised Milk sample sent in by Customer was unsatisfactory, but cause undetermined.

There are in the Clevedon area.
14 Producers.
9 Producer-Retailers
13 Retailers.

Under the "Special Designation Order" there are
3 Accredited Herds
1 Pasteurising Milk Retailer
1 Heat treated Milk Retailer

ICE CREAM

The sale of Ice Cream is a matter which has given me some concern and will do so as summer approaches, and more production is possible. Reports of infection in Ice Cream have been made in some districts. Ice Cream, like butter and condensed milk, is assumed to be a milk product. Ice Cream, however, has no fixed legal standard and apparently any mixture ranging from cornflour, custard to cream when frozen may legally be sold as Ice Cream, anywhere in the open or in hotels, inns and restaurants however unsatisfactory the conditions.

Premises used for the manufacture, storage and sale of Ice Cream must be registered with the Local Authority who have power to refuse registration or to remove from the register any premises which are unsuitable for the purpose, or which do not conform to the standards of hygiene laid down in Sec.13 of the Food and Drugs Act, but hotels, inns and restaurants, however unsatisfactory, are exempt from this requirement.

The larger well known manufacturers of Ice Cream take definite trouble to produce an article which is not only of standard quality, but also of standard purity and also safeguard their product by the simple expedient of pre-packing it in the wrappers or containers in which it is sold by the retailer. Some local producers also produce under very good hygienic conditions. It is hoped that Ice Cream will not be purchased and that parents will educate their children not to purchase Ice Cream which is not produced or sold under hygienic conditions and protection.

MEAT

During the war slaughtering of animals has been centralised at Weston-super-Mare for the districts in and around Weston and all meat for Clevedon has been allocated and distributed from there. Owing to the exigencies of the war, including the lack of suitable transport vehicles, meat has been brought into the town, in my opinion, in an unsuitable and unhygienic manner. It has been observed that uncovered meat has been distributed to meat shops in vehicles after being used during other days of the week for purposes which might lead to contamination and infection. This practice should now cease, and the butchers are desirous of being supported in their efforts for hygienic conditions of delivery. Representation has been made for this and will be followed up. Cases of meat being unfit for human consumption have been found, but this could not be definitely attributable to unhygienic delivery.

FRIED FISH & CHIP SHOPS

These have been irregularly inspected during preparation and distribution. Conditions have considerably improved since the war ended, and are now carried on in a reasonably clean and hygienic manner.

WATER

Four samples of water have been sent for testing, two of which were quite satisfactory and the other two not quite satisfactory.

DISINFECTION & FUMIGATION

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

Mattresses	Pillows	Blankets	Bolsters	Houses	Depots	Flats
61	36	40	6	15	5	4

Factories	Rooms	Cushions	Table Covers	Rugs	Carpets
1	8	23	3	3	6

Bedspreads	Curtains	Bundles of sheets and clothing
1	2	20

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919, Infestation Order S.R.& O.No.680,1943

Some very good results have been obtained in various parts of the district and property owners generally are now co-operating in notifying the observance of the pests. The district has been divided into sub-districts and each sub-district has been investigated and haunts dealt with as far as possible before proceeding to the next sub-district, except where isolated cases are known or reported.

Inspectors of the Ministry of Food have, at various times, visited the district inspecting the areas and premises where major and other infestations were discovered during the report stage of the Rat and Mice order and have expressed their satisfaction.

Apart from the main sewer treatment and small isolated cases, the number of successful cases dealt with is 120. The rats estimated to have been killed, according to standards adopted by the Ministry of Food is 1,100.

NUISANCES - Public and Private

The following number of nuisances has been satisfactorily dealt with : -

Public 42 Private 51

HOUSES - Council

The Council own 128 houses and have 43 requisitioned properties. During the latter part of the year a survey was commenced to get a complete specification of all structural matters requiring attention and also to ascertain the condition in which each individual house is kept by the tenant. The survey is being done in sections and essential repairs have been carried out to many of the houses inspected. An endeavour has been made to make up for the unavoidable lack of general repairs during the war period. Roofs, floors, windows and sanitary matters have received attention and work is continuing. During the year the number of repairs and sanitary defects dealt with has been 166 also 15 houses have been redecorated.

HOUSES - Council - repairs

Under the various Housing Acts, 92 houses have been erected and five others are owned by the Council. In April 1945 the repairs fund reserve had accumulated a sum of £3,000. Under the Housing Rate Fund 23 houses have been purchased and in April 1945 the repair fund was £800. After adding the funds for the year 1945/1946 and deducting the expenditure to date during this year, the total repair fund is approximately £3,700.

This fund has been built up during the war years when repair work has been seriously curtailed and the position now arises that any further neglect of the property will result in serious and heavy repair work being required. I am, therefore, of the opinion that during the next financial year, an intensive effort should be made to put the Council's property in a state of reasonable repair. The heaviest item will be in painting to the exterior woodwork etc. followed by some fencing work and general joinery and plumbing repairs.

For these purposes I estimate an average expenditure of £25 on each of the 120 houses making a total of £3,000 leaving a balance of some £700 to which must be added the repairs fund for the year 1946/1947 which will bring the balance in April 1947 to £1,500 approximately.

Your acceptance of this recommendation will curtail a rapidly increasing weight of essential repairs and will be welcomed by many of your tenants who have borne the discomforts caused by the unavoidable neglect of the property during the past six years, viz. material and labour being unobtainable.

POST WAR HOUSING - Temporary

Plans, Specifications and Bills of Quantities have been prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Works for the layout, roads, sewers and other services for the South Clevedon Playing Field Temporary Housing Estate. Tenders were invited for the work and the approved contractor is proceeding.

POST WAR HOUSING - Permanent

Plans have been prepared and approved by the Ministry of Health for the layout of an estate of 144 houses on the West End and Strode Road area. Since the original layout was prepared, modification and re-drafting has been made a second time, owing to the alteration in widths of roads and to accommodate the design of the Consulting Architect.

Detail working drawings have been prepared of roads, sewers, water and electric supply services incorporating sectional drawings and working levels. A satisfactory agreement has been reached between the two public utility companies for a combined operation in the preparation for laying the services, and consequently a substantial saving in the cost of trench work will be effected. The two public utility companies being the North Somerset Electric Supply Company and the Clevedon Water Company.

Copies of all Plans and Specifications and particulars of negotiations this end have been sent to the Consulting Architect.

Bills of quantities are in course of preparation and should be ready for inviting tenders in March.

REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES - for housing inadequately housed persons

The following requisitioned properties have been converted into flats and two houses reconditioned, all of whichhave been completed and tenanted between the 1st.January,1945 and the 31st.December,1945 : -

1.	"Adanac House". Kenn Road	1 tenant
2.	47, Walton Road,	1 "
3.	138, Old Church Road,	1 "
4.	"Six Ways Lodge" Linden Road	2 "
5.	"Birklands" Seavale Road	2 "
6.	"Mar Lodge" Hallam Road	2 "
7.	1, Herbert Road	1 "
8.	"Ferndene" Seavale Road	1 "
9.	"The Coombe". St. John's Avenue	2 "
10.	"Holmesdale" Lower Linden Road	2 "
11.	"Severn House". Queens Road	2 "
12.	"Looby's" Wellington Terrace (tenanted but not completed)	1 "

= 12 properties and 18 families

SEWERS etc.

There has been no serious trouble during the year, although unavoidable reduced attention has been given to the sewers etc. during the war period. Inspections have shown that silting is in evidence in the main sewer between Kenn Road and the outfall, and preparation has been made for this to be dealt with and the cause is being investigated.

A rather troublesome nuisance in Tickenham Road has been successfully dealt with where a bad smell existed and later found to be sewage percolating into adjoining premises, and was eventually traced to be a defective old sewer which had, at some time, been wrongly tapped.

GULLIES

These have been periodically cleared out when labour was available. During the latter part of the year more labour was obtainable and more attention was given. Several new gulleys have been obtained,fixed and connected to the sewer where it was considered necessary to get away the surface more quickly.

Cesspits have been emptied periodically on Council property in Kenn Road. The back flap flood valves at the outfall have been periodically inspected and greased.

May I draw your attention to a matter whichmay prove a problem in the future,namely - The gradual development of East Clevedon with no sewer or sewerage treatment system. Two houses are in course of erection, others are contemplated and septic tanks will be the means of sewage collection. I see no cause for alarm, but it iscertainly an unsatisfactory feature to have a developing domestic building area in an urban district served only by individual septic tanks.

Another matter which should be considered, and for which preparation should be made is the provision of new sewers and sewage treatment for the proposed new building estates and possible light industries. The developers cannot be prevented from connecting their estates to the existing sewers,but the time may come when development has grown to such an extent as to overload the existing sewers, and then, of course a serious position will arise.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of house refuse has presented considerable difficulty and many anxious times in an endeavour to keep the service going, owing to continued sickness among the house refuse employees and in getting others to undertake this work. Many times in the year the town foreman, tradesmen and the aged employees have voluntarily carried on in order to keep the collection up to schedule time. In spite of the difficulties I do not think the householders have experienced much inconvenience.

It is very gratifying to know that a large number of householders in some districts have assisted in the collection by placing their bins near the pavement.

Many householders do not provide proper covered bins. There has been cause for reasonable excuse during the war as they were unobtainable, but they can be obtained now. Some notices have been sent and others will be sent shortly, drawing attention to this, and if not complied with, the defaulters will be reported to you.

The estimated amount of house refuse collected for the year is 2,500 tons.

REFUSE DUMPS

Satisfactory arrangements have been made to continue the use of the refuse dump off Strode Road by another approach to the dump. Provision has been made to strengthen the Bridge over the Middle Yeo to link up with the old original road previously used for conveyance of refuse.

SALVAGE

The following tables show the approximate amounts of salvage dealt with and their sale values as taken from Returns sent to the Ministry of Supply : -

	ton	cwt	£	s	d
Waste Paper	108	15¾	680	14	11
Kitchen Waste	200	10	300	18	-
Ferrous Metals	5	3¼	10	16	3
Non-ferrous Metals	3	7	9	11	7
Textiles	9	10½	120	14	5
Bones	2	9¼	12	8	10
	329	: 15¾	£1135	: 4	: -

The amount of salvage saved by householders has fallen considerably of late in Clevedon as in all parts of the country, but the need for many of these salvage materials is as great as ever, especially bones.

Ministry of Works Civil Building Licences under Defence Regulations

220 applications have been received and dealt with since the operation of these Regulations commenced in August, 1945. Ten have been refused and a large number modified.

Private Enterprise Building etc.

During the year 60 plans have been dealt with by the Byelaws Committee and notification of decision made and sent to the builder or architect. The Plans submitted contain provision for 95 houses or bungalows and 40 flats.

Work has been inspected during progress and the applicable certificate issued. All plans have been scheduled as received and submitted to the Clevedon and District Town Planning Committee and Town Planning Certificates filled in.

CAMPING SITES

There are 9 licences issued by the council authorising land to be used for moveable dwellings. Owing to the emergency necessity of the war many of the moveable dwellings were used, otherwise than in accordance with conditions

under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but these conditions are being steadily adjusted. Particulars have been obtained of the amenities of the sites and dates of occupation, also representation has been made to the owners and tenants in regard to fulfilling conditions as soon as possible.

FACTORY and WORKSHOP ACT

Notices have been served on the two owners in connection with insufficient sanitary accommodation and on one in connection with the conveniences of the two sexes being insufficiently screened. The necessary work has been carried out and report made to H.M.Inspector of Factories.

THE PETROLEUM and CARBIDE ACT

Notices have been served on two licensees under the above Act for keeping an amount of Petroleum and Petrol insufficiently protected against fire.

MARINE LAKE

During the season the bathing boxes at the lake used by bathers were regularly cleaned and disinfected.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

All public sanitary conveniences have been cleansed and disinfected each day.

DE-INFESTATION

Four reports of infestation of flies have been successfully dealt with. Six cases of infestation of fleas and four of cockroaches have been successfully dealt with.

SCHOOLS

The schools throughout the district have been periodically inspected in respect of the sanitary conditions. In some cases there is need for more attention.

Ivon J Leach

IJL/MES
14th.February,1946

SANITARY INSPECTOR